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November 2017

**Earthquakes  
in Italy**

**Rotary scholars  
in action**



Rotary 



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# Paul Fredrick

## DEAR FELLOW ROTARIANS,

**I**n many ways, The Rotary Foundation is an invisible presence in our clubs. Most of what we do in our clubs and our districts, on a weekly basis, we do without the active involvement of the Foundation. But our Foundation is invisible in our clubs in the same way the foundation of a building is invisible when you're in it: Just because you don't see it doesn't mean it's not holding you up.

The Foundation that enabled Rotary to take on polio is, in many ways, the foundation upon which our Rotary service is built. For 100 years, since it came into existence with a first donation of \$26.50, the Foundation has supported and strengthened our service, enabled our ambitions, and allowed us to be the organization that we are. Because of the Foundation, Rotarians know that if we have the ambition and put in the work, very little is truly beyond us.

It is an incredibly effective model that we have here in Rotary, one that no other organization can match. We are completely local and completely global: We have local skills, connections, and knowledge in over 35,000 clubs, in nearly every country of the world. We have a deserved reputation for transparency, effectiveness, and good business practices, and because we are highly skilled professionals as well as volunteers, we achieve a level of efficiency that very few other organizations can approach.

To put it simply, a dollar given to The Rotary Foundation has a great deal more muscle than a dollar given to most charities. If you want to spend a dollar on Doing Good in the World, you can't do better than to spend it with the Foundation. That is not just me speaking out of pride; it is verifiably true and is reflected in our rankings by independent organizations.

In the Foundation's centennial year, Rotarians surpassed our goal of raising \$300 million. If you were part of that achievement, you have been part of something tremendous. Somewhere in the world, someplace you have probably never been, people you may never meet will lead better lives because of you. Ultimately, it is our Foundation that lets us make good on our core beliefs: that we can make a difference, that we have an obligation to do so, and that working together, as well and as efficiently as we can, is the only way to effect real and lasting change.



**IAN H.S. RISELEY**

President, Rotary International



### ON THE WEB

Speeches and news from  
RI President Ian H.S. Riseley at  
[www.rotary.org/office-president](http://www.rotary.org/office-president)





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Rotarians in Italy are building business incubators to help revive earthquake-ravaged communities such as Arquata del Tronto. (Photography by Gianluca Cecere)



**LEFT** Deborah Walters' journey by kayak raised awareness and funds for people eking out an existence in a Guatemala City landfill. (Photography by Michael D. Wilson)





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## Eight little words

RI President Ian H.S. Riseley expressed his concern, in the August president's message, that we have "had a difficult time conveying the scope of our work." Later he asks, "What does Rotary do?" I'd like to offer an answer in just eight words. The compact response is derived from posing three questions:

What do we do? Where do we do it? How do we do it?

Consider: What do we do? *Improve people's lives.* Where do we do it? *Locally and globally.*

How do we do it? *Through service.*

Such a mission-minded claim underscores our action orientation. We just observe that we are a leadership organization with a deceptively singular focus: *Improve people's lives, locally and globally, through service.*

We can reduce our statement to six words if we adopt the portmanteau word used by Atlanta's mayor, Kasim Reed, in his speech at the Rotary International Convention: "glocal." Our alternate six-word definition of Rotary could read:

*Improve people's lives, locally, through service.*



Your choice – eight or six words – in our continuing effort to assert the essence of Rotary.

Joseph J. Kovarik  
Cottage Grove, Minn.

### Clear focus

I find it very encouraging that RI President Ian Riseley has highlighted climate change and environmental sustainability. The global effects of environmental degradation are serious threats to everyone. The thought of what life on earth will be like for future generations is disturbing.

Some feel it is not possible to mitigate climate change without negatively affecting the economy. Fortunately, this is not true. There is a proposed strategy that would grow the economy, create jobs, make the air

and water cleaner, and greatly decrease the carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere. It is known as carbon fee and dividend, or carbon dividends. Two organizations, the nonpartisan Citizens' Climate Lobby and the conservative Climate Leadership Council, acting as strategic partners, advocate for this market-based, revenue-neutral strategy. An excellent 13-minute description of the strategy can be found in a TED Talk on YouTube by Ted Halstead of the council. It is well worth your time to explore this strategy.

Climate change acceptance and action definitely pass The Four-Way Test. Any measure one would take to mitigate climate change would guarantee Rotary's

past investments in all the areas of focus and deliver more successful projects in the future.

Kathleen A. Brazaitis  
Stevens Point, Wis.

### Greener solutions

With respect, I would like to suggest that Anthony Terrasi reconsider the May article "Your Health Is at Risk" [Letters, September]. We can, and should, respond to health challenges after they have taken place. But the causes of those health risks often do require political action or advocacy.

I remember being in Ecuador working in a health clinic in a village near a cement factory. We had a much higher incidence than normal of upper respiratory disease. We could treat the



symptoms to a degree, but it was only after the village organized to protest the air pollution and the company changed that the health of the village improved immensely.

Such environmental issues are often the bedrock of community health, just as global warming and its effects are and will be. Approaching the bigger problem with political solutions will be necessary to make a lasting difference.

Timothy Carson  
Rocheport, Mo.

### 'Aha' moments

I am a new Rotarian who found great wisdom in the words of Steve Almond's "The Mind's I" [August]. As a "recovering teacher" (aka someone trying to figure out what to do next with her life), I am trying to purge teaching from my system by keeping a journal. When thoughts of teaching pop into my head, I jot down the topic, and as I am writing, I let my thoughts run wild. I am learning a lot about myself, teaching as a profession, colleagues, students, my family – lots of stuff. Almond's insight into the unconscious mind hit the nail on the head for me as I dive into this stream-of-consciousness process. I find that writing, trusting, and having the courage to explore beyond the surface are leading to an "aha"

moment almost daily. I am learning a lot about why I am the way I am and how I've attached feelings and experiences of childhood to my adult life. It's fascinating.

Eve M. Puhalla  
Pennsburg, Penn.

### Conscious capitalism

I was agreeably surprised to read "Can Capitalism Save the World?" by Andrew Baker [July]. Though allergic to the current custom of "telling stories," I found in this case that the "epiphany" story was a useful introduction to the prospect of modern capitalism as a model of purpose-driven and value-based business, rather than a source for charitable donations.

Engagement in improving material and ethical standards in society is familiar to Rotarians. In 1907, the third object of Rotary was drafted: the advancement of the "best interests" of the community and "the spreading of the spirit of civic pride and loyalty." Since then, and over many decades, Rotary's civic work, made by an elite group of business and professional people, has represented the most marked feature of our association at the local, national, and global levels.

The concept of conscious capitalism, coined in recent times, actually has its roots in a rather remote past. Nevertheless, a call to

reconsider that concept in the context of today's world is worthy of consideration. I don't know whether conscious capitalism shall actually have a definite function on the development of society. In my opinion, the theme is certainly a stimulating one for the Rotarian audience, whatever the conclusion could be. It would, at least, remind us that humanitarian action, at the center of our strategic plan, opens up new prospects and is not limited to mere charity.

Giuseppe Viale  
Genova, Italy

### Bridges of friendship

I moved to southeast Alaska in 1985 and immediately became a Rotarian. Since that time, I have learned how important Alaska has been to U.S. global relations. Several things come to mind, starting with the original reason for the transfer of Alaska from Russia to the United States by then-Secretary of State William Seward. It's less known that this was in part an attempt to build a bridge with Russia, as it was such a close neighbor.

The first moves to bring Rotary to Russia actually preceded the end of the Soviet Union. In 1988, three Rotarians from Sweden asked the Soviet ambassador to Sweden for an audience so that they could speak about the Rotary movement. Many Rotarians from around the world pushed to bring Rotary to the USSR. Eventually our district, 5010, included Alaska, the Yukon, and Russia. Talk about working toward world peace! Around the same time, the first "friendship flight" from Alaska to Russia took place. About 70 Alaskans were aboard that flight, one of the major cultural exchanges conducted during the Soviet glasnost period that transformed the USSR. This 18 October marked 150 years since the transfer of Alaska to the United States.

Jeff Budd  
Sitka, Alaska

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*The editors welcome comments on items published in the magazine but reserve the right to edit for style and length. Published letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors or Rotary International leadership, nor do the editors take responsibility for errors of fact that may be expressed by the writers.*

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## SERVICE ABOVE SELF



### The Object of Rotary

**THE OBJECT** of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

**FIRST** The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

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

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

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

### The Four-Way Test

**OF THE THINGS** we think, say, or do:

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

### Rotarian Code of Conduct

The following code of conduct has been adopted for the use of Rotarians:

**AS A ROTARIAN**, I will

- 1) Act with integrity and high ethical standards in my personal and professional life
- 2) Deal fairly with others and treat them and their occupations with respect
- 3) Use my professional skills through Rotary to: mentor young people, help those with special needs, and improve people's quality of life in my community and in the world
- 4) Avoid behavior that reflects adversely on Rotary or other Rotarians

## editor's note

**Of all Rotary's investments**, perhaps the most effective are the ones it makes in young people. Rotary Foundation scholarships allow students to pursue degrees in fields that dovetail with our areas of focus. This month, the magazine is celebrating their work.

On page 11, you will read about global grant scholar Lusiné Mehrabyan, who is researching the corrosive effects of corruption on politics and civil society. She earned a master's degree from the London School of Economics and interned with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development in Paris. Using guerrilla-style lectures aimed at showing people how to be engaged and hold politicians accountable, she's trying to add some spontaneity to economic understanding.

Levi Vonk, another global grant scholar, earned his master's in the anthropology of development at the University of Sussex, England, and then worked with migrants in Mexico. His first-person account, "On the Tracks of the Beast," introduces us to Central Americans who are fleeing drug violence and gang warfare – and to the difficulties and dangers they face.

**Of all Rotary's investments, perhaps the most effective are the ones it makes in young people.**

Marco Faggella, who survived a catastrophic earthquake as a child, is working to reduce the risks posed by devastating seismic events. A former Rotary scholar in San Diego, he now does research in seismic engineering at Sapienza University of Rome. In "The Future of Buildings," you'll read how Faggella is seeking ways to improve the structural integrity of buildings – and passing along that expertise to architects and engineers in other quake-prone countries.

Deborah Walters is also a scholar and a Rotarian, though not a Rotary scholar. One of Rotary's 2015 Global Women of Action, she's a retired neuroscientist whose dedication to the families who live off the enormous garbage dump in Guatemala City – and to Safe Passage, an organization formed to support them – is evident in the epic feat she undertook. In "Fantastic Voyage," you'll read about how this grandmother of four decided to kayak from her home in Maine to Guatemala to spread the word about, and raise funds for, Safe Passage. This kayaking grandma has a flair for the dramatic that will amaze and inspire you.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Rezek".

**JOHN REZEK**

# up front

## Safe water, brighter future

**JAMIL MOUAWAD**

Rotary Club of Zgharta-Zawié, Lebanon

When young Jamil Mouawad of Lebanon was in school studying the hospitality industry in the Dominican Republic, he joined the Rotary Club of San Juan de la Maguana. Mouawad became club president at age 27 in 1981. In 1996, he returned to Lebanon, a country devastated by a 15-year civil war. “The infrastructural situation of most schools in Lebanon is beyond catastrophic,” says Mouawad, now owner and general manager of the Ehden Country Club. “Especially when it comes to the water quality.” In 2011, water samples from schools throughout Lebanon showed disease-causing organisms. Two years later, dozens of students were hospitalized because of water contamination. “That’s when we declared that Rotarians are on the move!” Mouawad says. The result was a large-scale project led by Mouawad, then governor of District 2452. The effort includes all of Lebanon’s Rotary clubs as well as outside partners and Lebanese ministries. The project, with significant funding from The Rotary Foundation, has installed new tanks and water filters at over 700 schools. The goal is to provide clean water in the roughly 500 remaining schools in Lebanon by 2018, Mouawad says. The water project has taken an extra urgency with an influx of Syrian refugees, a half-million of whom are children. “Our projects are reaching out to both Lebanese and Syrian students,” says Mouawad.

— NIKKI KALLIO



CONVENTION

## Notable neighborhoods

If you're planning to attend the 2018 Rotary International Convention in Toronto from 23 to 27 June, you'll want to experience the city's colorful neighborhoods. For those on a tight schedule, here are some top picks.

Less than a mile northwest of the Metro Toronto Convention Centre (MTCC), you'll find Queen West, a lively neighborhood that has dozens of boutiques and restaurants. Cross Bathurst Street into West Queen West, and you'll see dozens of art galleries and bars with live music.

In nearby Chinatown, the streets are packed with people shopping for inexpensive housewares, fruits, and vegetables. The restaurants are a big draw, especially if you love dim sum and dumplings.

Walk northwest a few minutes from Chinatown and you'll end up in centuries-old Kensington Market, which has vintage clothing stores, grocers, eateries, and other shops.

A short cab ride from the convention venues, the Distillery District has many cafes, restaurants, and shops housed within heritage buildings of a 19th-century distillery. This pedestrian-only area has the largest and best-preserved collection of Victorian-era industrial architecture in North America.

— RANDI DRUZIN

Register for the 2018 Rotary Convention in Toronto at [riconvention.org](http://riconvention.org).



DISPATCHES

## Trekking to the top of the world

Though he grew up in the Netherlands, a nation that lies partly below sea level and has no mountains, Olivier Vriesendorp has long dreamed of high-altitude climbing. As a teen he was inspired by a *National Geographic* article about a Himalayan expedition. "I was very impressed by the men who climbed under extreme conditions where few people had ever been," says Vriesendorp, who in May successfully completed an expedition to the top of Mount Everest.

A member of the Rotary Club of Amstelveen, Vriesendorp, 47, didn't just climb Everest; by summiting the world's highest peak, he reached his goal to climb the highest mountain on each of the world's continents, known as the Seven Summits.

The father of two was already in excellent shape from climbing the first six summits, but he upped the training for Everest. For eight months he did daily cardio and core work, and on weekends typically hiked 15 miles with a heavy backpack. For six weeks before the journey, Vriesendorp slept every night in a special tent breathing oxygen-reduced air to minimize the risk of altitude sickness during the climb.

He traveled to Tibet in early April. The expedition team spent weeks adjusting to the mountain's low oxygen conditions. Summit Day (21 May) lasted 18 hours and was the most challenging part of the climb, with extremely steep, exposed sections. "It's super cold and you really need to be careful that fingers and toes don't freeze," he explains.

Vriesendorp, who had Rotary patches sewn to his down suit, also carried a Rotary Foundation flag and took it out when he reached the summit, where he enjoyed 15 minutes standing on top of the world. (He couldn't leave the flag because it would have been blown away or destroyed by 125 mph winds that whip the summit most of the year.)

Says Vriesendorp of his latest accomplishment: "As a father of eight-year-old twin boys, I hope that what I did will inspire them and make them see that if you set a clear goal – any goal, it doesn't need to be climbing – and you are determined to achieve it and prepared to work hard for it, you can."

—ANNE STEIN

<b>29,035</b>	⋮	<b>400</b>	⋮	<b>4,469</b>
Feet above sea level at the summit of Everest	⋮	Estimated climbers who have reached all Seven Summits	⋮	Climbers who have summited Mount Everest through 2016



## THE TALENT AROUND THE TABLE

## Measuring and stopping public corruption

**G**lobal grant scholarship recipient Lusiné Mehrabyan is working toward solving one of the most difficult and pervasive world ills: government corruption. Mehrabyan, a native of Armenia who was raised in Ithaca, N.Y., recognized the plague of corruption in her home country but also in the U.S. public sector. “I think it’s common in every country, and it’s something that should be addressed,” she says. “It’s very difficult, because it’s hard to measure.” Mehrabyan hopes to establish better ways to do that. She recently earned a master’s degree from the London School of Economics (LSE) and further developed her interest in fighting corruption while working with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris in the summer of 2016.

**THE ROTARIAN:** How did fighting corruption become an important focus for you?

**MEHRABYAN:** For a policy project for LSE, I looked at corruption in Estonia – specifically, how anti-corruption legislation would affect corruption levels. The patterns did not make sense to me. One of the

ways to measure corruption is to do a survey, and that is a very flawed way of trying to measure corruption because people can lie on surveys. That’s why I approached the OECD.

**TR:** What was the focus of your internship with the OECD?

**MEHRABYAN:** I worked in the division called Public Sector Integrity. Because of the quantitative skills I obtained at LSE, my task was to help with the empirical evidence in their research. I worked with my supervisor to show what happens to productivity levels in a country if there’s corrup-

tion in the public sector. I also created an index to measure conflict of interest and different trends, such as whether there’s more conflict of interest or less if you are very punitive as a country.

**TR:** What did you learn?

**MEHRABYAN:** I realized we need to look at different methods and different approaches to measure corruption. I’m doing research to see whether corruption is intuitive or deliberate. This is a question that has not been explored, and it is a critical question. If corrupt behavior is intuitive, you can change the environment in small ways. But if you learn that corrupt behavior is actually deliberate, then you have to do more of the traditional policy approach, which is sanctioning and punishing people who do corrupt work.

**TR:** What would you like to do next?

**MEHRABYAN:** Since I moved here, Brexit happened, and I realized that a lot of people felt alienated from the discipline of economics. I’m trying to bring economics to the public sphere, using a touch of mysteriousness and a touch of spontaneity and fun to make it interesting to people. The idea is to use a guerrilla-style lecture format – I guess you could call it “pop-up economics.” The location is secret, the topic is secret, the occasional guest speakers are secret. In a very engaging, immersive way, people are going to be introduced to different economic concepts. The main aim is to get people to be more engaged citizens and to hold our politicians more accountable. -NIKKI KALLIO

# World Roundup

*Rotary projects around the globe*

## 1 ] NEW ZEALAND



After reading a newspaper article about an Auckland play center retiring a 44-year-old sand pit digger designed for children's play, David Hutcheson, president of the Rotary Club of North Harbour, procured the discarded digger and, using its pieces as templates, devised a safer version with no screws or nails.

Six years later, Hutcheson and more than half of his club's 50 members have labored thousands of hours and used mostly donated timber, nuts, bolts, laser-cut buckets, paint, and shop space – with contributions from Rotarians in neighboring clubs – to fabricate 30 diggers for early childhood facilities.

Hutcheson and his fellow Rotarians did not stop with the kids' construction equipment. By mid-2017 they had moved on to improving more than

20 "water walls" with colorful funnels, chutes, and magnets attached to steel-plated plywood. The walls allow children, tapping their nascent engineering acumen and teamwork, to direct the water flow. The Rotarians also had plenty of fun, notes Hutcheson.

*by* BRAD WEBBER

2

3

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Nearly 500 billion plastic drinking bottles were sold globally in 2016. That number is expected to climb 20 percent by 2021.

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## 2 ] CANADA



For more than six decades, the Rotary Club of Stettler, Alta., has honored its livestock ranchers, grain growers, and dairy farmers with an annual dinner. About 250 people gathered on 19 June, says Kathie Hankins, an event organizer and club past president. Local businesses that cater to the industry sponsored tables of eight – with most inviting three farming couples as their guests – and the event raised about \$7,000. The profits support four college scholarships of \$800 each for students pursuing agriculture-related degrees, as well as the participation of high school students in the Adventures in Technology program at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon.

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**About 1 in 100 children is born with a congenital heart defect.**

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## 3 ] ARGENTINA



The Rotary Club of Bell Ville Ideas Unidas has transformed nearly 100 tons of discarded plastic – largely drink bottles – into “ecological bricks” used in local schools, government housing, art installations, and other structures, and as pavers for playgrounds. Three club members regularly oversee the grinding machinery and the mixing of the aggregates into a concrete mixture that is formed into sturdy bricks and pavers. The initiative, begun in 2011, has recruited local high school students to the cause of collecting recyclables and has increased awareness of environmental protection in the community, say Rotarians.

## 5 ] MADAGASCAR



Villagers in a remote area of northeastern Madagascar were granted identification papers after the Rotary Club of Lac Alaotra and their counterparts in a local Soroptimist Club interceded to prompt local court officials to process government documentation. Some 250 children and adults from Manakambahiny were treated to a daylong ceremony hosted by the clubs in February. “Rural people in general often have difficulty getting birth certificates due to lack of knowledge, a fear of administration officers,” and the arduous steps to obtain the ID papers, says Lac Alaotra Rotarian Sehenjo Rajaobelison. The credentials have eased access to education for the children and to the ballot box for the adults.

## 4 ] PHILIPPINES



The Rotary Club of Cebu stepped up its work to provide operations for children with heart disease by organizing races that earned more than \$42,000. “We did our first Run for Gift of Life and the Rotary Corporate Triathlon on 7 May and 11 June, respectively,” says Angel Ruben “Bing” Martinez, club president. More than 2,000 runners took on courses of 3, 8, or 16 kilometers for the run, while 345 athletes participated in the triathlon, both to benefit the long-standing Rotarian-based Gift of Life effort. Over the past decade, about 60 heart operations have been performed.



## Trans-Atlantic support for a girl with big dreams

Megan Sadler dreams of becoming a competitive gymnast one day. But for the 10-year-old from the Welsh coastal town of Milford Haven, those ambitions have seemed a long way off.

“I love gymnastics,” she says. “I’d like to be able to do a back handspring, but it’s hard at the moment. I want to do competitions and win medals, and one day I would like to be a gym coach.”

Megan suffers from severe scoliosis, a curvature of the spine, which meant she had to

wear a restrictive body brace for up to 23 hours a day. “I don’t like my brace, especially when it is tight,” she said earlier this year. “It’s uncomfortable.”

Megan’s story inspired a partnership between Rotary clubs on both sides of the Atlantic.

The traditional treatment for a case like hers would involve surgeries to insert rods in her spine. After she stops growing, doctors would then fuse her spine, severely limiting her flexibility.

The Shriners Hospital for Children-Philadelphia is

known worldwide as a pioneer for an innovative surgical procedure called vertebral body tethering (VBT). In this procedure, screws are placed in each vertebra and connected to a flexible cord that holds the spine in a straighter alignment, somewhat like the wire on dental braces. This allows the spine to correct as the patient grows.

The surgery enables patients to maintain flexibility and lessens the chance of needing multiple surgeries. Once the curvature is beyond 70 degrees, however, the VBT surgery is not an option.

Shriners offered to perform the operation and treatment free of charge, but there were still major costs for flights and accommodations. And Megan, whose spine was curved more than 60 degrees, first needed to undergo tests at Shriners to determine whether she was a good candidate for the surgery.

The Rotary Club of Milford Haven learned of the family’s plight and sprang into action, initially raising about \$1,300 through a special concert. This was further boosted by a fund-raising effort by Rotarians in



Wales. Social media posts drew wider support.

More than \$9,000 was raised to help Megan's family travel to the United States for the initial tests. This included nearly \$2,000 from the Milford Haven Gymnastics Club, where Megan is a member.

Just before the Sadlers traveled to Philadelphia in February for tests, Steve Jenkins, then governor of District 1150 (Wales), contacted Dave Haradon, his counterpart in District 7450 in Pennsylvania, to ask whether Rotarians there could support the family when they arrived.

The response was immediate, with the two district governors joined by Rotarians Mike Peake from Milford Haven and Ted Trevor from the Rotary Club of Longwood in Chester County, Penn., to organize the effort.

When the Sadler family arrived at Philadelphia International Airport in February, 30 Rotarians were waiting with flags and welcome signs, carrying practical gifts including food, toys, and a smartphone loaded with \$200 in credit.

The Philadelphia Rotarians organized transport from the airport and to the hospital for Megan's consultation.

"It was so overwhelming, they were absolutely brilliant," recalls Megan's mother, Laura. "We couldn't thank the Rotarians enough because they did everything possible to take care of us. It was lovely."

The story struck a chord with Rotarians around the globe. Then-RI President John F. Germ took a personal inter-



OPPOSITE: Doug Klepfer (from left), Helena Tucker, Paul Quintavalla, Julianna Blazey, and Cynthia Rugart were part of the welcoming committee that met Megan Sadler and her family at the Philadelphia airport. Megan got celebrity treatment, with a local television news crew covering her arrival. THIS PAGE, FROM LEFT: Megan meets with Dr. Steven Hwang, who performed the surgery; an X-ray shows the curvature of her spine before the procedure.

est in Megan's story. "This is a true sign of Rotary serving humanity," he said at the time. Eve Conway, then president of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland, also wished Megan well with her treatment.

With the tests completed, thoughts turned to the life-changing operation in May. A fresh round of fundraising and cooperation by Rotarians raised additional funds, bringing the total to about \$26,000.

What lay ahead was a grueling six-hour operation during which Megan's lungs would be deflated and some of her ribs removed to allow surgeons to work on her spine.

"I'm excited about the operation," she said in the spring after returning home between the consultation and the procedure. "The tests were a bit scary, and I didn't like having to breathe into a machine.

But I want to go to America because I want to get my life back."

In late May, the family returned to Shriners for Megan to have the operation and then recuperate in Philadelphia before flying back to the UK in late June.

Trevorrow and his Rotary team were once again out in force to support the Sadlers through their monthlong stay.

"Everything went fine, and Megan has now grown 4½ inches," says her father, Phil. "The surgery went really well, better than they expected, and they have reduced the curvature of the spine to 40 degrees. As Megan grows, the curvature will become even less severe."

Phil and Laura are grateful for the generosity of Rotarians on both sides of the Atlantic who made the surgery possible, as well as the businesses that contributed.

"We didn't expect anything – maybe that they would meet us at the airport," says Phil. "But everyone has been so kind and helpful."

Megan is steadily gaining fitness at home with her family. She will return to Philadelphia in December for the first of a series of semiannual checks.

The fundraising will continue – not only for Megan, but also for the Shriners Hospital and for other children in the UK who might need financial support to make the trip to Philadelphia for treatment.

"The surgery is going to change Megan's quality of life completely," says Laura. "It means that she will only have to wear a brace at night rather than for 23 hours a day. It will give her some normality for a few years as she grows, and we hope it will allow her to continue with her gymnastics."

—DAVE KING

## News, studies, and recent research



### American 19-year-olds are as inactive

as the average 60-year-old, according to findings in *Preventive Medicine*. Researchers analyzed data from more than 12,000 participants, ages six to 84, who wore tracking devices for seven days. In the 12-to-19 age group, more than 50 percent of males and 75 percent of females didn't meet World Health Organization recommendations of 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity daily.

**About half of Earth's** 7.6 billion inhabitants call one of seven nations home, according to the United Nations' 2017 *Revision of World Population Prospects*. China (1.4 billion people)

and India (1.3 billion) lead the way, followed by the U.S. (324 million), Indonesia (264 million), Brazil (209 million), Pakistan (197 million), and Nigeria (191 million). Experts estimate we'll add around 1 billion more people by 2030.

**Giving veggies** enticing descriptions in a college cafeteria increases vegetable consumption, according to a Stanford University study. Each weekday for several months a vegetable was labeled in one of four ways: Indulgent (twisted citrus-glazed carrots), Basic (carrots), Healthy Restrictive (carrots with sugar-free citrus dressing), or Healthy Positive (smart-choice vitamin C citrus carrots). Each dish was identically prepared, but vegetables labeled Indulgent were chosen by 25 percent more people over Basic; 41 percent more over Healthy Restrictive; and 35 percent more over Healthy Positive.

**Intermarriage rates** have increased more than fivefold since the 1967 Supreme Court decision *Loving v. Virginia*, which struck down laws banning marriage across racial lines. Fifty years ago, 3 percent of newlyweds were married to a spouse of a different race; that number increased to 17 percent in 2015, according to the Pew Research Center. A 2017 Pew survey also found that since 2010, the number of adults saying the increasing interracial marriage rate is good for society rose 15 points, to 39 percent.

-ANNE STEIN

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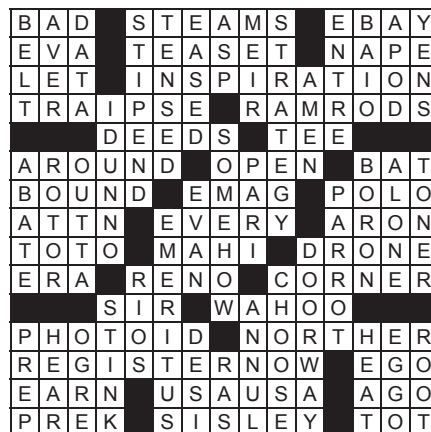
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# CLUB INNOVATION

## Rotary Club of Fair Oaks, Calif.

**MEMBERS: 83**

New members in 2017: 11

In 2016: 6

In 2015: 13



## A group for new members puts out the welcome mat

### INNOVATION:

This club started a “honeymooners group” for new members to share ideas, concerns, questions, bafflement at acronyms, and all the other things that new Rotarians experience. The group, open to members in their first two years, is a place to learn about Rotary, but the emphasis is on fellowship and fun.

### HISTORY:

The club was founded in 1946. Members are active in their community, co-sponsoring a Little League team, the Rotary River Dogs (with the Rotary Club of Orangevale); doing park maintenance and road cleanup; and hosting the annual Crab Feed. Through the Fair Oaks Rotary Foundation, they have supported distribution of dictionaries to schoolchildren and monetary awards for graduates of local high schools, sponsored a speech contest, and funded improvements to a local amphitheater that is home to the Fair Oaks Theatre Festival.

From the moment she joined Rotary in 2015, Mary Cate Gustafson-Quiett was thinking about how to retain new members. She attended a board meeting of the Rotary Club of Fair Oaks to hear about membership, and the brainstorming began. Knowing that some Rotary clubs have groups for new members, she spearheaded the drive to start the “honeymooners group” for Fair Oaks to help with retention. “We chose the name honeymooners because we thought that your first year in marriage, that’s your honeymoon year,” explains Gustafson-Quiett. “This is your honeymoon year of Rotary.”

Gustafson-Quiett stresses that the group is about fun and fellowship. “Our Rotary club is a fairly large club, with 80-some

members. So it’s easy to feel like you get lost in the crowd. We thought that this would be a good way for new members to get to know each other.” At the same time, notes current group facilitator Dennis Dunbar, the group “bridges that gap between a new member’s wide-eyed enthusiasm and a more seasoned understanding of the club’s

values and goals through education and involvement.”

The group was such a success that at the end of the first year, many members wanted to stay. So they simply changed the rules to permit membership for two years. That also gives the group some continuity from year to year. And of course it’s voluntary.

A different member hosts each gathering, which starts with socializing over a meal. The group has between a dozen and 20 people on the mailing list at any given time, but five to 12 members attend a typical event.

In addition to fellowship, the gatherings offer a chance for new members to test out new ideas. Sometimes, Gustafson-Quiett notes, all the experience of Rotarians can be a bit intimidating. Among fellow neophytes, people feel free to pitch an idea and see what the smaller group thinks.

The honeymooners also invite some experienced Rotarians to visit their gatherings, including club board members. “For example,” says Dunbar, “I invited a former board member to discuss The Rotary Foundation and our club foundation. The focus on this kind of club education is important to encouraging members to feel and be involved.”

The group helps new members get used to participating in the club at large. “We ran some of the club’s weekly meetings,” says Gustafson-Quiett of her time leading the honeymooners. “We planned it out at a honeymooners gathering.”

Dunbar sees the group benefiting both new members and the Rotary club. “New members get answers to their questions that are consistent across our group’s membership. This educational process accelerates their assimilation into the club and gets them involved in our projects and events more quickly. We get good ideas coming out of the honeymooners as well. This dynamic makes the Rotary Club of Fair Oaks stronger in terms of the projects we pursue and the members we can attract and retain.”



Top: Club members ride to raise money for cancer research; bottom: painting Little Free Libraries.

**What is your club doing to reinvent itself?**

**Email [club.innovations@rotary.org](mailto:club.innovations@rotary.org).**

# November

## 4<sup>th</sup> CRAFT BREWS

**EVENT:** Tonka Brew Fest

**HOST:** Rotary Club of Mound/Westonka, Minn.

**WHAT IT BENEFITS:** Local charities

**WHAT IT IS:** Local craft beer is all the rage in the libations world, and there is plenty of the Minnesota variety to taste at this craft brew festival at scenic Gale Woods Farm. Add food and live music, and you have a fall celebration that cannot be missed.

## 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> ART STARS

**EVENT:** Art Under the Stars

**HOST:** Rotary Club of Maitland, Fla.

**WHAT IT BENEFITS:** Local charities

**WHAT IT IS:** A tradition since 1976, this three-day art festival invites patrons to sip a glass of wine while perusing art for sale and listening to music during the evening. More than 130 artists – painters, sculptors, jewelry makers, photographers, graphic artists, and more – will display their work.

## 11<sup>th</sup> EAT, DRINK, AND BE MERRY

**EVENT:** Suncoast Food and Wine Fest

**HOST:** Rotary Club of Lakewood Ranch, Fla.

**WHAT IT BENEFITS:** Local charities

**WHAT IT IS:** Held at the Sarasota Polo Club at Lakewood Ranch, this 16th annual food and wine festival features delicious eats from dozens of local restaurants and more than 100 wines from around the world. The event also features cooking demonstrations and live entertainment. Don't love wine? Craft beer tastings will be on-site, as well.

## 18<sup>th</sup> EARLY HOLIDAY

**EVENT:** Southern Christmas Bazaar

**HOST:** Rotary Club of Alabaster-Pelham, Ala.

**WHAT IT BENEFITS:** Local charities

**WHAT IT IS:** Get into the holiday spirit even before Thanksgiving. More than 50 merchants from Alabama and neighboring states sell their wares at this annual bazaar. Bring the kids – Santa will be on hand for photo opportunities, and refreshments and concessions will keep the crankiest shoppers happy.

## 23<sup>rd</sup> JOG, THEN GOBBLE

**EVENT:** Surfside Rotary Turkey Trot

**HOST:** Rotary Club of Surfside Area, S.C.

**WHAT IT BENEFITS:** Local charities

**WHAT IT IS:** Every Thanksgiving it's the same story: Eat a huge dinner and then curl up on the couch and take a giant nap. This year, why not run a race first and earn your spot at the dinner table? This annual event offers 5K, 10K, and one-mile distances, as well as a tot trot for kids that is free.

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# Could be worse

When the story seems grim, rewrite the ending

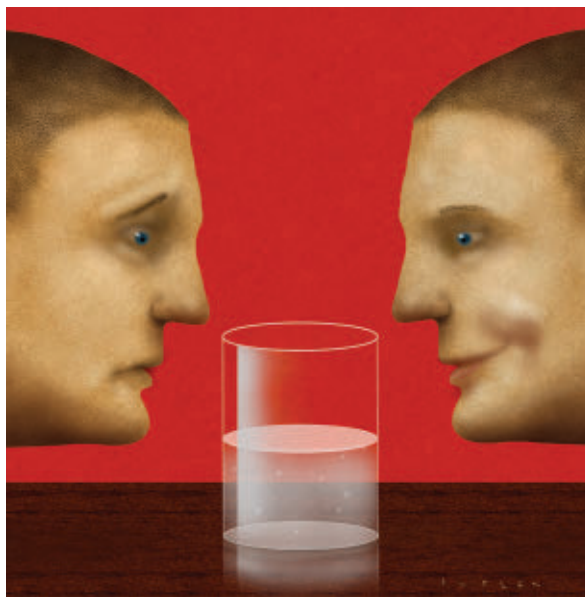
by FRANK BURES

Late last year a woman I know tweeted: “Great – subzero temps next week. Let’s just get this out there – 2016 has been the worst year ever!”

Honestly, I wasn’t crazy about 20 below zero either, but in Minnesota, putting on a jacket and hat hardly seems like the end of civilization. More recently, I saw another post on Twitter in which the writer said, “I’m just always mad now. Everything is garbage and it doesn’t need to be.”

The idea that 2016 was the worst year ever started circulating after several celebrity deaths (Prince, David Bowie, Leonard Cohen) were followed by an election that did not go the way many people wanted it to. After that, the worst-year-ever meme became unstoppable, and in 2017, the drumbeat of decline has not stopped.

Offhand, I can think of a lot of things that are worse than a cold winter day: the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, the 1929 stock market crash, the Bataan Death March. But it’s true that things do feel worse than they actually are. Part of the reason lies in the 24-hour news cycle and its never-ending flow of bad news. As



writer Jia Tolentino put it in *The New Yorker*, “There is no limit to the amount of misfortune a person can take in via the Internet, and there’s no easy way to properly calibrate it. ... Our ability to change things is not increasing at the same rate as our ability to know about them.”

Whatever the reason, the downbeat trend has accelerated among people of all political stripes, and it is noteworthy because it goes directly against the strongest current in American culture: our optimism, our sense that problems are meant

to be solved and that solving them is our job. Since our country’s founding, America has been a can-do place, a place of possibility. Our creed has always been a certain sometimes naive faith that things will work out for the best. And for the most part – believe it or not – they have.

Contrary to what you might think, violence is at all-time lows, as is the rate of global poverty. War deaths are fewer than ever in history. On most indicators where you might think progress is not being made, the opposite is probably true. Nicholas Kristof recently pointed out in a column in *The New York Times*: “2017 is likely to be the best year in the history of humanity.” He continued: “Every day, another 250,000 people graduate from extreme poverty, according to World Bank figures. About 300,000 get electricity for the first time. Some 285,000 get their first access to clean drinking water. When I was a boy, a majority of adults had always been illiterate, but now more than 85 percent can read.”

Likewise, in 2011 Steven Pinker pointed out in *The Better Angels of Our*

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Nature that the world is not more violent, more racist, more genocidal, or more unjust than in the past. He documented long-term declines in homicides, war deaths, executions, and lynchings, as well as massive gains in education, health, and wealth. He showed that diseases are not spiraling out of control. And humanity is not (yet) devolving into a Hobbesian state of nature. None of which is to say that things are perfect or that our progress is permanent. But the world is far more perfect than it used to be.

Yet many of us have given in to a pessimism, a hopelessness, a sense that things are going from bad to worse. Minnesota winters notwithstanding, it was shocking how many people rushed to declare 2016 the worst year ever, when in fact it was one of the best.

This disconnect between perception and reality was noted by sociologist Barry Glassner in his 1999 book, *The Culture of Fear: Why Americans Are Afraid of the Wrong Things*. In it he explored the growing distance between the things we fear and the reality of those threats. Throughout the 1990s, people became more afraid of crime, even as crime rates were falling. Other threats, such as road rage and child abduction, proved wildly overblown, while others – the satanic cult scare and Y2K, for instance – turned out to be entirely fictional.

Why this divergence? Why don't we see things as they are? Glassner attributed this in part to "premillennial tensions." But now the turn of the millennium is long past, yet the tensions remain.

Another explanation is that this growing sense of decline is caused by something within us. Humans, as scientist and writer E.O. Wilson has observed, are the storytelling species. When we think about the past, we do not think in a steady stream of time. Rather, we think in terms of "episodes" that we link together, each one causing the next, like dominoes. This is true whether we are thinking about our life, our country, or our planet.

Psychologists who study these things have identified patterns in the stories we see. In American culture, the dominant kind are “redemption stories,” in which a person faces loss, challenge, or difficulty, but overcomes it so that good emerges in the end. In his book *The Redemptive Self: Stories Americans Live By*, psychologist Dan McAdams argued that telling redemptive stories about oneself is linked to helping others. The opposite of redemptive stories are “contamination stories,” in which things start out well, then something bad happens, after which everything goes from bad to worse. The end.

In a fascinating study called “The Political Is Personal: Narrating 9/11 and Psychological Well-Being,” psychologists Jonathan Adler and Michael Poulin investigated why some people see redemption where others see contamination. They took accounts of nearly 400 people written two months after the 11 September 2001 attacks. They analyzed these stories and compared them against the results of those subjects’ physical and mental health questionnaires. What they found was that people whose stories of 9/11 included themes of redemption and closure also had higher levels of psychological well-being and lower levels of distress. People whose stories of 9/11 were high in contamination – something bad happened, then everything was garbage – showed higher levels of internal distress and lower levels of psychological well-being. In other studies, Adler found that redemption stories were linked to improvements in mental health over the next few years, while contamination stories were not.

In other words, the stories we tell ourselves matter, and what we see around us often says more about our inner world than our outer one. “There’s nothing objective about a contamination sequence,” Adler told me. “All lives have positive and negative things that happen in them. But it’s about how you parse time and draw connections.”

Does this matter? Does it affect anyone but the storyteller? The answer is yes: Stories are contagious, and negative stories even more so. But I think it matters for other reasons too. One reason is that a negative outlook doesn’t let us acknowledge the accomplishments of those who are doing good work: people fighting to eliminate polio, or end child marriage, or combat global warming, or conserve our water, or educate our children.

But the most important reason that we shouldn’t let contamination narratives infect the rest of our stories is the simple fact that no problem has ever been solved by people who didn’t think it was possible to solve it. When we let the negative memes take over – when we consume them over and over online – they create a cage of despair from which we can’t see an escape. And this poses a real danger when it comes to problems such as climate change. It is a problem we can solve, as long as we don’t allow the “worst year ever” meme to become a self-fulfilling prophecy.

But we can influence both the stories we see and the stories we tell. “One of the empowering insights from the field of narrative psychology,” says Adler, “is that we are both the main character in our story and the narrator. So most of the day we go around being the main character, doing the stuff of our life. But when we need to, we can step out of being the main character and be the narrator – and revise the story if it’s not working for us.”

This is not always easy, but it is possible. So when the flood of bad news threatens to wash us away, remember that things are better than they seem. Step away from the flow of despair before it ruins not only your present, but your future. Look around you and write a new story that reflects the world as you want it to be. ■

*Frank Bures is the author of The Geography of Madness and a frequent contributor to The Rotarian.*



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# Italy's disappearing

by Diana Schoberg | photography by Gianluca Cecere





# villages

Earthquakes and emigration are draining the life out of rural communities. Rotarians are giving young people a reason to come back





**A**rquata del Tronto was never an easy place to live. Picturesque, yes: The snowcapped peak of Monte Vettore forms the backdrop to this collection of medieval villages sandwiched between two national parks in central Italy's Apennine Mountains. Tiny chapels line the local trails, and one village is known as the land of the fairies, a mythological place where shepherds were lured in by beautiful fairies with goat feet. But the municipality, which includes 15 villages, had a population of 1,200, and the nearest city is 15 miles away along the narrow, winding mountain roads. For a young person, for a young family, there was not much reason to stay. And that was before the earthquakes hit.

Maurizio Paci explains all of this after he escorts us through an army checkpoint

to view this community where he and his family have lived for generations, which was reduced to rubble after three major earthquakes hit central Italy in 2016. He experienced the tragedy up close: Here in Arquata, he has been on the municipal council for 11 years, while in nearby Amatrice, which was also pummeled during the disasters, he is a police officer. "I was hit on all sides," he says.

It's a cool day in March, and the wind blows a shutter open and shut, revealing the plush headboard of a bed inside one of the still-standing buildings. We see a purple ironing board peeking out of an upended roof, a squashed red car, mattresses, bed frames, and bales of hay strewn about.

But we also see signs of hope. With the help of Rotarians, some people see a future for these abandoned towns.

It was 3:30 a.m. on 24 August when the first earthquake struck. Paci awoke to the

sound of a large mirror crashing to the floor, his parents yelling. He ran outside and saw his neighbors pouring out onto the street. He went to help in Pescara del Tronto, an area village that was so devastated that the mayor told the Italian newspaper *il Giornale* that it looked like Aleppo, Syria.

"I saw people dead on the street who had escaped from their homes but were hit by debris. I pulled somebody alive from the rubble," Paci says as we stand outside the ruins. "It was really dark. Everybody was yelling. You didn't know where to go or who to help first."

Nearly 300 people died in the 6.2 magnitude quake, including 50 in this area.

*Previous pages:* In villages damaged by a series of earthquakes last year, Italian Rotarians are working to help rebuild not only buildings but livelihoods. **Above and right:** The municipality of Arquata del Tronto was still uninhabitable six months after the earthquakes because of continuing aftershocks.



**For a young person,  
for a young family,  
there was not much  
reason to stay. And  
that was before the  
earthquakes hit.**





Two more earthquakes hit the region in late October. The three in rapid succession left thousands homeless.

Earthquakes are not unfamiliar to Italians. Two plates of the earth's crust, the African and Eurasian plates, are slowly colliding in northeastern Italy, a geologic shift that created the Alps. Meanwhile, the entire area where that collision is happening is drifting southeast. The result is that the ground underneath the Tyrrhenian Basin – the portion of the Mediterranean Sea surrounded by mainland Italy and Sicily, Sardinia, and Corsica – is being stretched apart. It's that stretching that is causing the tectonic activity in the Apennines.

The last of the three earthquakes had a 6.6 magnitude, the strongest to hit Italy in 36 years. It created a huge crack in Monte Vettore and caused the land in a nearby village to drop 2 feet. Homes that had survived the initial earthquake were damaged. Arquata's villages were declared uninhabitable because of the continuing aftershocks (including one early in the

morning of our visit), and its residents, including Paci, now live in hotels or with family somewhere safer. A tunnel that had connected Arquata to other towns collapsed, and what had been a 15-minute trip became two hours. "The biggest problem is that people have left," he says. "People are afraid to come back."

In the weeks after the first earthquake, Rotarians began meeting with members of the affected communities to find out what they needed most. "The days following the earthquake were full of phone calls from everyone who wanted to go help, who wanted to collect materials and so on," recalls Paolo Raschiatore, 2016-17 governor of Rotary District 2090, home to about 90 percent of the communities damaged by the earthquakes. But too many well-intended helpers jammed the mountain roads, making the work for emergency crews harder, he explains. "It's not only not necessary; it's a problem. I asked them to stay home."

Less than two months before the first temblor, Italian Rotarians had already embarked on a landmark earthquake initiative that was years in the making. The 2014-15 district governor-nominees had decided to focus on earthquake safety as a

group, prescient given what was to come. They signed a memorandum of understanding with the national Department of Civil Protection in July 2016 in which Rotarians agreed to create a task force for disaster aid in each district. The groups would organize activities to use Rotarians' professional skills – technical, legal, medical, and industrial – to support civil protection activities in both ordinary and emergency situations. The project had to be put on hold as the government responded to the recent disasters.

After an earthquake in L'Aquila in 2009, Rotarians had stepped in and raised €2 million to rebuild a wing of the school of engineering at the University of L'Aquila. But following the 2016 earthquakes, the Italian government promised to reconstruct the buildings. So, instead of a construction project, members of District 2090 decided to draw on their expertise as businesspeople to help the communities rebound economically and give young people a reason to return.

The district already had an active mentoring framework called the Virgilio Association, named for Virgil, the guide in Dante's *Divine Comedy*. Rotarians had

*Left: Maurizio Paci is determined to return to Arquata and rebuild a strong community there. Italian Rotarians will play a role by helping young entrepreneurs create thriving businesses.*





**Less than two months before the first temblor, Italian Rotarians had already embarked on a landmark earthquake initiative that was years in the making.**

founded the organization several years prior to foster new economic activity in the district. They decided to use the Virgilio Association to develop programs for young entrepreneurs, including business mentoring, marketing, and facilitating access to bank credit.

In June, the district signed agreements to build two business incubators, one in Arquata and one in Camerino, a city

*Previous pages: Aftershocks continue to plague the area, often sending new rubble tumbling into the roads and further destabilizing buildings. Below left: Giovanni Palaferri, who has begun raising cows on his family's ancestral land, has joined with other young people to form a business group that is receiving assistance through the Italian Rotarians' project. Below right: Rotarians Vincent Mazzone and Paolo Raschiatore talk with Aleandro Petrucci (right), Arquata's mayor, about Rotary's role in bringing young people back to the village.*

about 50 miles away with a university that will manage the programs to ensure sustainability. Rotarian professionals will handle the design and contracting for the construction of the facilities, which will cost an estimated €300,000 to €400,000 each. "If we want to maintain these places, it's important to build new occupations for people, especially for young people," Raschiatore says. They call the initiative Progetto Fenice – the Phoenix Project.

As of the end of June, the district had raised €600,000 from Rotary members, clubs, and districts in Italy and abroad for the initiative, as well as a substantial portion from non-Rotarian donors. They launched about 20 mentoring relationships, with another 20 in the works. Rotarians are also working to create an e-commerce website to help business-

people sell their products. "The youth are waiting on us. We absolutely can't fail," says Vincent Mazzone, president of the Rotary Club of Ascoli Piceno, the nearest club to Arquata.

At the trailer serving as Arquata's town hall, Paci introduces me to Aleandro Petrucci, the mayor of the municipality. Boxes are stacked along the floor in the office, and a space heater helps warm the cool mountain air. Petrucci says he has three main goals: jobs, housing – "and churches, of course," he says with a laugh – and bringing back youth, something he's glad to have Rotary's help with. Just a few days earlier, Rotarians met to talk about the project. "Rotary will bring structure that would not be there without it," he says. "That will bring jobs and young people."

**Rotarians drew on their expertise as businesspeople to help communities rebound and give young people a reason to return.**





Giovanni Palaferri is precisely the kind of enterprising young person the Rotarians are trying to keep in the area. Palaferri's home was built with anti-seismic measures, so it is still standing. But since the area is deemed uninhabitable, he makes a 40-mile daily round trip to care for the animals on his farm in Spelonga. A calf born the previous night mews as we talk, the larger cows crunching on hay in a temporary barn.

After spending time in his early 20s traveling Europe as a tour bus driver, Palaferri returned to the area and started raising cows a year ago on property his grandfather had farmed. He wants to expand his effort to making specialty cheeses and products with the chestnuts he harvests from his and his neighbors' properties. With other young people in

the area, he founded a business association to help increase production and sales, which is receiving assistance from the Rotarians' project. "Rotary will let this business go further," he says. "I could go national."

And that, he hopes, will make Arquata a destination. "The ultimate goal would be that Arquata and all of the small villages in the area will compete with the famous centers around here," he says. "If we can put Arquata on the map, it will attract more young people to come here."

But life is so tough here, why would anyone want to come back?

Palaferri left this rural area to seek a better life elsewhere, but what he discovered is that this is his home. "I love it, and for me it's the best place in the world. It's almost like paradise when this is what you

see," he says, gesturing to the mountain view outside the barn door.

For Paci, whose girlfriend hopes to launch a beekeeping business to sell honey and related products through the Rotary project, it's even simpler. This is where his family has always lived. "I have the option to leave; I have a job in Amatrice. I could forget about it here. But I'm tied here because of my ancestry.

"Before the earthquake you had to have resolve to live here," he says. "Now my resolve is even stronger. I feel motivated not just about building a home, but building a community."

And that's something Rotarians know how to do. ■

*Translations by Francesco Bruno, RI communications specialist/Europe-Africa.*



# The future of buildings

A program created by Rotary scholar  
Marco Faggella is training engineers around the world  
to make buildings safer in earthquakes

by Diana Schoberg | photography by Gianluca Cecere







**W**é're in the car, and my traveling companion and local guide Marco Faggella is blasting the stereo. He wants me to hear the music of a friend of his, who has reinterpreted southern Italy's traditional tarantella rhythms as intoxicating trance tunes. Over dinner the previous evening, Faggella, a member of the Rotary Club of Roma Nord-Est, filled me in on his Top Secret Plan to get his friend to play at the Burning Man art festival. In that conversation, Faggella also educated me on the finer points of Italian mysticism, Magna Graecia, and Pythagoras.

Faggella is full of grand plans: When he launched a film festival in 2009 in the beach town of Maratea in partnership with Rotary District 2100 (in part to show off the Oscar-nominated polio film *The Final Inch*), he called Francis Ford Coppola, whose grandparents came from

the region. Coppola ended up sending a video message.

I'm here to find out more about another of his big ideas, this one in his professional life. Faggella, who was trained through a Rotary scholarship, is a research associate in seismic engineering at Sapienza University of Rome. He looks at how to construct buildings – or retrofit existing ones – so that they don't tumble down if an earthquake strikes. It's a passion that makes sense given the earthquake risk in Italy, including in his hometown of Potenza, the city we are visiting at the instep of Italy's boot.

Most of the 60,000 people who die in natural disasters every year are killed by a building collapse during an earthquake in a developing country. Instead of going into reaction mode each time an earthquake strikes, Faggella thought, why not educate people to construct safer buildings so that fewer people are injured?

He looked to his experiences with Rotary to come up with a plan.

At the University of Basilicata at Potenza, where Faggella did some of his research, engineers have built a model house that they shake with hydraulic pistons to simulate the effects of an earthquake. It's made of clay bricks with strong floor beams but weak columns, the way houses were built for thousands of years until modern building codes began to account for seismic activity in the first half of the 20th century. "We've predicted extensively how this house will behave," Faggella explains as he stands in front of

*Previous pages: This elementary school in Potenza features braces that dissipate energy, one way to retrofit buildings to make them safer during an earthquake. Above: At the University of Basilicata at Potenza, engineers study the effects of simulated earthquakes on a model house. Right: Marco Faggella, who was left homeless by an earthquake as a child, inspects the model house.*



**Why not educate people to construct safer buildings so that fewer people are injured?**



the model. “The bricks will break. The columns will topple.”

Around the world, people still live in these unsafe structures. “If you look at Kathmandu, a lot of Kathmandu is like this. If you look at Karachi, a lot of Karachi is like this,” Faggella says. “Houses like these can accommodate a lot of people quickly, but they account for a lot of the earthquake risk in the world.”

For example, on 26 December 2003, a 6.6 magnitude earthquake struck Bam, Iran, killing more than 30,000 people and damaging 45,000 homes, many of which were built with mud bricks and didn’t comply with regulations set more than a decade earlier. Four days earlier, a 6.5 quake hit the central coast of California, where the losses were limited to two deaths and 500 damaged buildings, thanks to the implementation of modern seismic codes.

While we know much about earthquake-safe construction, the application of this knowledge still lags, even in a developed country such as Italy, where 60 percent of the buildings are more than 100 years old. The week before my visit, the

*Left: After a series of earthquakes hit Italy in 2016, the government created financial incentives for people to retrofit their homes to make them seismically safe.*

Italian government passed guidelines to classify the seismic risk of buildings, along with tax incentives to promote retrofitting them with anti-seismic measures. A senior official from Sapienza University of Rome helped develop the rating system based on the work of the team of researchers to which Faggella belongs.

Faggella had a personal experience with all this at an early age. In November 1980, when he was five years old, he was watching a soccer game with his dad in their third-floor apartment in Potenza. “All of a sudden, everything started to shake like crazy,” he recalls. “There was rubble coming down from the ceiling. We felt like the whole house was falling apart.” His dad grabbed him, his mom picked up his two-year-old sister, and they rushed, shoeless, down the stairs onto the tiny piazza below, where a crowd of shocked people had gathered, wondering what was going on.

More than 3,000 people died, and over 200,000 were left homeless as a result of the earthquake – including Faggella’s family. They spent the first night at the farm of a family friend, Faggella and his sister sleeping on a coffee table. The schools closed for a few months, so they moved with other families to a beach town two hours away. His parents never felt safe

with the idea of returning to the old apartment, so they built an earthquake-proof home in the countryside.

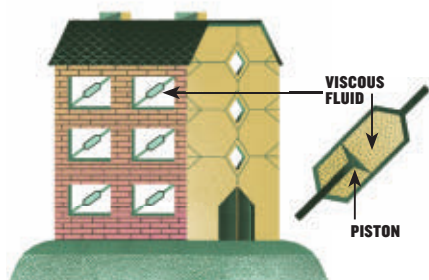
Reconstruction after the 1980 quake took years, and the work was plagued by corruption and graft. Government money paid for roads to nowhere and factories that never opened. Despite millions of dollars spent in the region, 28,500 people were still living in canvas tents a decade after the earthquake.

You can still see the effects of the earthquake nearly 40 years later. As we drive around the city, Faggella points out the movie theater that never reopened and the clock on the town hall still stopped at 7:34, the time of the earthquake. Pre-earthquake cookie-cutter high-rises that speculators built without seismic provisions are an outrage to someone in his line of work.

Faggella studied seismic engineering at the University of Basilicata at Potenza, which was established after the quake. His Ph.D. adviser, Enrico Spacone, suggested he look into a Rotary scholarship for an opportunity to do research in the United States. Faggella called Gaetano Laguardia, a family friend who was a member of the Rotary Club of Potenza, who helped him through the application process. He received an Ambassadorial

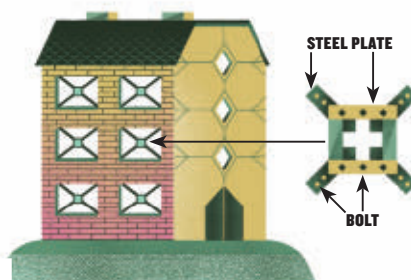
## ANTI-SEISMIC MEASURES

Seismic dampers absorb some of the energy of an earthquake and lessen the damage it causes to a building. Engineers use these techniques in newly constructed and retrofitted buildings all over the world.



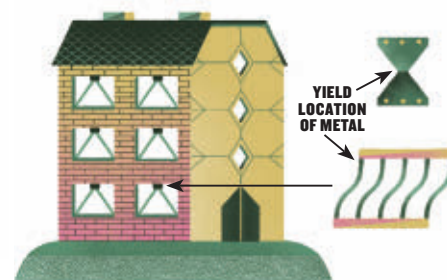
### VISCOUS DAMPER

The motion of a piston passing through a thick silicone fluid absorbs the earthquake’s energy.



### FRICTION DAMPER

The friction created by steel plates rubbing together dissipates seismic energy.



### YIELDING DAMPER

A metal alloy more flexible than brick or concrete will yield when shaken in an earthquake.



**Faggella created a scholarship program to bring students from high seismic-risk countries in Asia to the European Union to study earthquake engineering.**



Scholarship, the predecessor to today's global grant scholarships, to study at the University of California at San Diego, another city on a major fault.

In San Diego, Faggella connected with Fary Moini, who was later honored at the U.S. White House in 2012 as one of 10 Champions of Change, and Stephen R. Brown, who went on to become a Rotary Foundation trustee. Moini and Brown, members of the Rotary Club of La Jolla Golden Triangle, have long been involved in Rotary projects in Afghanistan, including establishing several Rotary clubs. Inspired by their work as well as that of a professional contact, Brian Tucker of GeoHazards International (a nongovernmental organization that works in disaster preparedness), Faggella successfully applied for a Rotary Peace Fellowship to

study the intersection of natural disasters and peace.

He was ready for a career working in developing countries, bringing his engineering background to bear, but fate intervened. As a teenager, he had been a daredevil: He was a competitive skier, he cliff dove, he did flips while wakeboarding. But when he was 17, a motorcycle accident nearly severed his foot at the ankle. Doctors saved his foot, but just barely. While in San Diego, Faggella had a bone graft, but he had to decline the peace fellowship and set aside his dreams for a career in developing countries.

Instead, he went back home, joined Rotary himself, and came up with his biggest idea of all: He created a scholarship program to bring students from high seismic-risk countries in Asia to the European Union to study earthquake engineering. When they return to their countries, they become professors or government officials who work to make construction safer.

"I managed to get developing countries to come to me," he says later as we look out over a ghost town that was never rebuilt after the 1980 earthquake, a destiny he is trying to prevent for other communities. "I live in a cool region that everyone wants to come to, but I'm stuck with this, let's say, disability. Let's just flip the story."

From 2010 to '14, 104 students and researchers from 14 Asian countries studied at five European universities, funded by a €2.5 million grant from the European Union. Faggella's Rotary district in Rome helps provide hospitality for visiting students.

"It's a kind of dilemma that Rotarians face all the time," notes Stephen Brown. "To what extent can one person make a difference that would impact hundreds, as opposed to providing food and shelter after the fact? Rotarians can't help themselves – when there is a natural disaster, they're going to write checks. If we look more at the cause of the problem, it's a better investment."

*Left: Romagnano al Monte was never rebuilt after being destroyed by an earthquake in 1980.*

*Below: A map of Italy shows where earthquakes are most intense.*





Twenty-two of the scholars who went through the program were from Nepal, including Surya Narayan Shrestha, the deputy director of Nepal's National Society for Earthquake Technology. Now he is using his knowledge in the rebuilding after its devastating earthquake that killed nearly 9,000 people in April 2015. (Faggella appeared with him on Italian television shortly after the quake.)

Aslam Faqeer is another scholar who went through the program. Before studying in Italy, Faqeer had taken courses on seismic engineering at NED University of Engineering and Technology in Karachi, a city where he estimates 20 to 30 percent of structures are earthquake safe. "At that time, people in Pakistan had limited knowledge," he says. Faqeer received his Ph.D. at Sapienza University of Rome in 2015, advised by Faggella and Spacone. Now an assistant professor in Karachi, he has trained more than 120 master's students and practicing engineers on modern seismic analysis and design, and researched how structures

will perform if they are built to international standards.

On my final day in Basilicata, Faggella drives me to the ancient city of Matera, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that will be a European Capital of Culture in 2019. The city dates back 9,000 years and is among the world's oldest continuously inhabited settlements. Early inhabitants drilled into the city's cliffs to make caves, then used the materials to make bricks and build houses on the caves' faces.

Looking to expand its international collaborations, the University of Basilicata at Matera asked Faggella to set up another scholarship program. This time, the initiative aimed at protecting cultural heritage sites in Latin America and Europe from natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods. A total of 119 students are participating: 83 traveling from Latin America to study at schools across Europe, and 36 Europeans going to Latin America to study at universities there. The program, which is running from 2014 to 2018, is funded through a €3.7 million grant from the EU.

We stop outside one of the cave buildings, but this one is surrounded by scaffolding and covered with tarps. While Matera is not in a high-risk earthquake zone, its protection is still of concern because of its cultural significance. Students here do simulation trials in the lab and advanced computer modeling before they do any work on-site. "We prefer to do it in a virtual environment rather than go and smash an artifact," Faggella says.

Rotary's investment in Faggella and the exponential number of students touched by the programs he has set up are paving the way to keep this and other culturally important structures around for years to come, he says. "I've always tried to drag the science community toward cooperating with the international aid field," he says. "Rotary gave me the idea of how to make this have a large, global impact." ■

*Above and right: Through a scholarship program set up by Faggella, students are conducting research in Matera, a 9,000-year-old city in southern Italy that will be a European Capital of Culture in 2019.*



**A new initiative is aimed at protecting cultural heritage sites in Latin America and Europe from natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods.**

# ON THE TRACKS OF THE BEAST

## **In Mexico's migrant shelters, a Rotary scholar puts his education into action**

**There are two inescapable elements of southern Mexico.** The first is dust – desert rock ground to a powder that finds its way into your every crevice: the backs of your knees, the folds of your eyelids. You cough it up as you drift to sleep and discover its brume settled across your bedsheets in the morning.

The second element is violence.

I found both on the gritty tracks of the Beast. Over the past half-century, millions of Central Americans have crossed Mexico from south to north, fleeing poverty, decades-long civil wars, and, most recently, brutal gangs. To escape, migrants used to ride atop the cars of the train line known as the Beast.

In July 2014, Mexican immigration officials announced a plan called the Southern Border Program; part of it entailed closing the Beast to migrants. Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto said the plan would create new economic zones and safeguard migrants' human rights by securing the country's historically volatile southern border. Instead, the number of migrants beaten, kidnapped, and murdered has skyrocketed. Some have even been victims of the black-market trade in organs.



*Snapshots from the Beast: Until recently, as many as 450,000 Central Americans a year migrated north across Mexico atop freight trains.*



TOP PHOTO: EXCELSIOR.COM.MX

*Top: Axel Hernandez, whose parents brought him from Guatemala to the United States as an infant, has been deported twice; he now lives in Mexico.*

*Bottom: Shelters house migrants including children traveling with family members (left) as well as young people on their own (right).*



In early 2015 I had just completed my studies as a Rotary global grant scholar, earning a master's degree in the anthropology of development. I had studied how trade and development initiatives in Mexico could make people's lives more perilous, not less. To learn about what was going wrong, I went to southern Mexico to use the skills I had gained through my global grant studies.

Southern Mexico is poor and rural, made up of small pueblos and subsistence agriculture. In some ways, I felt at home. I grew up in rural Georgia, and I became interested in immigration after teaching English to farmworkers harvesting cabbage, berries, and Christmas trees in the foothills of North Carolina. Many of the men I worked with were from southern Mexico. Their descriptions of the violence brought by drug and human trafficking led to my interest in the region.

To understand how the Southern Border Program was affecting people's lives, I stayed in migrant shelters, which are not unlike homeless shelters or temporary refugee camps. They are often without reliable running water or electricity, but they do provide migrants with a warm meal and a place to rest before they continue north.

### **I lived and traveled with migrants headed north, recording their stories – about why they left, where they hoped to go, and what they had faced on their journeys.**

At first, shelter life was a shock to me. Sick or injured people arrived nearly each day. Severe dehydration was a big problem, and some people had literally walked the skin off the bottoms of their feet. I was there when a gang member entered the shelter to kidnap someone, but shelter directors stopped him.

By the time I arrived, shelters along the tracks of the Beast had seen the number of migrants dwindle from 400 a night to

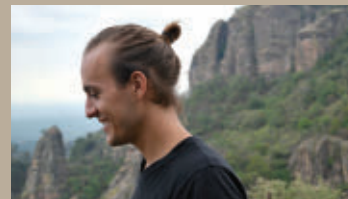
fewer than 100. Shelter directors explained that the number of Central Americans fleeing into Mexico each year – around 400,000 – had not fallen, but because immigration agents were now apprehending anyone near the Beast, people were afraid to approach the shelters. These safe havens had been transformed into no-go zones. "This is a humanitarian crisis on the scale of Syria," one director said to me, "but no one is talking about it."

In the shelters, I chopped firewood, cooked dinners, and scrubbed kitchen floors. I changed bandages and helped people file for asylum. And I lived and traveled with migrants headed north, recording their stories – about why they left, where they hoped to go, and what they had faced on their journeys.

Mildred, a single mother of three, was fleeing gang members who threatened to kill her family if she didn't pay them a protection fee. Ivan, the oldest brother of six, singlehandedly resettled his entire family in Mexico – including his elderly mother and his two toddler nephews – after hit men tried to kill them in their home in Honduras. Milton had lived in New York City for years – and had sheltered ash-covered pedestrians in his apartment during the 11 September 2001 terror attacks – before being deported.

The things I learned were terrifying. Instead of shoring up Mexico's borders, the plan had splintered traditional migrant routes. Those routes had been dangerous, but they were also ordered and visible. Migrants knew approximately which areas of the train passage were plagued by gangs. They were prepared to pay protection fees – generally between \$5 and \$20. They traveled in groups for safety. And they were often close to aid – a shelter, a Red Cross clinic, even a police station.

The Southern Border Program changed that. Hunted by immigration officers, migrants traveled deep into the jungle,



In 2015, shortly after finishing his studies as a Rotary Foundation global grant scholar, **Levi Vonk** went to Mexico to work with migrants. He has written about what he saw, and about the experiences of migrants themselves, for *Rolling Stone*, *The Atlantic*, and National Public Radio. For Rotary Foundation Month, we asked him to describe what he has done and learned. Vonk studied at the University of Sussex, England, sponsored by the Rotary clubs of Shoreham & Southwick, England, and Charleston Breakfast, S.C. His master's degree in the anthropology of development and social transformation led to his becoming a 2014-15 Fulbright fellow to Mexico. He is now a doctoral candidate in medical anthropology at the University of California at Berkeley.

walking for days. Gangs, which had previously extorted money from migrants, now followed them into these isolated areas to rob, kidnap, or simply kill them.

The Southern Border Program has failed as a development initiative. Not only has cracking down on immigration made southern Mexico less safe, but the increased violence has deterred business investment that the region so desperately needs.

During my time as a Rotary scholar, I learned to look at development differently. We often think of international aid in terms of poverty reduction, and we often see poverty reduction in terms of dollars spent and earned. The anthropology of development aims to analyze global aid in another way. We pay particular attention



*Top: Among those apprehended at the U.S.-Mexican border between October 2015 and January 2016 were 24,616 families – the vast majority of them from Central America. Bottom: Levi Vonk (right) and Axel Hernandez (also pictured on page 44) have known each other for more than two years.*



to how initiatives play out on the ground to determine just what local communities' needs are and how those needs might be met sustainably and, eventually, autonomously.

When I was living in migrant shelters, we often received huge, unsolicited shipments of clothing from well-intentioned organizations. Had they asked us, we would have told them that their efforts, and money, were wasted. In fact, directors had to pay for hundreds of pounds of clothing to be taken to the dump when space ran out at the shelter.

Among the things shelters actually needed, I learned, were clean water, better plumbing, and medical care. But shelter directors did not just want these items shipped over in bulk; they needed infrastructure – water purification, functioning toilets, and access to a hospital, along with the skills and knowledge to maintain these systems themselves.

Of course, as one shelter director told me, "Our ultimate goal is to not be needed

at all – to solve this migration crisis and violence and go home."

Rotary's six areas of focus mesh neatly with these goals. Such measures require money, but more than that, they require intense cultural collaboration to make them sustainable. Who better than Rotary, with its worldwide network of business and community leaders, to understand the challenges and respond effectively?

One way Rotary is responding is by funding graduate-level studies in one of the six areas of focus. After his global grant studies in anthropology of development at the University of Sussex, my friend Justin Hendrix spent several years working in a Romanian orphanage, helping to provide the children there with the best education possible. Another friend, Emily Williams, received a global grant to get her master's degree at the Bartolome de las Casas

Institute of Human Rights at Madrid's Universidad Carlos III and now works with unaccompanied Central American minors and victims of trafficking in the United States. My partner, Atlee Webber, received a global grant to study migration and development at SOAS University of London (School of Oriental and African

## Who better than Rotary, with its worldwide network of business and community leaders, to understand the challenges and respond effectively?

Studies); she now works as a program officer with the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants.

Rotarians understand that to have the most impact, we need to learn from other cultures. As global grant scholars, that's what we aim to do – during our studies, and afterward. ■

# Sponsor a global grant scholar

**ROTARY CLUBS CAN APPLY** to The Rotary Foundation for global grants to support scholarships for graduate students studying abroad in one of Rotary's six areas of focus. There are now over 520 global grant scholarship alumni and more than 200 current scholars who share our commitment to:

- Promoting peace
- Fighting disease
- Providing clean water, sanitation, and hygiene
- Saving mothers and children
- Supporting education
- Growing local economies

Applications for students who begin their studies in August, September, or October are due by 30 June.

## OTHER FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

**District grants** can be used to sponsor secondary school, undergraduate, or graduate students studying any subject, either locally or abroad. The scholarship may cover any length of time, from a six-week language training program to a year or more of university study.

Rotarians can advance peace in troubled areas around the world by promoting **Rotary Peace Fellowships**, recruiting peace fellow candidates, and supporting them through the application process.

Rotary clubs and districts can also recommend candidates for **IHE Delft Institute for Water Education scholarships** and interview applicants who have been admitted to the institute in one of three master's degree programs.

To learn more, visit [rotary.org/scholarships](http://rotary.org/scholarships).



MICHAEL D. WILSON

**Deborah Walters, Maine's 'kayaking grandma,'  
set out on an epic paddle to help children in Guatemala**

# Fantastic voyage

At the mouth of Maine's Passagassawakeag River, where it empties into Penobscot Bay, Deborah Walters is sitting on the deck of a restaurant talking about the time she was stung by a scorpion in a remote Guatemalan village. "We were a hike and a boat ride from medical care," she recalls, adjusting a wide-brimmed straw hat that sprinkles sunlight across her face. "The challenge is to keep your heart rate slow. I just had to be calm and wait. But I sensed I would be fine."

In 2014, *Portland Magazine* named Walters the Most Intriguing Person in Maine, and this blend of rationality and sally-forth resilience is one of the reasons: Although she's a retired neuroscientist and professor who has presented her research throughout the world and mentored hundreds of students, she's perhaps best known as the "kayaking grandma." Search that phrase and the internet will return story after story about her solo paddle to raise awareness and funds for Safe Passage, a nonprofit that supports the people who eke out a living in the Guatemala City garbage dump.

In 2014, Walters – who had for years been kayaking solo in the Canadian Arctic – set out on a paddling trip that would take her more than 2,500 miles from Maine to Guatemala. The hours alone on the water would be broken up by stays with Rotarians

and speaking engagements at which she would tell the story of Safe Passage.

In the months that followed, the 63-year-old Walters, a member of the Rotary Club of Unity, Maine, persevered through two hurricanes, close calls with unmapped sandbars, and raging surf that nearly rolled her kayak like a window shade. She had three encounters with the U.S. military and Department of Homeland Security – one at gunpoint – after accidental breaches of protected waterways. On the water, she was sometimes escorted by local paddlers.

"The sea is endlessly fascinating. You must be constantly aware of the interaction of wind, waves, and tides, not to mention the shipping traffic," she says. "I get into the flow when I'm paddling. That flow state is immensely calming. Nothing else matters."

**W**alters was in her mid-50s, with two kids and four grandchildren (her husband of 32 years, Chris Percival, is an equally adventurous spirit who biked across the United States after retiring from his job as an electrical engineer), and she had recently retired from academia when two Rotarians she met at a Rotary institute suggested she join them on a trip

*Opposite: Deborah Walters on her home waters in Maine.*



GILES CLARKE/GETTY IMAGES

to Guatemala. Chip Griffin and Marty Helman of the Rotary Club of Boothbay Harbor, Maine, were going there to take part in a service project with Safe Passage. It was 2004, and the trip altered the trajectory of Walters' life.

They visited the 40-acre landfill in Guatemala City, where 10,000 people survive by scavenging and recycling trash. More than a third of the country's garbage lands there, including biohazards such as medical waste, gas tanks, and the occasional corpse. Informal settlements on its perimeter draw impoverished people desperate for any means of subsistence. Among the hazards they face are landslides, crime, toxins, and sinkholes; in 2005, methane gas emissions ignited a massive fire that burned for days. Walters met one woman who had retrieved a gold ring by diving into the river that runs beneath the trash. "I could understand the excitement about what might be found," she says. "But that river is toxic enough to dissolve a boat."

As she describes the sprawling, stinking ravine, Walters touches a necklace of bright beads made from recycled paper. It was handcrafted by women from the landfill community who have banded to-

gether through Safe Passage into a collective called Creamos, or We Create. It's symbolic of the resourcefulness that emerges even from trash – and of Walters' knack for appreciating it.

On that first trip, Walters met Hanley Denning, a young Mainer who, after moving to Guatemala to study Spanish in 1997, sold all her belongings and used the proceeds to start Safe Passage. She knew the families of the landfill needed their children to earn an income, but she also knew those children needed an education. Many Guatemalans refer to the children themselves as *basura*, or "garbage," and they are often unable to attend public schools. So Denning started a school at the dump where the children earned a bag of food for every month of perfect attendance. Eventually the organization began providing the students with lunch every day.

Denning asked Walters to get involved, and she signed on to the Safe Passage board of directors in 2006. A year later, Denning, 36, was killed in a car accident in Guatemala. Many of the Safe Passage families feared the organization would fold with her death.

Walters flew back to the country to chair a transition committee. Juan Mini, owner of the dump and

***This page:** Two boys scavenge in Guatemala City's huge landfill for anything they can use or sell. **Opposite:** Safe Passage gives children whose families live off the dump a chance at an education.*

a Safe Passage board member, says she took an inclusive approach. “The role Deb took by coming to Guatemala was what saved the project,” Mini says. “Deb did not stop until Safe Passage had a new CEO and was organized for success. This has allowed Hanley’s dream to continue, and hundreds of kids from the dump have a much better future.”

Walters, in turn, credits the community. “The first step is to listen,” she says. “To help, we can’t believe we have the answers. We must open ourselves to learning from the people we think we are serving.”

**F**our years into her work with Safe Passage, Walters wanted to learn more about the rural indigenous communities from which many people in Guatemala City migrate. So she traveled to the country’s remote highlands with Sue Patterson, then a board member with ALDEA, a nonprofit that has worked with Mayan communities for five decades to enhance health, sanitation, and agriculture.

Walters helped residents and Rotarians join forces to address problems: In the village of Chipastor, for instance, waterborne illnesses were a leading cause of death, and the task of collecting potable water occupied hours each day. After clubs in Walters’ District 7790 worked with District 5420 (Utah) to obtain a Rotary global grant for a water system, latrines, graywater filters, and sanitation training, she accompanied teams of Rotarians to Chipastor, where they worked with villagers to build the cement-block latrines. In 2015, the Maine and Utah Rotarians worked with the Rotary Club of Guatemala del Este on a second global grant to replicate this work in two other villages, and in a fourth, Walters helped expand a successful preschool program by working with Ripple Effect, a program of District 5550 (Manitoba, parts of Ontario and Saskatchewan) that matched funds raised by more than 50 clubs in District 7790.

Success, Walters stresses, always hinges on local expertise and input. She points to an example of the first energy-efficient stoves introduced in rural communities. Created to reduce the injuries, respiratory irritants, and deforestation associated with traditional wood-burning stoves, these new models would have been extremely effective – if only they had been used. When asked why the design failed, local people explained that families traditionally gather around their stoves to eat and socialize.

The design didn’t permit that. The residents helped design a revised model that includes an apron around a masonry stove – and that is now the centerpiece of most households.

Back in Maine, Walters zooms down Muskrat Farm Road in her bug-spattered Prius sharing stories of the people she has met in Guatemala who have inspired her: a woman who learned to read and write in her 70s so she could help her grandchildren with their homework. A student who, when asked what he would like for his birthday, carefully pulled his chair close to Walters and whispered, “Underwear and socks.” And a young woman who was abandoned as a baby, got pregnant in her teens, and was forced to surrender her children because of drug addiction. Determined to reunite her family, she studied for eight years while working in the dump, graduated from the sixth grade, and now lives with her children. Phenomenal under any conditions, this transformation occurred in the setting of extreme poverty.

“Who is learning? Who is prevailing?” Walters asks. “All of us. Fortitude can beat despair.”

Stories such as those inspired Walters to plan her epic voyage, but it was Rotarians who made it possible. “The Rotary value of fellowship was the key to the expedition’s success,” she says. “It took incredible coordination by Gene Pfeiffer from my Rotary club, who called clubs along the coast and asked them for help. They had to help me find a place to land and store the kayak. They carted me





and my gear to their homes. They fed me and arranged for me to speak at Rotary clubs, churches, libraries, and friends' houses. They even orchestrated press coverage. Remarkably, they also made time to get to know me. I often had deeply personal conversations with my hosts. This network of volunteers was the most amazing part of the expedition. I am totally awed by how many people went so far out of their way."

Some worried about her journey. The Safe Passage children, in particular, were concerned about her spending so many hours alone. In June 2014, while in the final stages of planning, Walters received a package containing Patito Amistoso, or Friendly Duckling, a palm-sized rubber duck the students had selected to join her. The duo departed from Maine on 11 July 2014, and Patito spent every mile in the chest pocket of Walters' personal flotation device. He even had his own blog.

One afternoon, Walters quietly lifted her paddle from the water as she glided into a bevy of swans. She held her breath and slowly reached for her camera, astounded at her luck – until realizing the birds were decoys used to repel geese. But actual wildlife also abounded, including something she took for a rock but turned out to be a manatee. When the 1,000-pound creature moved, it nearly startled Walters out of her boat. Between these adventures she taught virtual geography lessons to the Guatemalan students who were following her voyage online.

Walters made it as far as South Carolina before worsening arm and shoulder pain sent her to a hospital. In January 2015, she underwent emergency surgery for a herniated disc and spent the next couple of months recuperating and continuing her speaking engagements. In April, she set out from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., on a sailboat accompanied by Bernie Horn, a friend and Safe Passage supporter, and a crew of volunteers. They were welcomed on their arrival in Guatemala by Safe Passage staff and families, but the festivities were bittersweet for Walters. "Everyone said I had completed the expedition, but I had only kayaked a little over 1,500 miles," she says. "I didn't feel I'd met my goal."

So in September that year, Walters resumed paddling, determined to complete the leg from South Carolina to Florida. Finally, on 10 February 2016, Walters glided onto Higgs Beach in Key West. Her expedition had raised more than \$425,000 from private donors, churches, corporations, Rotary clubs, and The Rotary Foundation.



COURTESY OF DEBORAH WALTERS

**W**alters, who was honored as one of Rotary's Global Women of Action in 2015, still volunteers with Safe Passage but no longer serves on its board because of term limits she herself instituted. The Safe Passage school has grown into an accredited, award-winning private school that also trains public school teachers. "I would be happy for my grandchildren to attend Safe Passage," Walters says.

More than 40 percent of Guatemalan children aged five and under experience malnutrition, but Safe Passage has eliminated that problem among its students. More than 100 Safe Passage students have graduated from high school. Parents and grandparents have learned to read and write, and some have started small businesses so that they no longer need to scavenge to support their families.

An English program was driven by parents who knew that children from the garbage dump need as many advantages as possible, but traditional English as a Second Language (ESL) materials aren't compatible with the world in which these students live. A sentence such as "I store the milk in my refrigerator" doesn't make sense to someone whose only meal is the one provided at school. So Safe Passage developed its own curriculum, with funds from a global grant sponsored by the Rotary clubs of

Weymouth, Mass., and Guatemala-Las Americas.

"Sustainability is the same thing as doing ourselves out of a job. Our goal is for the organization to become Guatemalan-run and -funded," Walters says. "Breaking chronic cycles takes a comprehensive program that addresses all the issues tied to inter-generational poverty. And it's imperative to partner with other nonprofits, governments, and private businesses." Half the Safe Passage board members, including the president, are now Guatemalan.

Once, on a solo kayaking trip in the Arctic, Walters brought along a bargain edition of *Walden*. "I'd been thinking about how we become enslaved to salary and how it interrupts contentment or distracts from what matters," she says. She read by lantern for a couple of nights, then started to think that Thoreau's arguments seemed redundant. She eventually realized her copy contained only the first three chapters, over and over. "What bothered me most wasn't the misprint. It was how long it took me to realize it," Walters chuckles. "Perhaps those pages contain a message I'm really meant to learn." ■

*Shirley Stephenson is a freelance writer, advanced practice nurse, and former kayaking instructor who lived for several years in Latin America.*

*Opposite, from top: Walters (second from left) and her fellow Global Women of Action Razia Jan, Lucy Hobgood-Brown, Stella Dongo, and Hashrat A. Begum at the United Nations in 2015; in 2014, Walters went on the Maine radio program TideSmart Talk to discuss her trip. This page: Paddling on Vermont's Connecticut River.*



# #GivingTuesday

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#GIVING  
TUESDAY



# insider

## A new partner for peace

Rotarians are tackling some of the world's greatest problems – providing clean water and sanitation, eradicating polio, growing economies, and reducing poverty. But our gains are fragile in the face of civil wars and internal conflicts. More than 65 million people are refugees or internally displaced, the highest number ever recorded. In Syria, for example, one observer noted that six decades of development gains have been wiped out in five years of conflict.

Given the danger of backsliding, what can Rotary do to ensure that our work will have a long-term impact?

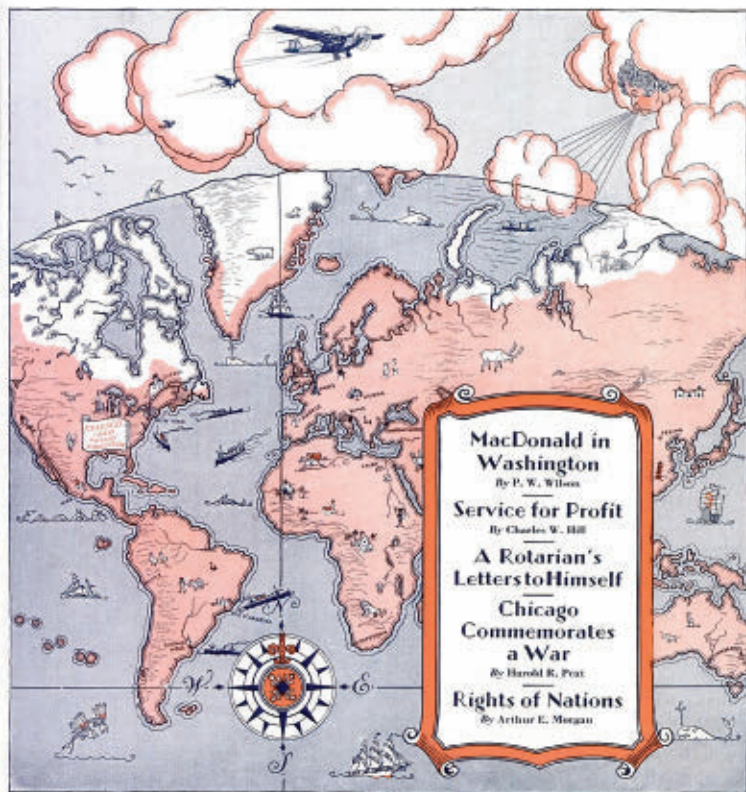
The Institute for Economics and Peace, which each year ranks 163 countries according to their level of peace in its Global Peace Index, is conducting pioneering research on Positive Peace. Rather than looking at peace as the absence of violence, the institute conducted a statistical analysis of more than 4,000 data sets to outline what attitudes, institutions, and structures lead to peace. The organization has identified eight factors that correlate strongly to peace and sustainable development, including a well-functioning government, equitable distribution of resources, the free flow of information, and a sound business environment.

In July, Rotary formed a strategic partnership with the institute to use its road map to peace to train the next generation of global peacemak-



NOVEMBER 1929 Twenty-Five Cents  
One Shilling

# THE ROTARIAN



FROM THE ARCHIVES OF THE ROTARIAN

## November 1929

*The Rotarian* has a long history of stories that inspire debates among its readers, and this issue was no different. Eleven years after the end of World War I, the magazine featured an article by Harold R. Peat, known as “Private Peat,” about a war memorial that the city of Chicago was planning to build. “What is this monument to commemorate? War – yes, but is it to be War as War is, or War as man wants to see it?” he asked. “A true monument to War means the recognition of Stupidity – Horror – Stench – Filth – Rape – Ignorance – Sin – Lunacy.” The editors noted that “it is no part of the policy of the magazine to sidestep issues closely related to the objectives of Rotary,” and encouraged clubs to use the article as the basis for debate at one of their meetings.



Previous page: Steve Killelea founded the Institute for Economics and Peace. Above: Our new partnership will include global grant-funded workshops providing training on Positive Peace.

ers, a move that will not only help build peace but support the sustainability of our other areas of focus as well.

Through this partnership, Rotary will work with the institute through two core activities to connect our grassroots members with practical ways to create the conditions necessary for peace.

1) The **online learning portal** will allow Rotary members and Rotary Peace Fellows to build on their expertise, apply new methods, and mobilize communities to address the issues underlying conflicts.

2) **Workshops** funded by global grants and hosted by Rotary clubs around the world will provide person-to-person training on the insights of the institute. Our goal is to foster new community-based projects in peace and conflict resolution that are both practical and impactful.

The partnership builds on previous collaborations between our organizations. In 2016, the institute ran a training course on the Pillars of Peace with 120 Ugandan Rotaractors, who went on to implement projects to build peace in their communities. And more than 300 young people attended a Positive Peace workshop in Mexico. Rotary also collaborated with the institute through our peace fellows to create Global Peace Index Ambassadors. These ambassadors can educate Rotarians on steps that clubs can take to build Positive Peace projects.

## ROTARY AT A GLANCE

As of 31 August

ROTARY	ROTARACT	INTERACT	RCCS
Members: <b>1,220,185</b>	Members: <b>242,949</b>	Members: <b>511,796</b>	Members: <b>210,500</b>
Clubs: <b>35,727</b>	Clubs: <b>10,563</b>	Clubs: <b>22,252</b>	Corps: <b>9,452</b>



# In memoriam

With deep regret, we report the death of **SAM F. OWORI**, Kampala, Uganda, who served RI as president-elect in 2017, director in 2010-12, and district governor in 1987-88.

In addition we report the deaths of the following Rotarians who served RI as district governors:

- ELMER L. KUNTZ**, Chickasha, Okla., 1979-80
- JOHN G. SCHAEFFER**, Renton, Wash., 1979-80
- JAMES Y. HAMAI**, Lawndale, Calif., 1982-83
- ORVILLE T. RANGER**, Brunswick, Maine, 1983-84
- CARL E. KURLANDER**, Hamilton Township, N.J., 1984-85
- MICHAEL D. OCCHIPINTI**, Rome, N.Y., 1985-86
- KWANG GIL KOH**, Namweon, Korea, 1987-88
- KI-HO YOON**, Busan-Dongrae, Korea, 1990-91
- JIM J. LOFTIS**, Frederick, Okla., 1992-93
- JORMA KAUPPI**, Kemi, Finland, 1993-94
- YOSHIYUKI NAKAYAMA**, Yokohama South, Japan, 1994-95
- YOZO MIYAKE**, Takamatsu, Japan, 1996-97
- TAKAO FUKUI**, Suzuka West, Japan, 1997-98
- JAMES V. MEALEY**, Los Gatos Morning, Calif., 1997-98
- AKITO NAITO**, Nagoya-West, Japan, 1998-99
- OVE ERIKSSON**, Djursholm, Sweden, 1998-99
- YOSHIHARU HONJO**, Karatsu, Japan, 2005-06
- KAZUO MORISHITA**, Soja, Japan, 2007-08
- KI SEUNG HAN**, Pusan-Puil, Korea, 2007-08
- MASARU YAMASAKI**, Kumamoto East, Japan, 2009-10
- USAMA A. BARGHOUTHI**, Amman-Petra, Jordan, 2011-12
- MICHAEL A. YESNER**, Skokie Valley, Ill., 2012-13
- SHUSEI OKU**, Obihiro, Japan, 2014-15
- ALEN K. TOPSY**, Albion, Mauritius, 2014-15
- ROSE A. BOWMAN**, Chehalis, Wash., 2015-16
- ARTHUR RUF-BARTH**, Flawil, Switzerland, 2015-16
- PIETRO GIANNINI**, Bergamo Città Alta, Italy, 2016-17
- KAZUO TOYOKAWA**, Fujioka South, Japan, 2016-17

## MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDATION CHAIR



A few months ago, I raised the question, “What do the Trustees do, anyway?” I reflected that a critical role of ours is to listen. This month, Rotary Foundation Month, I can happily report that you speak volumes – and that you are heard.

The late RI President-elect Sam F. Owori said he saw in Rotarians “an incredible passion to make a difference” and wanted to “harness that enthusiasm and pride so that every project becomes the engine of peace and prosperity.”

From your letters, reports, and wonderful stories, we know you share Sam’s vision of a world where Rotarians unite and take action to create sustainable change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves. Last year we saw an increase in the number of global and district grants initiated and another record high in Rotary Peace Fellowship applications. We also saw increased totals in overall giving, reflecting your passion for what we do as “People of Action.” A special thanks to Rotary’s club and district leaders for providing continuity in all our endeavors.

Recognition as the World’s Outstanding Foundation by the Association of Fundraising Professionals at its international convention affirms the work you are helping make possible. AFP’s committee of judges cited Rotary’s comprehensive campaign to eradicate polio as a major factor in the Foundation’s selection.

To Benefactors, Bequest Society members, and all levels of Major Donors, thank you! You are building financial stability for the future. Our Endowment Fund continues to grow because of your belief in the Foundation and its continually evolving programs. We are well underway with our “Building TRF Endowment: 2025 by 2025” initiative – to achieve \$2.025 billion in gifts and commitments by 2025.

As one Rotarian to another, from my heart to yours, please accept my personal thanks for your unflagging work and many accomplishments over the years. One of the genuine privileges of serving in a key leadership role in Rotary is being able to continue learning from Rotarian friends as passionate and committed as you.

Let us celebrate Rotary Foundation Month together!

Thank you. Thank you.

Paul A. Netzel  
FOUNDATION TRUSTEE CHAIR

Send me your thoughts on the Foundation.  
[paul.netzel@rotary.org](mailto:paul.netzel@rotary.org)  
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# WHAT WILL YOU WATCH TODAY?

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watch. learn. connect.



## IDEATION IN TORONTO

- Across**
- 1 Naughty
  - 4 Makes really mad
  - 10 Online auction site
  - 14 Longoria or Peron
  - 15 China for an afternoon social
  - 16 Kitten-lifting spot
  - 17 Allowed
  - 18 Start of 2018 RI Convention theme
  - 20 Knock about
  - 22 Forces acceptance
  - 23 Title documents
  - 25 Golfer's gadget
  - 26 Part 2 of the theme
  - 29 Not buttoned
  - 31 Belfry denizen
  - 34 Headed (for)
  - 35 Slate, e.g.
  - 36 Prince Charles' sport
  - 37 Envelope abbr.
  - 38 Part 3 of the theme
  - 39 Graceland middle name
  - 40 Baum dog
  - 41 Half a fish?
  - 42 Hive inhabitant
  - 43 Tide rival
  - 44 Clinton Cabinet member
  - 45 End of the theme
  - 46 Title for Galahad
  - 47 Mackerel family member
  - 49 Driver's lic., e.g.
  - 53 "Blow, you old blue \_\_\_\_"
  - 57 Admonition as to the convention
  - 59 I problem?
  - 60 Become worthy of
  - 61 Olympics shout
  - 62 Before now
  - 63 "School" before elem.
  - 64 *The Banks of the Oise* painter
  - 65 Santa visitor
- Down**
- 1 Big shot?
  - 2 Declare with confidence
  - 3 Chart fillers
  - 4 Payment to a fellow
  - 5 Prepared for a blow
  - 6 Lessened
  - 7 Its bite killed Cleopatra
  - 8 *Golda's Balcony* subject
  - 9 Tactical plan
  - 10 \_\_\_\_ nous (confidentially)
  - 11 Star of *Charles in Charge*
  - 12 Footless critter
  - 13 Itches
  - 19 "\_\_\_\_ to that!"
  - 21 "Beats me"
  - 24 By hook or by crook
  - 26 Weaken
  - 27 Turning part
  - 28 "I'm \_\_\_\_ here!"
  - 30 Mutuel lead-in
  - 31 B, to a chemist
  - 32 Exclusively
  - 33 Copier refill
  - 35 *The Birds* screen-writer \_\_\_\_ Hunter
  - 36 Polly, who wants a cracker
  - 38 Retired professor's title
  - 42 Entrance
  - 44 Blue lines on un mapa
  - 45 Opt
  - 46 Fuss

BY VICTOR FLEMING, ROTARY CLUB OF LITTLE ROCK, ARK., USA

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14				15							16			
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63						64						65		

- 48 Invalidate, as a marriage
  - 49 Warm up, for short
  - 50 Preside over, as a court case
  - 51 Mean creature
  - 52 First name in classic sitcoms
  - 54 Cold cure?
  - 55 Downyflake rival
  - 56 Dig like a pig
  - 58 Dorm overseers, for short
- Solution on page 16**



# Planting the Seeds of Service



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# Rotary International



# ROTARY FOUNDATION

## award winners

The 2016-17 recipients of The Rotary Foundation Distinguished Service Award and Citation for Meritorious Service have been announced. The Distinguished Service Award is the Foundation's highest recognition of active service, which must reach beyond the district and last an extended period.

Rotarians become eligible for the award four years after receiving the Citation for Meritorious Service, which recognizes individuals who have provided significant active service to the Foundation for more than a year. Although anyone may nominate a candidate for the citation, district governors must approve each nomination.

### Distinguished Service Award

#### DISTRICT | NAME

1210 Alexander Fraser Dukes  
1860 Gerd Gross  
1910 Ertler Günter  
2201 Sr. Juan Jesús Suárez González  
2390 Carl-Gustaf Olofsson  
2420 Süleyman Girit  
2690 Tadashi Nobuhara  
2770 Hitoshi Iwabuchi  
2820 Mamoru Sato  
3060 Ashis Roy  
3170 Pranesh Jahagirdar  
3262 Bhabani Prasad Chowdhury  
3291 Anirudha Roy Chowdhury  
3360 Busabong Jamreondararasame  
3510 Ming-Hui Han  
4610 Carlos Jerônimo da Silva Gueiros  
4670 Eliseu Gonçalves da Silva  
4815 Hilda Montrull  
4895 Celia Elena Cruz de Giay  
5050 Robert Martin  
5170 Jolene Bortz  
5220 Nick Mascitelli  
5280 David Moyers  
5790 Thomas Sheriff  
5810 Gregory W. Pape  
5890 George Yeiter  
6060 Elizabeth A. Self  
6080 Jerry W. Franklin  
6400 David Carpenter  
6460 Keith Lape  
6900 William S. Woulfin  
6960 Hal L. Atzingen  
6970 Thomas Grimes  
7010 John Tomlinson  
7570 Ned Lester  
7620 Andrew Baum  
7630 Thomas Talley  
7730 Bevin Wiley Wall  
7950 David Clifton  
7980 Alan Hurst

### Citation for Meritorious Service

#### DISTRICT | NAME

1100 David Seed  
1260 Frank Taylor  
1400 Juhani Hannila  
1430 Erkki Pasanen  
1510 Gerard Retailleau  
1630 Emmanuelle Groenen  
1900 Sybe Visser  
1913 Danijel Jozic  
1970 Teresinha de J. Alves  
Fraga Martins Gomes  
2032 Remo Gattiglia  
2071 Antonio Trivella  
2201 Ignacio Moral Varona  
2202 Sergio Aragón Peña  
2240 Pawel Jurkiewicz  
2430 Levent Çolak  
2440 Saban Rodoplu  
2470 Nikolaos Soumelis  
2550 Kenichi Nakaya  
2580 Kohji Asakawa  
2650 Kenzo Tomita  
2690 Fumitoshi Ito  
2710 Koki Inai  
2760 Masato Nakabayashi  
2770 Kazuyoshi Watanabe  
2830 Junichi Yamazaki  
2981 G. Gunasekar  
3000 L. Subbiah  
3020 Jagadeeswararao Maddu  
3030 Kishor Ratanlal Kedia  
3040 Ashok Kumar Tanted  
3051 Lalit Sharma  
3052 Anil Agarwa  
3070 Gurjeet Singh Sekhon  
3110 Shyam Ji Sharma  
3131 Rakesh Bhargava  
3141 Subhash Rajaram  
Kulkarni  
3141 Nirav Niranjan Shah  
3142 Ashes Ganguly  
3150 Ch. Chilukuri Sarat Babu  
3170 Venkatesh H. Deshpande  
3240 Ashok Kumar  
3262 Saumya Ranjan Mishra  
3262 Asha Mishra

### Citation for Meritorious Service

#### DISTRICT | NAME

3272 Anthony Richards  
3300 Raveendra Kumar  
Saravanan  
3310 Zainie Abdul Aucasa  
3350 Jay Chung  
3490 Tien-Mu Chiu  
3510 Fuh-Jiann Lee  
3520 Pei-Huei Huang  
3590 Jung-Gil Kim  
3610 Keun Seung Yang  
3630 Dong Ho Lee  
3730 Jong-Myong Jin  
3770 Benigno Emilio Ramirez  
3780 Pastor Reyes Jr.  
3800 Gina Sanchez  
3860 Ibarra Panopio  
4110 David Ayala Fernandez  
4390 Germínio Orlando  
Sampaio Braga  
4560 Virgilio Augusto Resende  
Bandeira  
4580 Ângela Maria Silva  
Rezende  
4590 Paulo Celso Motta  
4620 Gilberto Severino  
4690 Santiago Joffre Auad  
4770 José Carlos Lau  
4895 Daniel Jaime Glickman  
5060 Greg MacKinnon  
5130 Lili Goodman Freitas  
5160 Karl David Diekman  
5190 Wyn Spiller  
5220 Susan J. Drake  
5230 Nina C. Clancy  
5450 Daniel C. Himelspach  
5490 James K. Dowler  
5520 Tom Walker  
5630 Donald L. Peterson  
5710 Stephen W. Wheatley  
5750 Mary Jane Calvey  
5790 Sharron Miles  
5830 Carroll Greenwaldt  
5840 Bobbe Barnes  
5890 Bob Gebhard  
5930 Betty Frantum

### Citation for Meritorious Service

#### DISTRICT | NAME

6000 Calvin J. Litwiller  
6110 Nicholas A. Nail  
6330 Dennis R. Dinsmore  
6400 Elizabeth Smith Yeats  
6600 Joseph A. Ludwig  
6690 Price Finley  
6740 Jeanne W. Clark  
6840 Charles G. Miller  
6900 Anne Dillard Glenn  
6910 Al Hombroek  
6950 Wayne F. Berryhill  
6960 Sandra P. Hemstead  
6970 Arthur MacQueen  
7010 Ronald Strickland  
7080 Lesley A. Barmania  
7280 Ruzhdi Bakalli  
7300 Jeffrey A. Klink  
7390 Margaret Sennett  
7410 Paul F. Muczynski  
7510 Julie Ann Juliano  
7530 Ranjit K. Majumder  
7550 Thomas A. Greenstreet  
7600 James A. Probsdorfer  
7630 Susan N. Giove  
7670 Richard "Ted" Carothers  
7680 Luther Moore  
7690 Kathryn Quinn Billings  
7710 Barry Phillips  
7750 Terry R. Weaver  
7770 Robert G. Gross  
7910 Robert Albert Cassidy  
7930 Ingrid C. Brown  
7980 Richard Benson  
9210 Sandra Whitehead  
9370 Robert Campbell  
9675 Jeremy Wright  
9685 Danny Low  
9790 Ruth Stapleton  
9800 William J. Studebaker  
9810 Robert W. Richards  
9830 Michael Perkins



## ROTARY LEADERS SELECTED

### Barry Rassin named president-elect

Barry Rassin, of the Rotary Club of East Nassau, Bahamas, is the selection of the Nominating Committee for President of Rotary International for 2018-19.

As president, Rassin aims to strengthen our public image and our use of digital tools to maximize Rotary's reach.

"Those who know what good Rotary clubs do will want to be a part of it, and we must find new models for membership that allow all interested in our mission to participate," he says. "With Rotary more in the public eye, we will attract more individuals who want to be part of and support a membership organization that accomplishes so much good around the world."

Rassin earned an MBA in health and hospital administration from the University of Florida and is the first fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives in the Bahamas. He recently retired after 37 years as president of Doctors Hospital Health System, where he continues to serve as an adviser. He is a lifetime member of the American Hospital Association and has served on the boards of several organizations, including the Quality Council of the Bahamas, Health Education Council, and Employers Confederation.

A Rotarian since 1980, Rassin has served Rotary as director and is vice chair of the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation. He was an RI training leader and the aide to 2015-16 RI President K.R. Ravindran.

Rassin received Rotary's highest honor, the Service Above Self Award, and other humanitarian awards for his work leading Rotary's relief efforts in Haiti after the 2010 earthquake there. He and his wife, Esther, are Major Donors and Benefactors of The Rotary Foundation.

Rassin's nomination follows Sam F. Owori's death in July, two weeks into his term as RI president-elect.

### Mark Daniel Maloney chosen as president-nominee

Mark Daniel Maloney, of the Rotary Club of Decatur, Ala., is the selection of the Nominating Committee for President of Rotary International for 2019-20.

"The clubs are where Rotary happens," says Maloney, an attorney. He aims to support and strengthen clubs at the community level, preserve Rotary's culture as a service-oriented membership organization, and test new regional approaches for growth.

"With the eradication of polio, recognition for Rotary will be great and the opportunities will be many," he says. "We have the potential to become the global powerhouse for doing good."

Maloney is a principal in the law firm of Blackburn, Maloney, and Schuppert LLC, with a focus on taxation, estate planning, and agricultural law. He represents large farming operations in the Southeastern and Midwestern United States, and has chaired the American Bar Association's Committee on Agriculture in the section of taxation. He is a member of the American Bar Association, the Alabama State Bar Association, and the Alabama Law Institute.

He has been active in Decatur's religious community, chairing his church's finance council and a local Catholic school board. He has also been president of the Community Foundation of Greater Decatur, chair of Morgan County Meals on Wheels, and director of the United Way of Morgan County and the Decatur-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce.

A Rotarian since 1980, Maloney has been an RI director; trustee and vice chair of The Rotary Foundation; president's aide; zone coordinator; and a leader on the Future Vision and 2014 Sydney Convention committees. He serves on the Operations Review Committee and has served on the Rotary Peace Centers Committee. He has received the Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service and Distinguished Service Award. Maloney and his wife, Gay, are Paul Harris Fellows, Major Donors, and Bequest Society members.



# ARCH KLUMPH SOCIETY

## 2016-17 inductees

Named for the sixth president of Rotary, the Arch Klumph Society was established to acknowledge and recognize The Rotary Foundation's highest tier of donors – those who have contributed \$250,000 or more during their lifetime.

Their generosity supports the Foundation's mission to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty.

The members listed below were formally inducted into the Arch Klumph Society during the 2016-17 Rotary year – the Foundation's centennial year.

### CANADA

#### **Bruce and Pat Williams**

*Rotary Club of Calgary, Alta.*

#### **Devon G. and Linda J. Biddle**

*Rotary Club of Oshawa (Parkwood), Ont.*

#### **Dietrich and Cathleen (Kitt) Brand**

*Rotary Club of Medicine Hat, Alta.*

#### **F. Ronald and E. Lynn Denham**

*Rotary Club of Toronto Eglinton, Ont.*

#### **Joop and Susan Ueffing**

*Rotary Club of Kentville, N.S.*

#### **Lyn and Alex Stroschin**

*Rotary Club of Whistler Millennium, B.C.*

#### **Michael J. and Karen Parker**

*Rotary Club of Cobourg, Ont.*

#### **Neil and Cheryl McBeth**

*Rotary Club of Essex, Ont.*

#### **Steve and Mary McEachern**

*Rotary Club of Edmonton West, Alta.*

#### **Tim and Sally Schilds**

*Rotary Club of Dawson Creek Sunrise, B.C.*

#### **William R. and Delphine Patchett**

*Rotary Club of Cobourg, Ont.*

#### **William Roy and Nancy Jean Gray**

*Rotary Club of Cataraqui-Kingston, Ont.*

#### **Zen and Doreen Moisey**

*Rotary Club of Edmonton West, Alta.*

### INDIA

#### **Narayan and Sunanda Nayak**

*Rotary Club of Bhubaneswar Metro*

#### **Navdeep and Amita Chawla**

*Rotary Club of Faridabad Central*

#### **Punam and Parag Sheth**

*Rotary Club of Bharuch Narmada Nagari*

#### **Ravi and Rajyalakshmi Vadlamani**

*Rotary Club of Guntur*

*Rotary Club of Guntur Aadarsh*

#### **Subhash and Babita Jain**

*Rotary Club of Ghaziabad Central*

#### **Suresh and Late Usha Jain**

*Rotary Club of Delhi South East*

#### **Vikram Kadiri and Vijayanthi Reddy**

*Rotary Club of Hyderabad Deccan*

### JAPAN

#### **Tokubei and Shuko Tanaka VII**

*Rotary Club of Kawaguchi*

### KOREA

#### **Gi Chang Lee and Sang Keum Han**

*Rotary Club of Jeju Shindosi*

#### **Hae-Sang Choi**

*Rotary Club of Ulsan*

### NEPAL

#### **Jaya Rajyalaxmi Shah**

*Rotary Club of Jawalakhel*

#### **Roop and Beena Jyoti**

*Rotary Club of Kathmandu Mid-Town*

### NIGERIA

#### **Naranbhai G. and Savitriben N. Patel**

*Rotary Club of Lagos-Palm Grove Estate*

### PANAMA

#### **Allen J. Sellers III and Ana Virginia Sellers**

*Rotary Club of Panamá Nordeste*

### PHILIPPINES

#### **Edna and Martin Sutter**

*Rotary Club of Fort Bonifacio Global City*

#### **Lucy Yu Dy**

*Manila*

### TAIWAN

#### **Brass Kuo-Hua Lin and**

#### **Jammy Chin-Min Chang**

*Rotary Club of Chung-Li South Star*

#### **Dai Liang and Helen Hou**

*Rotary Club of Taipei Songren*

#### **Daniel Tung-Hsien Tsai and**

#### **Lillian Li-Ling Hung**

*Rotary Club of Kaohsiung*

#### **Eugene Jean Dong Tsai and**

#### **Lillian Shu-Er Tsai**

*Rotary Club of Taoyuan Bai Ling, Taoyuan County*

#### **Po-Yen and Hsiu-Mei Horng**

*Rotary Club of Taichung Northwest*

### THAILAND

#### **Arnaud C.M.C. Verstraete**

*Rotary Club of Patong Beach*

#### **Somchai and Kwanjai Kamolpanthip**

*Rotary Club of Phoatham*





ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

**TURKEY**

**Halil Mehmetoğlu**

*Rotary Club of Istanbul Marmara*

**UNITED STATES**

**Antonio J. Grillo-Lopez and Maria S. Marxuach-Grillo**

*Rotary Club of La Jolla Golden Triangle, Calif.*

**Brenda and Richard Cressey**

*Rotary Club of Paso Robles, Calif.*

**Bruce and Johrita Solari**

*Rotary Club of Anaheim, Calif.*

**Chandrashekara Shetty and Vinoda Chandra Kaup**

*Rotary Club of Florissant, Mo.*

**David and Dede Del Monte**

*Rotary Club of New York*

**Frank H. and Nancy Lyon Porter**

*Rotary Club of Cleveland*

**Geoff and Kim Goll**

*Rotary Club of Salem, Ohio*

**Gregory L. and Valerie J. Owen**

*Rotary Club of Long Beach, Calif.*

**James and Maureen McKenzie**

*Rotary Club of Schaumburg A.M., Ill.*

**James B. and Carolyn L. Hathaway**

*Rotary Club of University District of Seattle, Wash.*

**James M. and Carmen Hughes**

*Rotary Club of San Diego*

**Jim and Nancy Crim**

*Rotary Club of Edmonds Daybreakers, Wash.*

**John and Mary Ellen Matthews**

*Rotary Club of Mercer Island, Wash.*

**John G. and Charlene S. Cox**

*Rotary E-Club of the State of Jefferson (D5110), Ore.*

**Marilyn Masiero**

*Rotary Club of Larchmont, N.Y.*

**Michael E. and Judith T. Berlow**

*Rotary Club of Lakewood Ranch, Fla.*

**Norman R. and Marjory A. Veliquette**

*Rotary Club of Elk Rapids, Mich.*

**Peter and Linda Gayle Jeschofnig**

*Rotary Club of Glenwood Springs Sunset, Colo.*

**Peter YS and Kristen HY Kim**

*Rotary Club of Korea Town-Los Angeles, Calif.*

**Stanley and Frances C. Quon**

*Rotary Club of Old Mission (San Diego), Calif.*

**Walter B. and Marie Williams**

*Seattle*

**William C. "Bill" Slicker**

*Rotary Club of Dallas*

**William E. and Mary Lee Dimond**

*Rotary Club of Kalamazoo Sunrise, Mich.*

# last look



## DONATE

**On 18 November**, Rotary International staff members will join Rotarians from District 5500 (Arizona) and around the world as they ride up to 106 miles to raise funds in the Ride to End Polio, part of El Tour de Tucson. El Tour de Tucson is one of the top cycling events in the U.S., attracting more than 9,000 participants each year. The Rotary team's goal is to raise \$3.4 million, which will be tripled by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for a total of more than \$10 million. Learn more about the team members, follow them as they train, and add your support by donating to their ride at [www.endpolio.org/miles-to-end-polio](http://www.endpolio.org/miles-to-end-polio).



# Inspiration AROUND EVERY CORNER

## The bus stop that changed everything

An inspirational project began when Robert from Uganda met Dale from the U.S. at the 2016 Korea convention, while waiting for a bus. A friendly conversation quickly led to a scheduled meeting in Uganda where plans would be set. The result? The East Africa Project Fair, which brings clubs and funders together on service projects around the world.

**Find your inspiration at the Rotary Convention in Toronto.  
Register today at [riconvention.org](http://riconvention.org).**



**ROTARY CONVENTION  
23-27 JUNE 2018  
TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA**

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Creator of La Curva Necklace



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