

Rotary

JUNE 2025

MAGAZINE

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gonna call?
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ROTARY'S ACTION PLAN IN MOTION

TRANSFORMING CLUBS AND COMMUNITIES THROUGH GLOBAL GRANTS



Cadre input leads to greater impact and supports engagement

For more than 24 years, Xavier Sanchez Pólit has been a committed Rotarian and a guiding force in the Rotary Club of Guayaquil Norte, Guayas, Ecuador. A former club president, he has observed the transformative power of Rotary projects firsthand. As part of The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers, he also directs his expertise as a civil engineer into helping other clubs achieve their goals.

Cadre advisers like Xavier (friends call him Xavi) provide guidance that helps clubs worldwide plan and implement projects. The Cadre members bring technical and regional expertise to global grant-funded projects, augmented by an understanding of the grant requirements, how to be an effective adviser, and evaluation methods. Being part of the Cadre means having a different kind of leadership role within Rotary.

Xavi has advised members about several projects in Central America, including initiatives that built primary schools and installed water filtration systems. Regarding his recent advisory work in the Darién region of Panama, he says he has learned that Cadre members can play a special role in helping clubs advance Rotary's Action Plan commitment to increasing our impact and our ability to adapt.

By providing advice about measuring and assessing the project's results, he helps clubs improve the quality of their efforts and create lasting change. He also supports clubs that are taking on new challenges, such as navigating the global grant process for the first time or planning future phases of existing projects.



Engaging clubs and building partnerships to expand our impact

"One of the problems I've encountered is that many clubs and Rotarians shy away from the commitment of a global grant," Xavi says. "It's a long-term process and can seem daunting." He advocates for long-term projects, however, because they often involve clubs more deeply. "Committing to multiphase projects keeps your club busy and engaged with Rotary over time," he notes. Cadre advisers can help clubs navigate Rotary policies and procedures, offering guidance and easing the complexities of the grant application and reporting cycles.

Xavi underscores the importance of working with local leaders and with organizations that have already established trust and a presence in the community. "First, find a good collaboration organization, because they work in the territory," he says. "They have important knowledge and relationships to make projects successful." He also notes that community engagement is vital and explains that Cadre experts can advise clubs about how to assess a community's interest and commitment.

Adapting to local needs for lasting change

Xavi's visit to Darién to advise on a water sanitation project included a six-hour car trip, followed by a three-hour canoe ride. He found the journey to visit community members rewarding. "It was quickly clear they cared very much for their community and environment," he says. "They had already gained so much knowledge on caring for the water system, from the river to their homes."

To continue tracking the project's effectiveness and assessing possibilities for growth, he recommended frequent visits to the project site to monitor for potential challenges and to measure tangible outputs, such as the number of people trained in good hygiene practices or the number of household filtration systems installed.

In addition, Xavi highlights the importance of being flexible and adaptable while planning the project. "Most mistakes Rotarians make come from thinking we know what communities need, instead of asking them," he says. By being receptive to new ideas and responding to community feedback, Rotary members can ensure that their projects are truly beneficial and have a lasting impact.

During his visit to Darién, Xavi asked community members what they'd like to have happen next and what they still need. Their responses can guide future project phases, such as the installation of more latrines and of biodigesters to treat water before it enters the river. Both initiatives would decrease toxins in the river, reduce the strain on the water system, further prevent disease, and increase safety for all. ●●●●





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1. RI President Stephanie Urchick gets up close with Florida's wildlife while preparing for the International Assembly. 2. Urchick hitches a ride on a float at the 2025 Rose Parade in Pasadena, California. 3. While in London to attend events for Commonwealth Day, Urchick greets King Charles III. 4. In Alabama for a Rotary institute, Urchick prepares for liftoff at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. 5. During a tour of Africa, she celebrates with participants at a Rotary Youth Leadership Awards event in Uganda.



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The best is yet to come

I have had so many wonderful experiences over the past year, but as comforting as it might be to dwell on the past, we must look toward the future.

We are closer than ever to ending polio, but that does not mean we can relax. We still have a promise to keep to the children of the world and their families, and we will only fulfill that promise through fundraising, advocacy, and the power of our collective action.

I was amazed at the capability and commitment of the peacebuilders at the Presidential Peace Conference earlier this year. Our Peace Fellowship program and our many other peace initiatives bring healing to a divided world, but they need our support to remain effective and relevant.

Amid a worldwide loneliness epidemic, Rotary offers friendship, purpose, and belonging. If we hold true to our ideals — to The Four-Way Test and our spirit of inclusivity — we will remain a beacon of light even in the darkest times.

The Action Plan can serve as a guide to make our clubs and districts simply irresistible, but it is up to us to take that advice and put it to use.

Family of Rotary, there is nothing we cannot achieve when we come together and work toward a common goal.

You are *The Magic of Rotary*, and I can't wait to see the lasting change you bring to the world.

STEPHANIE A. URCHICK

President, Rotary International



PHOTOGRAPH: TOURISM CALGARY

WELCOME



YOU ARE HERE: Calgary, Alberta

RIVER RENDEZVOUS: Calgary sits at the junction of the Rocky Mountains and the Great Plains, a vast expanse of grasslands that spans Canada and the United States. The Elbow River flows eastward, merging with the Bow River in Calgary. While history and high-rises exist side by side, the city is also a confluence of cultures, with people here representing more than 240 ethnic origins and speaking 165 languages.

STAMPEDE CITY: Begun in 1912 as a cowboy sporting event to celebrate the city's rural and cattle-ranching heritage, the Calgary Stampede each July features a rodeo, a parade, chuck wagon races, stage shows, agricultural competitions, and First Nations exhibitions. The photo at left depicts the Elbow River Camp at Stampede Park against the backdrop of Calgary's downtown skyline.

YAHOO! Calgary hosts the 2025 Rotary International Convention 21-25 June at Stampede Park. "Calgary is thrilled to provide a 'white hat' welcome to Rotary members," says Mark Starratt, co-chair of the Host Organization Committee. Register now at convention.rotary.org.

Rotary

MAGAZINE

June 2025

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Inspiring Action, Feeding Communities

Empowering Clubs to Create a Ripple Effect of Hope



Born from the Rotary Club of Naples, FL, Meals of Hope has packed over 100 million meals across the U.S., addressing food insecurity while strengthening communities.

Clubs that host meal-packing events create lasting local impact:



Engage and retain members with a hands-on service project.



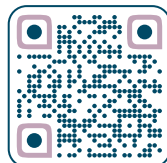
Build stronger bonds among members and the community.



Keep meals local, supporting families and seniors in need.



**Bring a meal-packing event
to your club or district.**



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A revived terracing technique is curbing severe soil erosion in Rwanda's farming villages
By Geetanjali Krishna

On the cover: A sunset silhouette in northwest India.
Photo by Maureen McGettigan, Rotary Club of Valley of the Moon (Santa Rosa), California



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ILLUSTRATION: DANIEL BARRETO; PHOTOGRAPH: (OPPOSITE) TINA HSU



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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.

STAFF CORNER

Jean Saunders

Brand experience marketing lead

I was born in Canada to American parents. My father, a scientist, went to work for the Canadian government to conduct research on salmon physiology. I grew up in the beautiful small town of St. Andrews in southern New Brunswick. My parents inspired curiosity and adventure in us. My father built us a sailboat. We sailed in the summer and skated on the frozen ponds in winter. I'm proud of both my Canadian and American heritages.

As a child, I liked to cook. My passion prompted me to study food science at the University of Guelph's agriculture school. For graduate studies, I chose business administration at the University of Toronto with a focus on marketing, which helped launch my corporate career. After graduation, I worked for two ad agencies and then Apple Canada.

When I turned 30, I took a year off from the corporate world to live in Thailand. I worked for the Population and Community Development Association, a Thai nongovernmental organization. I expected to be in the Bangkok office but was assigned to a remote region. I helped write grant proposals to secure funding from international donors. As the only foreigner in the local area, I learned to speak Thai quickly and traveled throughout the northeastern part of the country.

Back in Canada, I went to work at a telecom company. In the mid-1990s, the industry experienced tremendous growth due to the expansion of wireless technology, especially in the U.S. I came to the Chicago area for what was to be a three-year adventure, and three decades later, I'm still here.

When my son was little, I left my demanding corporate job. After attending a culinary school, I started a catering business. My favorite part was to put on my chef's uniform and do hands-on cooking demonstrations at local middle



Saunders at El Tour de Tucson

schools or summer camps, teaching children about different cultures and healthy food. I later joined a large food service company, working with Chicago Public Schools to implement the government's school breakfast and lunch programs.

I joined Rotary in 2015, and I've stayed because I love the people and its mission. I help develop resources and communications strategies for our members, inspiring them to tell stories about who we are, what we do, and why our work matters to the public. I also became a member of the Rotary Club of Evanston Lighthouse.

I'm passionate about adventure and travel. Besides taking many day hiking trips each year, I've done epic ones in Europe, including in the Dolomites and Monte Rosa in Italy, the Velebit Mountains in Croatia, and Patagonia in Chile and Argentina. An avid sailor since 7, I sail competitively on Lake Michigan.

In 2019, I bought a road bike and participated in El Tour de Tucson in Arizona with six other Rotary staff members. Thanks to friends in my Rotary club who trained and rode with me, I've done the Tucson race five times, completing the 62-mile metric century route to help support Rotary's polio eradication mission. ■

Letters to the editor

READERS ARE LEADERS

The March article “A helping hand in Afghanistan” [Dispatches from our sister magazines] described efforts to reintroduce schooling, especially for girls, after the Taliban takeover in 2021. The girls cyberschool concept fascinated me. I was amazed and delighted that Rotary clubs were able to establish online educational resources for girls above the sixth grade despite the Taliban’s past governmental decrees against schooling.

Perhaps more importantly, I wondered if American Rotary clubs could offer similar online resources for U.S. children, especially in major cities.

Are our big city Rotary clubs up to such a challenge? The cities’ future, and ours as an educated free people, depend on it.

Jim Lohr, Ames, Iowa

THERE’S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

I’m sure many readers were a bit insulted, as I was, by Ernie Bentley’s letter in the March issue [“Travel writing”]. He commented that “too many Americans live at the bottom of a well,” indicating that living a simple life was a lower form of living.

Many of us living the simple life are too busy contributing to our local communities to want to spend the time or money to travel for enlightenment or entertainment. We are the people working to ensure everyone in the community has food and a comfortable place to live. We are the ones who are ready to help our neighbors in any way needed. The simple folks are the backbone of our country, the folks who look next door — not to the next country — to help.

It’s wonderful that some can travel the world, but it’s equally wonderful that many stay home and spend their time and money in their own backyard.

Penny Robinson, Ness City, Kansas

SMALL WORLD

Thanks for sharing the article about Sarah Horvath O’Brien [Staff corner, March]. What a story she has, and what a model for doing what Rotary is all about.

I was also interested because her



hometown, Greenville, Ohio, is where my first job interview was, with Corning Glass Works. And her interest in trying new things took her to a study abroad program in Uganda, where my Corning, New York, Rotary club is participating in the largest global grant we have ever been involved in.

John Brown, Corning, New York

SEASONAL VARIATIONS

While Rotary’s flagship magazine is published from RI headquarters and so is always expected to be U.S.-centric, I urge the team to be more universal when it comes to vocabulary.

To be very specific, the article “Amplifying impact” [March] says, “In the spring of 2022, an article in this magazine ...” In the readership survey results on the next page, it is mentioned that the survey was “conducted in the summer of 2024.” With the readership for the flagship magazine coming from across the world, “spring” and “summer” may be different for some readers.

Atul Bhide, Thane, India

RELOCATE ROTARY

I wonder whether RI leadership has given any thought to moving RI headquarters to a more stable and friendly country.

Alex Handyside, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

OVERHEARD ON SOCIAL MEDIA

In February, Rotary’s social media channels covered the Presidential Peace Conference in Istanbul and asked, “What’s one action you can take to advance peace in your community?”

—
To be friendly and help my co-workers with language and tech problems. And I am interested to learn my colleagues’ languages and their culture.
Jaana Kaarina
► [via Facebook](#)

I ask Rotarians to use technology based on privacy and security for communications. Misinformation, violation of property rights, and breaches result in conflicts.
Harold F.
► [via LinkedIn](#)



THE SPECIALIST

From the stage to the world

A Korean pansori performer uses the music to bring people together

As a child, I was shy, drawn to the stage but hesitant to step into the spotlight. That changed one day in high school during a community volunteer event when an audience member urged me to sing a traditional tune. Encouraged by the applause, I felt something stir inside me.

That moment led me to pansori, Korea's centuries-old musical tradition where epic stories are told through a single singer's raw voice and emotions. It's the purest form of storytelling. With just my voice, I can express all of the human emotions — joy, sorrow, longing — without any filter.

Mastering pansori wasn't easy. To study with masters, I had to endure lengthy travels from Seoul to the heartland of pansori in the southwestern region. The pursuit of deug-eum (obtaining voice) is a lifelong

Eung-Min Kang
Rotary Club of
Anyang Star,
Korea
Pansori artist

journey. It's about training the vocal cords to convey the full depth of human emotions. Chasing that invisible ideal is lonely, but that's also what makes the pursuit so captivating.

Unlike modern concerts where audiences passively listen, pansori thrives on interaction. Audience members call out encouraging phrases, known as chuimsae, such as eolssu ("That's exciting!") or jota ("Great!"). These aren't just cheers. They mean, "I see you — don't hesitate, show your full talent." A pansori performance isn't a one-way show; it's a conversation. The audience and I create the moment together.

One of my most rewarding experiences in Rotary has been introducing Rotary Youth Exchange students to pansori. Many arrive in Korea knowing K-pop, but I love showing them the roots of Korean music. K-pop didn't appear out of nowhere — it stands on centuries of traditional music, rhythms, and storytelling.

I started the Rotary Club of Anyang Star, a group of young professionals and artists dedicated to hands-on service. We began small, performing for nursing homes, teaching music to young people, and organizing meal programs. My club is now preparing a global grant project in Thailand. I dream of cultural projects that blend music and service, using art to connect communities. I used to see the world as small. Now, thanks to Rotary, I see endless possibilities.

— AS TOLD TO SEOHA LEE

ROTARY CLUB CENTRAL

TRUE OR FALSE

ROTARY'S MOST SUCCESSFUL CLUBS SET GOALS — AND NOT JUST FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR.

TRUE.

When club leaders think about the future and plan beyond their year, they set their club up for long-term success.

CLUB GOALS ARE ONLY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CLUB LEADERS.

FALSE.

Every club member is responsible for their club's success. And as a Rotary member, you too can use Rotary Club Central to view your club's short- and long-term goals.

ROTARACTORS CAN'T USE ROTARY CLUB CENTRAL.

FALSE.

Rotaractors can access it and track goals, too! All you need is a My Rotary account to start planning your future.

MORE THAN HALF OF ROTARY CLUBS USE ROTARY CLUB CENTRAL TO TRACK THEIR GOALS.

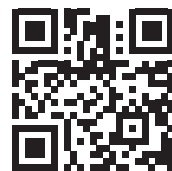
TRUE.

Club leaders use this free tool to set goals and record accomplishments, while tracking goals like membership growth, service activities, and Foundation giving.

NEED HELP?

Head to the Rotary Learning Center and take the Rotary Club Central Resources course!

Start setting and tracking your club's goals now:



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ROTARY FOUNDATION GRANTS

Expert advice

Got a grant idea that needs a pro's perspective? Rotary's Cadre of Technical Advisers can help.

The Rotary Club of Dajabón in the Dominican Republic wanted to build greenhouses in rural villages and teach farmers how to use them to enhance their income. The club partnered with the Rotary Club of Everett in the state of Washington to apply for a Rotary Foundation global grant that would support loans to farmers. Coupled with business training, the loans would help farmers launch their greenhouse enterprises. But the application process came to a halt when the clubs had trouble identifying a local financial institution that was qualified to handle the loans.

Enter Wally Gardiner, a Canadian member of The Rotary Foundation's Cadre of Technical Advisers. A specialist in microfinance and technology, Gardiner used his connections to find a microfinance bank in Dajabón that was happy to assist, and he helped negotiate a deal. With the bank on board and a memorandum of understanding signed, the project moved forward. Score that as another successful accomplishment for Rotary's Cadre of Technical Advisers.

With nearly 600 Rotary members in about 80 countries, the Cadre has been helping Rotary members tackle complex projects since 1995. Cadre members volunteer their professional skills and expertise in varied areas to help clubs plan and implement projects more effectively. Over the years, they have helped Rotary members pursue larger projects and secure millions of dollars in Foundation funding.

"Our primary work right now is working as a coach with clubs that have an idea they would like to do," says Cadre Chair Carolyn Johnson, a Maine Rotarian and past district governor (7780) who specializes in basic education and literacy projects. "We try to help them develop something that is deeper and more sustainable."

Since 2020, every Rotary Action Group has been required to appoint a Cadre member to serve as a technical officer to foster collaboration between the Cadre and the action groups, which also lend expertise to clubs. In addition, the Cadre chair appoints regional organizers, who work to strengthen relationships between the Cadre, regional leaders, and other Rotary members.

Josephine Wong is the Cadre's regional organizer for East and Southeast Asia. A neurologist who has worked on over 20 project evaluations, Wong advises members on best practices for grants. She says that language and cultural differences coupled with a lack of global connections are the biggest obstacles for grant applications in her region. Wong likes to help members build international relationships.

Like other Cadre members, Wong can also nudge projects along in unexpected ways. She recalls that, several years ago, a club wanted to use karaoke to curb tuberculosis among Indigenous people in Taiwan. The grant application was originally rejected because grant officers did not understand how karaoke and TB were connected. Wong discovered that the project

Visit rotary.org/cadre to learn how the Cadre can boost your club's grant projects.



A member of The Rotary Foundation's Cadre of Technical Advisers, Dr. Noel Alidio (second from right) interviews health workers in Indonesia while conducting a 2024 audit of a global grant project focused on preventing malaria.

planners intended to offer karaoke at a community center to get the Indigenous people to visit; once there, they could learn how to be tested for TB. After a more robust strategy tied to disease prevention and treatment outcomes was developed, the grant proceeded. "When some clubs face a difficulty, they just give up," says Wong. "Clubs need to know the Cadre is here to help them."

Simona Pinton, a Cadre member from Italy, stresses the importance of thoughtful intervention. "Mediation is a key attitude and skill that we should put at the disposal of Rotarians," Pinton says. "It's the means by which you create dialogue and the desire to build something together."

In one instance, Pinton advised members of the Rotary clubs of Roma Cassia, Italy, and Tunis Méditerranée, Tunisia, about a project to

"We try to help [clubs] develop something that is deeper and more sustainable," says Cadre Chair Carolyn Johnson.

increase young people's awareness of gender-based violence. The planning involved much discussion and brainstorming, which resulted in everyone, including Pinton, learning more about the issue. "Thanks to Simona's contribution we were able to focus on the area of intervention," says Francesco Martinelli, a project organizer from the Roma Cassia club. "Her support helped us to evaluate the cooperating associations, pay attention to the evaluation of the social context, and collect data for measuring the results."

In Alberta, Andrew Bronson's Rotary Club of Lethbridge East also benefited from Cadre help. Club members were working with an Alberta nonprofit to replace computers destroyed in 2017 by Hurricane Maria when it struck Dominica, the island country in the Caribbean. Bronson got in touch with Wally

Gardiner to see about securing a global grant in partnership with the Rotary Club of Portsmouth, Dominica. Among other things, Gardiner told the clubs they would need to conduct a community assessment, which surprised Bronson.

“I kind of thought, this is like surveying kids if you want to have Christmas or not,” Bronson confesses. “But you know what was interesting? As Wally helped us with our assessment, it became apparent that this was a very important step. Schools that responded with the most enthusiasm received computer and technology upgrades first, which improved the adoption throughout the country.”

The project went great at first. But when the COVID-19 pandemic hit and schools went virtual, unexpected problems arose. Laptops went home with students but many machines didn’t come back, and when the island economy floundered, the government failed to meet its commitments. Once again, Gardiner stepped in with helpful advice, and today the project continues, albeit in diminished fashion. Yet as Bronson acknowledges, even setbacks can provide valuable lessons.

“I think clubs should really understand what they are doing,” he says. “Right off the bat, go find a member of the Cadre. Even if you have a good idea, get another opinion.”

Elsewhere, Carolyn Johnson’s work with the Rotary clubs of Ellicott City, Maryland, and Machakos, Kenya, had a happy outcome after an adjustment. The two clubs wanted to use theater to teach children literacy skills. Initially they planned to have children in both countries collaborate on creating a musical, combining their contributions over the internet. The clubs had even lined up an award-winning hip-hop artist in Baltimore to help out.



“It was a really cool program, but it didn’t meet the guidelines of basic education and literacy [global grants],” Johnson recalls. “I was asking things like, ‘How are the kids going to be better readers or better writers? How are their math skills going to improve?’ I didn’t want to dampen the clubs’ enthusiasm, but I knew their project wasn’t going to fly the way they were talking about it.”

Johnson convinced the clubs to go back to their partner organization, Kenya Connect, and find a different way to reach the children in Kenya. The revised proposal provided funding so that Kenya Connect could send its mobile library to more schools that lack books. The project also funded training for the teachers and instructions for

parents on how to encourage their children to read.

Abandoning the theater idea “was a really hard shift,” says Temrah Okonski, who coordinated the project for the Ellicott City club. “But we were already working with Kenya Connect and knew their goals for the year. Carolyn came in at the onset and asked all the questions that Rotary International would have asked down the road.”

“It turned into a marvelous project that is working and ongoing in multiple communities,” adds Johnson. “It’s getting kids excited about books and about reading, and it’s getting more resources into teachers’ hands so that they are able to present a better quality education.” Chalk up another win for Team Cadre.

— ARNOLD GRAHL

As part of his 2024 tour of the global grant project dedicated to malaria prevention, Alidio, a member of the Rotary Club of San Pablo City in the Philippines, met with the head of the East Nusa Tenggara Provincial Health Office in Kupang, Indonesia.

Short takes

For International Women’s Day in March, Rotary hosted a webinar in which women shared how they contribute to peace in their communities. Watch at bit.ly/IWD25_RI.



The 2024 Interact Awards went to the Interact clubs of Khensani’s Collection, South Africa (video); Aurobindo School, India (photo); and Arapongas, Brazil (essay).



PROFILE

The beloved country

*A Rotarian answers fellow Ugandans' cry
for mental health guidance*

**Stuart Raymond
Kasule**
Rotary E-Club
of Brindabella,
Australia

When Ugandan village elders meet with Stuart Raymond Kasule about supporting people with mental health struggles, they volunteer ideas to show more empathy.

They want to know, for example, how to open a conversation with a person who is suffering. “That shows you that the people are crying out to say, we need help, we need support,” Kasule says. He travels from his adopted home of Australia to his Ugandan homeland about twice a year to share his training on mental well-being and suicide prevention, skills that are part of his job with a counseling firm in Canberra.

He started the campaign Hope for Life in 2023 to increase mental health awareness in Uganda, one of about two dozen countries where suicide is a crime. Kasule says cultural taboos prevent people from seeking mental health care.

Kasule, 30, who grew up in the capital of Kampala, says pressures weighed on his mental well-being when he moved to Australia nearly a decade ago to study. He felt lonely in a new country trying to complete coursework, cover tuition, and support family in Uganda, leading to thoughts of suicide. A teacher who worked with international students provided support, reminding him that he would want to see his brother in Uganda again. “It was a turning point in my life,” he says.

He urges Ugandan leaders to make systemic changes and is heartened that Parliament is backing the African Summit on Suicide Prevention. Kasule works with Rotary members in Uganda and Australia to try to expand training for police, health teams, and Rotary members. He asks himself, “What can I do here in Australia to support my people in Uganda?” — AMY FALLON

Rotary members can learn how to advocate for ending malaria at the Global Malaria Education Conference in Calgary 20 June. Register at gmec.org.



The deadline for club officers to nominate their club for a Club Excellence Award is 30 June. Learn more at rotary.org/awards.

Concept notes are due 1 August for the 2026 Programs of Scale grant competition. Learn more at rotary.org/programsofscale.

People of action around the globe

By Brad Webber



Canada

Drawn by national curling and youth baseball contests, crowds of athletes flock to the small town of Summerside on Prince Edward Island. Townspeople, however, aren't content merely to be spectators. Each winter, local curlers contend in a tournament that's been sponsored by the Rotary Club of Summerside for nearly 20 of the event's 36 years. In March, 36 teams vied in a friendly meetup that raised about CA\$40,000 for Strive, a program that provides scholarships and Rotarian mentoring to high school students. "In curling, [a tournament] is a bonspiel," explains Paul Power, a past president of the club. "We call ours a 'funspiel.'" Participants, including about a dozen club members, "love their curling," says Power. "It's not competitive whatsoever," unless you count the points awarded to the best-dressed Mardi Gras-themed team. "It's basically all hands on deck" — and on the granite stones players slide across the ice once the games begin.

Rotary
Club of Summerside,
Prince Edward Island

1540

First written reference to curling

30 minutes

U.S. government's suggested school lunch length to reduce wasted food

United States

Students learned to become environmental "solutionists" at a Maryland Rotary club's youth summit, organizing battery and plastic recycling drives and teaching peers about growing trees. Teens at the environmental summit, the second hosted by the Rotary Club of Southern Frederick County (Urbana), joined a coalition of Interactors and other young people who volunteer to rescue uneaten school cafeteria food and compost waste. The students advocate with school leaders and state lawmakers, backed by Rotary members who support the expansion of the Lunch Out of Landfills initiative. The summit's goal is to give students skills and confidence to push for change in their communities. "Young people bring an incredible energy and urgency to climate action," says Mary Jo Anderson, the club's president.

Rotary
Club of Southern Frederick
County (Urbana), Maryland



Italy

The Rotary Club of Palermo Libertà rolled out a project to raise awareness about Rotary's focus on peace and conflict resolution. In early December, the club's "Peace Bus" embarked on a roughly five-month journey through Sicily and southern Italy that began in the shadow of Palermo's legendary Teatro Massimo opera house. "The bus has generated significant interest in the locations it has visited, fostering dialogue in the communities and creating an opportunity to discuss crucial themes such as tolerance and solidarity," says Eugenio Labisi, a club member whose family offered use of the tour bus for the initiative (his brother, Enrico Labisi, is a member of the Rotary Club of Palermo-Monreale). "The initiative has stimulated reflection and the willingness to engage for peace."



9,974 square miles

Total area of Sicily



40

Minimum number of amphibian species native to Taiwan



Taiwan

The Rotary Club of Taipei combined its members' interest in the environment with team building during a daylong outing to the Alibang Eco Farm. "Participants attended informative lectures, explored the wetlands and surrounding forest, and engaged in activities such as harvesting and cooking herbs. We also had the opportunity to taste tea made from ingredients sourced from the wetlands," says club member Nancy Chen Baldwin. "This day in nature was not just an educational experience but a journey that activated all five senses." The October excursion was organized as a prelude to future volunteering at the biodiverse farm, which harbors the endangered Taipei frog.



Uganda

In January, the Rotary Club of Lubowa presented its Vocational Service Award to a local luminary renowned for bringing smiles to hospital patients and their families. Prossy Zalwango, known as Nnalongo (a term of endearment meaning the mother of twins, as two of her five children are), is called a "guardian angel" of the hospital, where she works as a janitor. "Beyond her official role, she had taken it upon herself to care for abandoned and neglected patients, using her own resources to provide them with food, diapers, and basic necessities," says Rhona Kamukama, the club's president. "This was true vocational service, practiced not in grand boardrooms but in hospital hallways, with humility and a heart of gold." In characteristic fashion, Zalwango used the club's gift of about \$400 to purchase groceries for people who needed them.



\$6,720

Average annual earnings of a janitor in Kampala

GOODWILL

Strategic engagement

How we increased Major Donors by 50%

By Maurizio Mantovani

In Italy, we had a noteworthy start to the Rotary year: All incoming district governors were recognized as Major Donors to The Rotary Foundation. This remarkable achievement was the culmination of an extraordinary two-year period, during which there was a 53 percent increase in the number of Major Donors in Italy and an impressive 87 percent growth in legacy gifts.

But this was not a random result. It was the outcome of relentless effort, a well-defined strategy, and collective commitment. Step by step, we built a path that led to a shift in the culture of giving and strong mobilization to support the Foundation. Along this journey, there were challenges and difficulties, but also many satisfying achievements and valuable lessons.

1 The strength of the team

A key contributor to our success was the team we built. At the start of my tenure, I quickly realized that fundraising in Italy could not rest solely on the shoulders of the endowment/major gifts adviser or the regional Rotary Foundation coordinators. Instead, we needed a broader network of people who would represent the Foundation's voice in clubs and among members who haven't attended international, national, or other planning meetings.

Building on what had already proved to be a winning idea from my predecessor, I created a large, well-structured team that could ensure continuity. Each district has its own representative dedicated to major gifts and the Endowment, and these representatives began working with me as a team. With regular learning sessions, clear and measurable objectives, and consistent monthly monitoring, this team became an integral part of our strategy and success.

2 The key role of district governor

District governors in Rotary are figures of great authority. Their influence and direct support are essential to motivate clubs and, above all, encourage members to actively engage with the Foundation. A district governor's example is a powerful source of inspiration. Through these leaders' actions and decisions about the team supporting them in the districts, they can significantly strengthen fundraising.

Crucial steps included meeting district governors during their governor-nominee and governor-elect years, attending seminars at Rotary institutes, and discussing the necessity of appointing district representatives for major gifts. District governor involvement increased significantly during this period.

3 Relationship cultivation: targeted events

Major Donors often lack sufficient opportunities to connect with the Foundation, learn more about its

work, and reinforce their commitment and the reasons that initially drove them to give.

We decided to organize an annual summit for Major Donors and Bequest Society members in Italy. This event provides donors with the opportunity to engage with peers, hear other supporters' stories, receive direct updates from the Foundation, and listen to contributions from the organization's senior leaders. It has become a cornerstone event, a must-attend for Italian Major Donors. Many attendees bring along friends and loyal supporters of the Foundation, who, in turn, are inspired to give, creating a cycle of generosity.

4 The importance of Rotary staff

Fundraising is a complex activity that requires specific and cross-functional skills. I am grateful for the support I received from the Italian major gifts officer and the staff in Zurich and Evanston in the U.S. My advice to others in this role is to build a strong, structured partnership with Rotary staff, so that plans and efforts in the field are translated into concrete results.

5 Sustained focus on goals

Setting clear and measurable goals is essential to keep the team focused, monitor progress, and adjust the course when necessary. When I started my assignment, I set myself a goal of recruiting 50 new Major Donors each year. I succeeded, and even surpassed this target.

This Rotary year, we raised the bar: We scheduled a Million Dollar Lunch in Florence in May. By March, we had already exceeded that figure. The team is motivated, and I am excited to celebrate our success! ■

Maurizio Mantovani is an endowment/major gifts adviser in Italy and membership chair for the Rotary E-Club of 2050. This story was adapted from a Rotary 360 blog post. To read and share stories about people of action, visit blog.rotary.org.



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ESSAY

The lady with the lamp

A daughter seeking direction always knew her mother would light the way

By Phuti Ragophala



In the early 1950s, after she had finished high school and trained as a midwifery nurse, my mother, Elizabeth Nchadi Ranoto, was assigned to the Helene Franz Hospital in the far northeast corner of South Africa. In that same decade, she married Ngwako Solomon Moloto, and they welcomed their first child in 1958. That was me, Phuti Gladys Thamaris Moloto.

My mother and I stayed in the nurses' cottage homes, while my father was a laborer at one of the nearby German shops. Germans had colonized the area where we lived, and many of the places had Germanic names.

Some of those names have changed over the years, including the name of the town where we lived, Bochum, which today is known as Senwabarwana. There's a town in Germany named Bochum, though some say the name of our town was a corruption of Bochim, a place in the Bible. Either way, the settlement was, in the early 1900s, the site of a hospital founded by the German missionaries Robert and Helene Franz. Robert may have been the missionary — the preacher — but it was Helene who ran the hospital.

The hospital, according to one history, had been established "to address the prevalence of endemic diseases among the Black population in the Northern Transvaal region." Among other things, it ministered intermittently to people suffering from leprosy, and the Bochum Leper Institution was established in 1914, with Robert as the superintendent — though the institution might never have existed had it not been for Helene.

As their grandson R.C. Franz told the story, the couple's original hospital lacked the room and the resources to properly treat the leprosy patients. It was only after Helene insisted that she and her husband travel to Pretoria, the country's administrative capital, where she waited stubbornly until the appropriate government official agreed to see her, that the couple got what they needed to establish the dedicated leprosy hospital.

Helene devoted 40 years of her life to providing medical care in South Africa. In 1935, the year she died — and three years after my mother was born — Helene received the King George V Silver Jubilee Medal for her

work among the Indigenous people of the northern Transvaal. Following her death, the Bochum hospital was renamed the Helene Franz Hospital.

What the people of the northern Transvaal needed now was someone to succeed Helene Franz, the woman known as the Angel of the North. I truly believe that successor was my mother, Elizabeth, the lady with the lamp.

As I said, my mother was a midwifery nurse. She was loved by her patients because she had a big heart and a down-to-earth way with people. She was a soft-spoken, God-fearing woman, filled with love and a great capacity for caring for others. Prayer was her tool to propel her forward regardless of the challenges, both at work and at home. Because of her lenient and empathetic heart, expectant mothers always requested my mother when they came to the hospital to deliver their babies. Hence, many of those newborn babies were named after my mother.

Like Helene Franz, my mother also ministered to the people with leprosy. The buildings where they stayed were about a third of a mile from the main hospital. There were many trees around the hospital and, as I remember, there were many snakes about during the night. When my mother made her rounds at night and headed off to visit her leprosy patients, she always carried a lantern to light the way. The sight of my mother heading off with her lamp was an inspiring sight, not just for me, her daughter, but for her colleagues and the patients who depended on her.

As Mother cared for and interacted

**"We must learn to
share with the needy
where possible,"
Mother told me and
my siblings, and that
seed, once planted,
grew in all of us.**

with the people with leprosy, she never covered her mouth or face or wore gloves as protection against the disease. She would just stroll with them, chatting and laughing. It was her way of giving them hope and a sense of belonging, of making them feel like they were one of us. Despite her lack of precautions, my mother was never afflicted by the disease.

I was 4 years old by then, and I was very afraid of the people with leprosy. I was frightened not so much by the disease itself but by the way the patients appeared. They were all very pale and had scalelike skin. Some had lost hands or noses or ears, and some had lost both their upper and lower lips, which left their teeth bared. But what surprised me was that they could still pick themselves up and make their way to lunch or dinner, though admittedly some of them did need an assist from my mother.

For me, going to church with my mother on Sundays was a nightmare. She would bathe and dress me, and I would then accompany her to gather the leprosy patients who needed assistance to get to the church hall. I never saw other children at church, but their parents — the other nurses and their spouses — attended, and everyone covered their mouths, noses, and hands. Everyone, that is, except me and my mother.

I also remember that, during the day, as my mother headed toward the remote buildings to give the people with leprosy their medications, I would run right behind her, staying beneath her opened umbrella. But as we approached the buildings, my natural shyness emerged, and as we drew even closer and I saw the patients staying there, my traumatic terrors kicked in. But Mother would always encourage me to see her patients as people like me, irrespective of their appearance. Even in church, she urged me to forget about their appearance and sit among them as fellow church members.

To my surprise, Mother's methods worked. As time went on, I came to realize that the leprosy patients *were* people just like us. They loved me so much, as I was the only child in that hall, and they would extend their deformed hands toward me, smiling and saying hello. As time passed, I ended up embracing their love and smiles. And just like my mother, I was never afflicted with leprosy. God is good.

Eventually my paternal grandfather, who was an induna — a Zulu word for a headman or councilor — bought a farm for my father in Bochum. My father built a house there, where I lived with my parents and siblings. Other people bought farms and built houses, and one day my father became an induna too.

At home in that new community, my mother continued to serve and share what she had with other people. Commonly known as Nurse Moloto, she would give people whatever they requested, even when that left us with little to eat. “We must learn to share with the needy where possible,” Mother told me and my siblings, and that seed, once planted, grew in all of us.

At first I had wanted to be a nurse like my mother, but ultimately, realizing the importance and power of education, I became a teacher and, later, a school principal. During my 34-year career, I encountered many needy people and children, and through the mercy of God I was able to change many learners’ and communities’ lives through education.

Even after I retired, I continued to reach out and help members of my community. I turned my home into a hub of education, where local children could access books, a laptop, and free Wi-Fi, and find a place to study, do homework, and work on school projects. I also started a backyard vegetable garden where people could help themselves to whatever they were willing to harvest. I encouraged them to replicate what I’d done in their own backyards so that they could enjoy fresh vegetables planted and nurtured by their own hands. In all this I was following the example given me by Mother with her lamp.

My emulation of my mother has reached far beyond my own neighborhood. In 2017 I had the privilege of volunteering at the Kakuma Refugee Camp in northwestern Kenya, which is home to thousands of war orphans and displaced children. Today I continue to volunteer there virtually, bringing hope and education to children through online teaching and learning initiatives at the school launched there by the global educator Koen Timmers and the United Nations refugee agency.

I joined Rotary in 2016. For me, given all that Rotary represents and has accomplished, it was a natural fit. Today



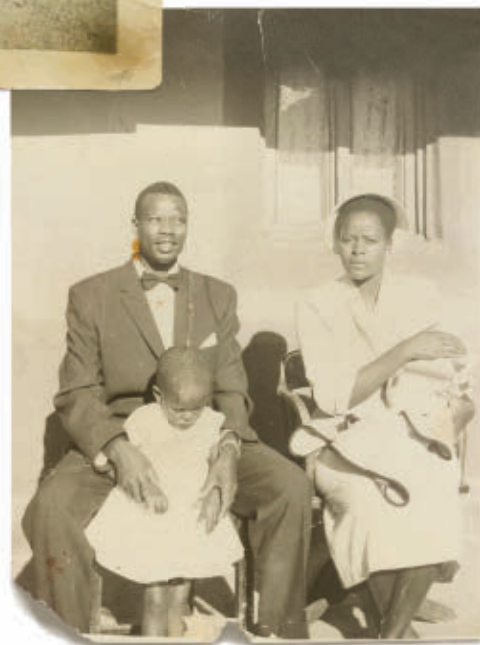
← When this photo was taken, in 1958, I was 2 months old, and my mother, Elizabeth, was a nurse at a hospital in South Africa.

↓ Here I am with both of my parents. I was 5, about the age when I began to learn some important lessons by watching and listening to my mother.

I am a charter member of the Rotary E-Club of Baobab, and I served as its 2023-24 president. We accomplished much during my year as president, including establishing a new Rotary Community Corps in South Africa’s Limpopo province and furthering the development of another. The benefits are huge in that the RCCs are best able to determine their community’s needs and, with the guidance of our Rotary club, find workable solutions.

The club’s other impactful projects have included collecting and distributing blankets and books, eyeglasses and solar panels. As a teacher, my favorite project is the Mandela Day coding competition that club members initiated at local schools. By incorporating coding into the academic curriculum, we fostered an environment where students can collaborate creatively, explore modern technology, and learn to understand complex concepts. The coding competition has become an annual project sponsored by our club, and we are making strides toward introducing it to our region’s rural schools.

I like to think all this would please my mother, as it would, I hope, please Helene Franz. There’s a third woman I admire whom I might add, Mother Teresa. She wrote: “The greatest disease in the West today is not TB or leprosy; it is being un-



wanted, unloved, and uncared for. We can cure physical diseases with medicine, but the only cure for loneliness, despair, and hopelessness is love.”

That’s the same lesson my mother taught me, and it was the greatest gift she could have given her daughter.

We buried my mother on the tenth day of July in 1999. Her colleagues gathered at the burial site, and at the conclusion of the ceremony, they recited a farewell elegy as tribute. And through it all, they held aloft a lamp.

Rest in peace, Mom. ■

Phuti Gladys Thamaris Ragophala is a charter member and past president of the Rotary E-Club of Baobab and lives in Seshego, South Africa.

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2025 Photo Awards

A MOMENT IN TIME

Sparks fly as Rotary members focus their cameras
and freeze-frame the wonders of the world



Winner

BLAZE OF GLORY In the little town of Rollag, a few miles southeast of Fargo, North Dakota, folks gather every Labor Day weekend for the Western Minnesota Steam Threshers Reunion. At the nocturnal “spark show,” sawdust and wood chips are fed into the firebox of an antique steam-powered tractor, and the fiery explosion that follows etches cascades of gold into the night sky.

Eric Strand Rotary Club of Fergus Falls Sunrise, Minnesota

It is one of photography's most memorable images.

In Paris, behind the Gare Saint-Lazare, a man leaps across a large puddle. He'll never make it all the way across, but in that split second before splashdown, he hangs in midair, his scissored legs reflected in the water beneath him. The man who captured the image called that split second the "decisive moment." Except that he didn't.

In 1952, the French photographer Henri Cartier-Bresson published a collection of his work under the title *Images à la Sauvette*: images on the run. His U.S. publisher didn't like that title; instead, it turned to the epigraph, from the 17th-century memoirist Cardinal de Retz, that preceded the book's introductory essay: *Il n'y a rien en ce monde qui n'ait un moment décisif*. There is nothing in this world that does not have a decisive moment.

Cartier-Bresson didn't care for the English title *The Decisive Moment*, especially after the phrase came to define him. Yet it did accurately reflect what he'd said elsewhere — "photography can fix eternity in a moment" — and it has become a touchstone for generations of photographers.

That might include the Rotarians featured this year in the magazine's annual Photo Awards. A waterspout swirls above a red-roofed Adriatic town; a shower of sparks explodes over a Midwestern festival; a white-tusked warthog makes its own leap across a water-filled trench in Botswana. Each of them *un moment décisif*.

Cartier-Bresson also asked, "What is more fleeting than the expression on a human face?" For the answer, see this year's winning People of Action photo: two Rotarians fixed in sublime rapport — life preserved in the act of living, as the French photographer so decisively described such moments.



Winner

People of
Action



HANDS ACROSS THE WATER Twenty-five years ago, the Rotary Club of Dublin-Worthington, Ohio, established a partnership with the Rotary Club of Santiago de los Caballeros in the Dominican Republic. Together the clubs worked to help families and students from impoverished neighborhoods in Santiago. Last October, a delegation from the Ohio club traveled to Santiago. There, Dave Hansen (left) visited with 102-year-old Moris Tallaj, a past governor of District 4060 and longtime member of the Santiago club. The two men, who had helped initiate the partnership, held hands for most of the emotional 30-minute reunion.

John Butterfield Rotary Club of Dublin-Worthington, Ohio

THE LUMINARIES Against the backdrop of the Milky Way, Maine's West Quoddy Head Lighthouse lights up the night from its perch on the easternmost point of the U.S. mainland. The station was established in 1808, and the current lighthouse dates to 1858, as does the lightkeeper's residence, which offers a welcoming, multicolor illumination all its own.

David Morze Spouse of Linda Rose, Rotary Club of Ellsworth, Maine





A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM

In Nepal's Gandaki province, a young student takes her turn affixing a screw into one of the panels adorning the peace pole donated to the Shree Barahi Primary School by the Rotary Club of Hall, Australia. Working with the Reach for Nepal Foundation, the Hall club helped rebuild several schools in central Nepal, constructing earthquake-resistant classrooms and installing water and sanitation upgrades.

Chris Edwards

Rotary Club of Hall,
Australia

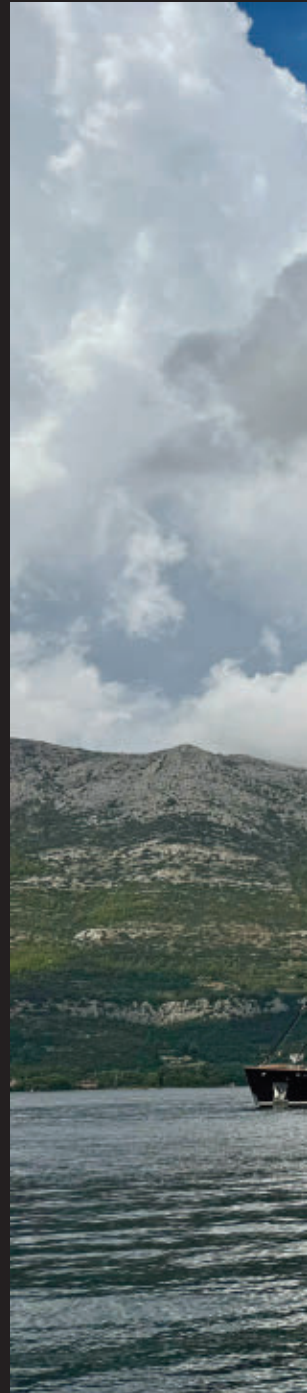


**POLYCHROMATIC
PULCHRITUDE**

Outside Jaipur, India, four colorfully garbed women enjoy the view from Amer Palace, a 400-year-old fortress with temples, a grand hypostyle hall, and the raja's luxurious residence. Along with other fortresses in India's Rajasthan state, Amer Palace was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2013.

Maureen McGettigan

Rotary Club of Valley of the
Moon (Santa Rosa), California





TWIST AND SPOUT As blue skies battle with black clouds, a waterspout rises up in the channel of water that separates the island of Korčula and Croatia's Pelješac Peninsula. As water temperatures increase, the Adriatic Sea is rising and experiencing more frequent extreme weather events, including droughts and heavy rainfalls.

Elizabeth Cruft-Anderson Rotary Club of Lake Oswego, Oregon



PIGASUS In Botswana's Okavango Delta, a warthog leaps over a water-filled trench. The delta's marshlands and flooded plains provide a haven for some of the world's most threatened species, including cheetahs, black rhinoceroses, lions, and African wild dogs. Though not currently endangered, warthog populations are diminishing due to habitat loss, droughts, and poaching.

David Burke Rotary Club of Keller, Texas





UPON THE WINGS OF SILENCE With its dramatic cliffs, lush pine forest, and Pacific Ocean vistas, Gleneden Beach has some of the most stunning scenery on Oregon's central coast. But when Mom's waving a wand doused in magical suds, there's no more enchanting sight than gossamer bubbles floating blithely above the sodden sand beach.

Rick Rogoway Rotary Club of Clackamas, Oregon

DIVINE GUIDONS

Prayer flags hang from the trees at the Sacred Garden in Lumbini, Nepal, the traditional birthplace of Buddha and a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1997.

Michael Morrissey

Rotary Club of Novato,
California





AURORA KHMEREALIS

People gather at sunrise to welcome the new day at Angkor Wat in Cambodia. Originally built to honor the Hindu deity Vishnu, the 900-year-old temple, revered today as a Buddhist shrine, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the largest religious complex in the world.

Danilo Salcedo

Rotary Club of Richmond
Sunrise, British Columbia



SHIP SHAPE On 24 July 2024, Typhoon Gaemi hit Taiwan with winds exceeding 125 miles per hour. The storm drove this Cameroonian freighter aground on Dapeng Bay, on Taiwan's south-western coast, where it sat for almost two months before resuming its journey. During that time it became a local tourist attraction, though on this murky evening, its sole visitor is a solitary child.

Keyman Hsieh Rotary Club of Tainan Cherrng-Ta, Taiwan



A SHAMAN'S BENEDICTION In Palmarejo, a batey, or settlement, in the Dominican Republic, a village elder blessed an extensive Builders Beyond Borders school project and spoke to the U.S. high school students volunteering there. Most residents of the settlement are Haitian immigrants or their descendants and often work as sugarcane cutters.

Anthony Riggio Rotary Club of Westport, Connecticut





LAST WORD “I live in Ventura, California, near the Vandenberg Space Force Base, and I follow the space program throughout the year. I was preparing to photograph a launch from my house when I saw a praying mantis on my telephoto lens. Evidently he was a space enthusiast too. He sat there for a few minutes watching the evening and allowing me to take his picture. Stay calm and enjoy your life with whatever creatures choose to be with you.”

John Brant
Rotary Club of Ventura,
California



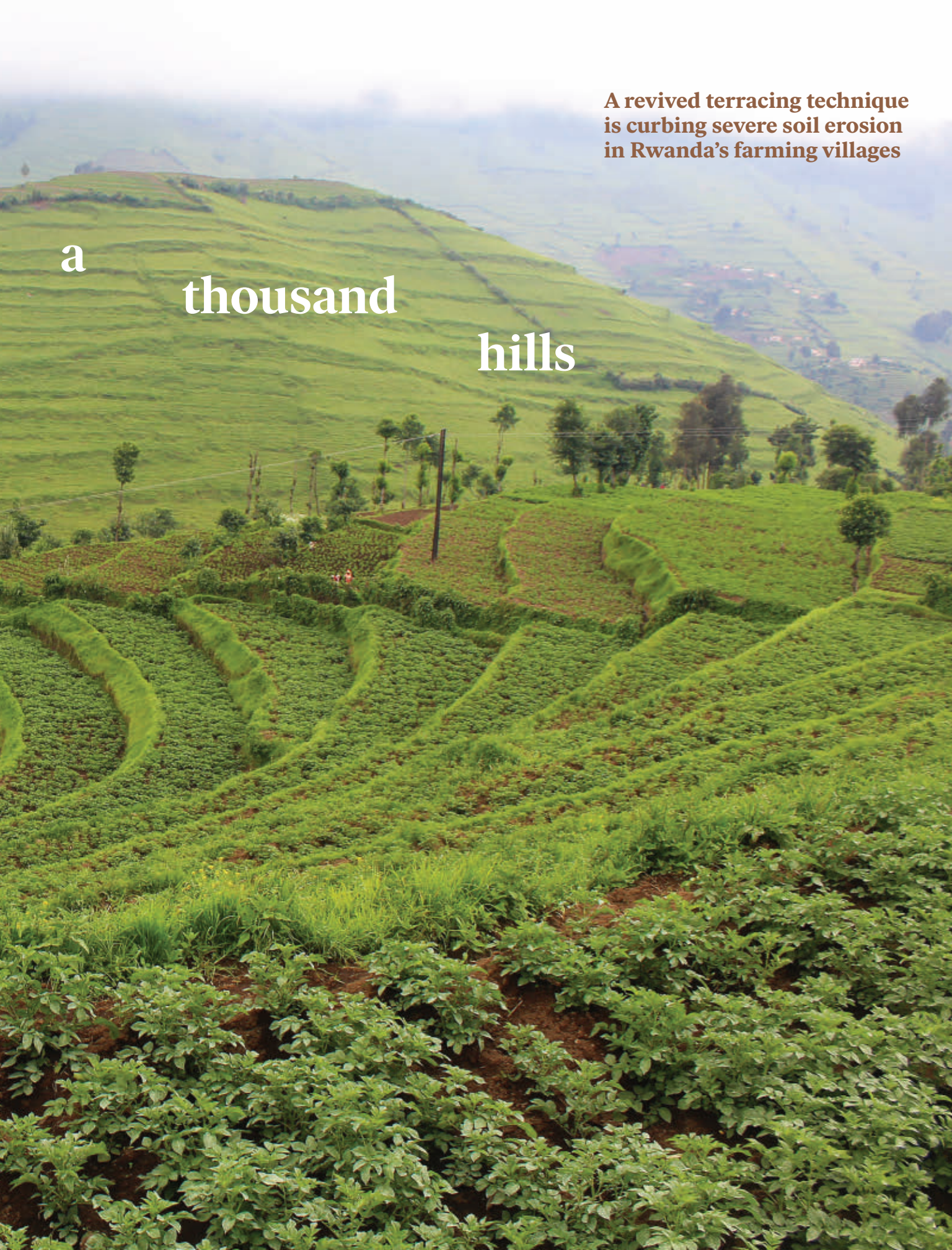
By
Geetanjali
Krishna

The land of



**A revived terracing technique
is curbing severe soil erosion
in Rwanda's farming villages**

a thousand hills



O

n a sunny afternoon, potato farmers return from the fields in the shadow of Karisimbi, the tallest volcano in Musanze, a district in northern Rwanda. Row upon

row of terraces stretch across the mountainside, and on the beaten-earth path leading to the village of Nyamirongo, vans wait to collect the day's harvest of beans, maize, sorghum, cassava, and the potatoes for which this region is known.

"This was a different place in my father's time," says Zabayo Hategekimana, a village farmer. "The slopes were too steep to cultivate and irrigate, and every year the rains would wash away the good soil, leaving behind stony, arid dust."

Hategekimana, who grew up watching his father grow barely enough for their family of seven to subsist on, assumed that this was all their tiny patch of hilly land could give. Then, in the early 2000s, a terracing technique introduced 50 years ago by a Belgian missionary and then adopted by the Rwandan government, transformed his farm — and changed his view.

"With the government's help, we learned to build radical terraces that sloped back into the hill," Hategekimana says. "This way, when it rained, rainwater first collected on each terrace and did not flow down with enough intensity to take away the good soil." Unlike regular bench terraces that are virtually level, the radical terraces, as they're called in Rwanda, slant backward toward the hill to optimally conserve soil and water for

cropland in Hategekimana's village. This is important: Rwanda, the country with the highest population density in Africa (about 525 inhabitants per square kilometer), has a primarily agrarian economy, with 70 percent of its population engaged in farming. Improving agricultural productivity is critical for food and livelihood security, but the country, with its fragile soil, steep slopes, and intense rainfall patterns, has long struggled with soil erosion and the resulting poor soil quality. Every year, an estimated 745,000 hectares (over 1.8 million acres) of agricultural land are eroded, and about 6 million metric tons of crop produce are lost to soil erosion.

"All the good soil used to flow downhill with the rainwater," Hategekimana says. "When the government helped us

that are virtually level,
radical terraces slant

Unlike regular bench terraces



dig these terraces in 2003, this problem reduced, and our village is now one of the biggest cultivators in the area.”

Radical terraces like those in Hategekimana’s village were first introduced by Belgian missionary Cyriel Wieme in the ’70s to combat the erosion and create more cultivable land. Wieme founded an agricultural school in Rwanda, where he developed reverse slope terraces on hillsides that put the brakes on rainwater flowing downhill, thereby protecting the topsoil and reducing the incidence of floods. The Rwandan government immediately recognized and began encouraging this technique, but it was not until 2023 that Rwanda’s National Strategy for Transformation included a plan to boost agricultural production by adding 142,000 hectares of radical terraces by the end of 2024.

First introduced in Rwanda by a Belgian missionary in the 1970s, reverse slope terraces put the brakes on rainwater flowing downhill, thereby protecting the topsoil and reducing the incidence of floods.

WALK ALONG THE SLOPED FIELDS OF Nyamirongo and its environs, and it becomes obvious why Rwanda is called the Land of a Thousand Hills. The village’s terrain has compelled farmers to develop two types of terraces over the years: radical and progressive. While radical terraces with their reverse slopes suit steep inclines, progressive terraces are for gentler gradients. Girded by ditches and vegetation, progressive terraces are flat and follow the natural contours of the hill. These could take up to five years to establish naturally. In contrast, radical terraces can be, and have been, built in a matter of days. Both types of terraces are stabilized by planting grasses, crops, and even trees on the space between two terraces, called a riser. The plantings help reduce potential water accumulation in the terrace bed.

**toward the hill
backward**

**to optimally conserve
both soil and water.**



“All you have to do

is look at the color

Where terraces with reverse slopes have been constructed, the effects have been dramatic. A 2012 study in northern Rwanda found that the speed of water flowing downhill decreased from one hour before the terraces were constructed in 2007 to about seven hours after they were made in 2008. The effect on soil quality is palpable on Nyamirongo's terraces. “We're able to grow a variety of crops throughout the year,” says Imanazabayo Innocent, another farmer in the village, as he picks up some earth in his hands. “See how good the soil is!”

A recent project to control floods and soil erosion in the catchment area of the Sebeya River in Rwanda's Western province has provided further evidence of how successful this strategy can be. The Sebeya River is upstream of the Congo River Basin, which ultimately flows into the Atlantic Ocean. It provides clean water, hydropower, fishing, and irrigation for an area of about 286 square kilometers in the province. However, deforestation, illegal mining, and other activities have denuded the region's steep slopes. Consequently, intense rainfall causes water to flow down at speed, leading to soil erosion, flooding, and landslides.

In 2019, the Rwanda Water Board, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, nongovernmental organizations, and the Dutch Embassy, a donor partner, launched a water resources management project in four districts in the Sebeya catchment area. The project strategically built a dike, retention dam, and flood retention walls along the river, and hired residents to build terraces. By the time the effort ended in 2023, over 1,500 hectares of radical terraces and 836 hectares of progressive terraces had been built, providing the community with vital jobs during the pandemic. This reduced the flooding and resulting soil erosion from the first year, and today, the impact is undeniable. “All you have to do is look at the color of Sebeya's water to know that it is no longer carrying so much eroded soil,” Rwanda Water Board spokesperson Musana Bernard says. “Soil erosion has been reduced by almost 90 percent in the



Zabayo Hategekimana is among farmers who harvest potatoes on radical terraces in Rwanda. “All the good soil used to flow downhill with the rainwater,” he says. “When the government helped us dig these terraces in 2003, this problem reduced, and our village is now one of the biggest cultivators in the area.”

that it is no longer

carrying so much eroded soil.”

Sebeya catchment, and this has improved agricultural outputs and the quality of life of the people living here.”

Jacqueline Mukagatare, a resident of Rubavu, a district in the Sebeya catchment area, is one of the many people who lost their homes and standing crops to the flooded Sebeya. Things have improved, she reports: “We are currently tilling our land and have no worries that our crops can be eroded.” The Rwanda Water Board estimates that one terraced hectare (about 2.5 acres) produces at least 20 to 30 metric tons of Irish potatoes, up from 8 to 10 metric tons before the project. A study shows that radical terraces in the Sebeya area improved soil quality, controlled floods, and bolstered agricultural production by the project’s end.

Bernard says, however, that the project has so far covered only 30 percent of the catchment area. For the soil and river water quality to improve and, more importantly, stay that way, the three-year intervention is simply not enough, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

TERRACING MAY SOLVE PROBLEMS, but it can also cause new ones — especially when it’s not done scientifically. Judith Uwihirwe, a senior lecturer and acting director of research and innovation at the University of Rwanda’s College of Agriculture, studies the processes beneath the earth’s surface that trigger landslides in the country. Some landslides, she says, can be triggered by poorly designed terraces. “Terraces change the fundamental character of the mountain terrain,” she says. Rainwater, instead of flowing down, is retained by terraces and pools underground. “This causes water to move horizontally underground and can set off landslides,” she explains.

Close to several volcanoes, the Sebeya catchment is in an especially fragile seismic zone. “As a scientist, I recommend that before a new site is terraced, its geomorphology — soil composition, depth of groundwater, existing aquifers,



etc. — should be analyzed,” she says. “While there is evidence that scientifically done terracing can reduce landslides, unplanned, haphazard terracing may have the opposite effect.”

Bernard, of the Rwanda Water Board, says that radical terraces in Sebeya have reduced soil erosion and improved crop yields without increasing landslide risk. The implementation team took care, he says, to stabilize the risers with grasses and has dug ditches and trenches to prevent waterlogging. To ensure soil fertility, the team isolated the topsoil before leveling the terrace and returned it to the surface only after the reverse slope had been created.

The costs of building terraces could explain why villages and hillsides abutting Nyamirongo village, and almost 70 percent of the Sebeya catchment, remain unterraced. An early estimate suggests that a single terrace could cost about US\$1,660 per hectare to build. Of this, roughly a third is the labor cost, and another third is the cost of fertilizer. Hategekimana says more residents around his village would welcome radical terracing on their hill-

sides, but “they are waiting for donors, as making terraces is too expensive.”

Moreover, terraces need maintenance, which is expensive too. “We have to constantly engage with the community to maintain terraces,” Bernard says. In 2023, a parliamentary committee found that not all the terraces built so far in Rwanda are being used — because the soil is acidic or because the residents who worked on them have not been paid for their labor. Without community buy-in, the long-term success and sustainability of radical terraces in Rwanda remains a question mark.

Meanwhile, in Nyamirongo, Hategekimana and Innocent are done with their farm work for the day, their potato harvest safely stored in the cool mud near the field. “Individually, we can’t afford to build more terraces, but what if we got together in a cooperative?” Hategekimana muses. “Maybe then we could do it ...” ■

This story was originally published by Reasons to be Cheerful, a nonprofit solutions journalism outlet.

OUR CLUBS

VIRTUAL VISIT

On the march

Rotary Club of
Ballina-on-Richmond, Australia

When David Harmon resolved to mobilize his community against domestic violence, he quickly ran into a first hurdle: persuading the mayor at the time to close the streets for a march. The small town of Ballina is a popular family vacation spot on Australia's eastern coast, and the mayor worried the attention might be bad for business. "He said, 'Dave, we will never, ever close a road in Ballina for a domestic violence walk. We're a tourist town; we don't want people to think that we've got all that happening in Ballina,'" Harmon recalls.

Then president of the Rotary Club of Ballina-on-Richmond and a retired teacher, Harmon got so many high school students to sign up — hundreds of them — that the mayor had no choice but to close the roads to ensure their safety. Altogether, 800 people turned out for the march in 2019, which marked the beginning of a campaign that would grow to include clubs in all 19 Rotary districts in Australia, New Zealand, and the southwest Pacific.

The experience was emblematic of both the resistance that Harmon would have to overcome and of the support he would harness to transform his community, shift culture, and revitalize his Rotary club.

One in 4 Australian women have experienced violence from an intimate partner. The prevalence is slightly lower than in Canada, Britain, or the United States, but frustrations have mounted about the pace of progress and an increase in the rate of deaths. According to one count by a journalist's online project to memorialize women and children, at least 103 Australian women died as a result of violence last year, with more than half in instances of intimate-partner and family violence.

Large rallies around the country and other pressure from campaigners prompted the prime minister, Anthony Albanese, to acknowledge last year that domestic violence in Australia had become "a national crisis."

It was a death in Melbourne in 2018 that moved Harmon to act. A friend's sister was fatally stabbed in front of her three children and her house set on fire by her partner. As educators, Harmon and his wife, Robyn, were aware of family violence affecting school-age children, but that shocking death was a wake-up call. "I'm sitting there listening to the eulogy and I'm thinking what the bloody hell, this is crazy stuff," he says.

As an incoming club president, Harmon wondered what he could do to make his community in Ballina a safer place for women and children. Robyn Harmon is also a club member, and the couple spent months knocking on doors throughout the

region to ask agencies with involvement on the issue — from law enforcement and health to education and advocacy — what Rotary could contribute.

The 2019 march through Ballina was just the beginning. David Harmon worked with club members, including his wife and the club's public image chair, Jodie Shelley, to form relationships with the New South Wales Police, schools, local governments, businesses, and service providers to promote awareness and prevention. The death of a Ballina woman in 2023 further galvanized the club's emerging No to Domestic and Family Violence campaign.

Staff at a sports club and restaurant began wearing the campaign's distinctive purple T-shirts on Fridays. Community members at other businesses, schools, and beyond soon followed. And every week since then, Ballina, a quaint town with sandy white beaches, has become a sea of purple in a visual stand known as Purple Fridays. Harmon calls the shirts "wearable advocacy" and says they've helped start important conversations.

Amid that visibility, the number of people coming forward to report cases has increased, says Richmond Police District Superintendent Scott Tanner. Some of those women were referred to him by Harmon after they approached the Rotarian at public events. "That tells us that women are feeling believed. They're feeling heard, they're feeling validated, and they have the confidence to report," Harmon says.

Tanner has 32 years' experience with the police and says Rotary has forced a change. "When I first joined the force, our community's response to domestic



For the Rotary Club of Ballina-on-Richmond, Australia, connecting with an important cause boosted its public image and revitalized its membership. From left: members Rob Chilman, Robyn Harmon, David Harmon, Colin Lee, and Jodie Shelley.

violence was very poor,” he says. Now thanks to Rotary, says Tanner, “you can’t go down to Ballina on a Friday and not see a purple shirt.”

Harmon and club members wanted to go further and bring a change in culture that might prevent violence in the first place. They’ve joined up with the National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect to support the organization’s school programming to educate teens about respectful relationships. The association’s strategic partnerships manager, Madelene McGrath, says she’s never seen a movement so successful at a grassroots

level as this one. “Is it the size of the community?” she muses. “Is it the willingness of the community? Is it the amazing advocacy? It must be all of it.”

As 2023-24 governor of District 9640, Harmon helped spread the campaign around Australia and Rotary Zone 8, with his club serving as a resource hub on how to support women’s shelters, engage project partners, and more.

And he realized that connecting with a cause important to the community was an avenue to transform his club. Since 2019, membership has grown from about 30 to almost 90. Phillip Maguire, 65, is among

the newcomers. He joined in 2023 after seeing the purple shirts. “The campaign made me ask questions to those wearing them and led me to Rotary to find out more,” he says. “Once introduced, I quickly realized it was a club that has a heart and was focused on real projects and issues.” Today, Maguire is the club’s president-nominee.

Harmon is still in touch with the former mayor who once resisted closing the roads. “We gave him a purple wristband in 2019,” Harmon says. “He’s never taken it off. He became our biggest advocate.”

— AMY FALLON

CONNECT WITH A CAUSE

The Rotary Club of Ballina-on-Richmond embraced a cause important to its community and saw its membership grow. For the club’s toolkit on transformation through action, visit rotaryclubofballinaonrichmond.org.au/rotary-zone-8. To engage in the No to Domestic and Family Violence campaign, consider this advice:

- Hold a community walk, public rally, or other event during the global 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence from 25 November to 10 December.
- Work with local governments, schools, and service providers with expertise in domestic violence. Through partnerships, you can grow your impact, engagement, and public image.
- Support the work of organizations educating youth about respectful relationships.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Down payment

A retired business executive profits most from empowering others



More than a decade ago, as Zimbabwe was struggling to recover from an economic meltdown, Stella Dongo faced perhaps her biggest challenge in a life full of them. The furniture company where she was CEO was forced to drastically downsize, and it fell to her to help decide whom to let go from a dedicated workforce that included dear friends. Having grown up poor herself, she knew exactly what was at stake. “You would know for sure that this person that you were letting go was going to be in the streets and starving, basically,” she says. “That I found very, very difficult to comprehend and to live with myself.”

Like other business leaders at that time of turmoil, she was out of options. In the 2000s, hyperinflation had bankrupted the government, left the currency nearly worthless, and plunged 8 in 10 people into destitution. The crisis essentially wiped out the entire formal economy, destroying farms, factories, and companies.

Even as the economy began to stabilize slightly at the end of the decade, Dongo knew there was nothing left for the masses of unemployed people to return to. “I was very aware of how important it was for people to find ways of making a living and to fend for themselves outside of formal employment,” she says.

So in 2009, Dongo and other members of the Rotary Club of Highlands launched the Community Empowerment Project with a \$330,000 grant from The Rotary Foundation. Focusing on youth and women, the program taught computer and business skills in communities near the capital, Harare. Survivors of Zimbabwe’s economic crisis, it turned out, were still hard at work, eking out a subsistence living in the informal economy through everything from cross-border trading and garment making to animal husbandry and handicrafts.

The idea was to teach people how to develop these “backyard businesses into something more substantial,” says Dongo. “Most of them tended not to understand if their business was growing, mak-

2015-2025

DECADE
of
DOERS

Celebrating 10 years of People of Action Honors

ing money, or if they were actually losing money. We taught them the basics of identifying costs, the concept of profit, issues like pricing and marketing.”

Starting in 2014, the club and its international project partners in the Rotary Club of Denver Mile High, Colorado, received global grants to provide advanced training and to expand their efforts to more communities. By 2015, the initiative had trained more than 6,000 women and young people.

That same year, Rotary introduced its People of Action Honors program. The inaugural honorees were celebrated as Global Women of Action, and Dongo was recognized alongside five other Rotarians from Australia, Bangladesh, Germany, and the United States. They were featured at Rotary Day at the United Nations, where they addressed attendees at the organization’s headquarters in New York City. For the business executive, the experience opened new doors while crowning her remarkable rise from a childhood in the Black township of Mufakose in a then-segregated, British-ruled Rhodesia.

“I don’t even know where to begin,” Dongo says. “It was a very difficult childhood.” Dongo’s mom died when she was 8, leaving her father striving as a single parent to raise and provide for his six children. But it was a close-knit family, one characterized by a hunger for knowledge and a better life. “Much as we were struggling,” Dongo recalls, “much as we had very little, much as there was not much hope, we had this strong

desire for knowledge and for education. That desire never died in me.”

Amid hardships, Dongo’s formal education was full of stops and starts. But she always had a book in her hands, anything left by siblings, friends, or visitors. And even if she couldn’t be in class, she’d present herself for exams — and pass them.

Seeing few opportunities after high school, Dongo married early, started a family, and worked as a home caregiver for older adults. Later, she earned a bachelor’s in commerce from the University of South Africa through correspondence classes and worked as a retail salesperson. Then came Zimbabwe’s independence in 1980. “That was a huge thing,” she says. “A lot of opportunities started to open up for Black people.”

Others recognized her leadership skill, and throughout the 1980s and ’90s Dongo climbed the management ranks at a retail clothing company during a golden period of strong economic growth. In the mid-’90s, a colleague invited her to join Rotary, where, she says, she initially felt “a bit lost” among members who all seemed to be leading big projects. But she soon found her footing, taking leadership roles and, in 2005, becoming president of the Highlands club.

By then the economy was unraveling, and workers were fleeing the country. With the Community Empowerment Project, Dongo hoped to stem this crippling flight of workers; most of all, she wanted to help people like the employees she once had to let go. Years later, she was relieved to reconnect with

and help some of those former employees who, she says, “somehow found a way out and managed to survive the worst of that period.”

Through its final session, in 2023, the Community Empowerment Project trained about 10,000 people, Dongo estimates. It also shifted mindsets, she says, giving trainees the confidence to know they could help themselves. Dongo, meanwhile, became the first woman to serve as governor of her Rotary district. She led the board of World Vision Zimbabwe, the child- and family-focused nongovernmental organization, and she served as District 9210’s Rotary Foundation chair, providing leadership on scores of global grant-supported projects.

Today, her Rotary club and about two dozen others in Zimbabwe continue to be a lifeline, providing essential services that the government is unable to maintain in areas such as clean water, sanitation, disease prevention, and basic education. In one project that’s particularly close to her heart, Dongo’s club is building a school in a remote area, where she takes delight in meeting the young children, some barefoot but all full of life and energy and eager to sing with their Rotary visitors.

And in their bright, joyful faces, Dongo says, she sees herself as a little girl, and it fills her with hope.

— JASON KEYSER

This story is part of an occasional series celebrating Rotary’s People of Action honorees. Learn more at rotary.org/rotary-people-of-action.



Stella Dongo

- **Business executive**, clothing and furniture industries, 1985-2015
- **Governor, District 9210**, 2013-14
- **People of Action: Global Women of Action**, 2015-16

From left: Stella Dongo speaks at the United Nations in 2015 and is honored by RI President K.R. Ravindran as a Global Woman of Action.

DISPATCHES FROM
OUR SISTER MAGAZINES
**PHILIPPINE ROTARY
MAGAZINE**

Projects designed to preserve planet Earth



Philippine Rotary magazine and its publishing company support Rotary's area of focus on protecting the environment by sponsoring an annual award for the country's most outstanding environmental club projects. This program encourages clubs in the Philippines to undertake initiatives to strengthen the conservation and protection of natural resources, advance environmental sustainability, and foster harmony between people and the environment.

Each of the country's 10 districts submits its top project; those go on to compete for cash prizes and

recognition in *Philippine Rotary magazine*. Here are a few projects recognized in 2024:

A CLEANER, SAFER RIVER

In District 3810, the Rotary Club of Manila's project aims to rehabilitate and restore the Pasig River, making it a safe and clean waterway once again. The project addresses the river's pollution problem by installing heavy-duty floating trash barriers at the entrances of estuaries along the river to prevent trash from flowing downstream, curbing pollution and improving the river's overall condition.

With the trash barriers, the project has introduced an out-of-the-box solution that embodies sustainability because the barriers ensure ongoing pollution control.

The process, from inspections and community assessment to trash barrier installations, provides a blueprint for effective and efficient river rehabilitation and can be replicated in other communities. The outcome of this project is not only the tangible change in the Pasig River's condition but also the motivation it instills in others to work toward similar goals.

The project's planned second phase is set to include the operation of a trash skimmer and collector boat, a crucial step toward reviving the Pasig River's pristine state. Members are pursuing funding for an aquatic trash skimmer that will make this initiative a long-lasting solution for river rehabilitation.

This project is implemented in collaboration with government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and the local community. The community's ownership of this project through training and education programs ensures its continuity and success.

NURTURING TREES AFTER FLOODS

The horrors of the 2004 typhoons have stayed on the minds of residents of REINA — Real, Nakar, and Infanta — in Quezon province. Since 2004, countless typhoons passing through the Pacific Ocean have devastated the three towns due to flooding from the Agos River and landslides along the Sierra Madre ranges.

In 2021, Typhoon Ulysses flooded the three towns and caused several landslides. Hence, the Rotary Club of Infanta in District 3820 partnered with the ecosystems research bureau of the Department of Envi-

↑ After seven weeks, the ARK Feed Back program helped restore crop biodiversity to a village, providing an abundance and variety of food.

ronment and Natural Resources to develop a model site for a tree nurturing project covering 32 hectares. An agreement was also signed with Northern Quezon College volunteers who “adopted” the trees they planted to ensure that they will grow, or who donated an amount for caretakers to look after the trees.

Southern Luzon State University signed an agreement with the Rotary Club of Infanta to conduct research and development on the site’s soil, climate, and crops that can be used in forest restoration, as well as in upland agriculture for sustainable development. The project has facilitated the planting and nurturing of around 3,000 indigenous trees like lawaan, narra, liputi, kamagong, and kamansi, with a survivability rate of 80 to 90 percent.

Guided by the environment department, the project employs site-species matching, a science-based strategy for planting correct tree species based on elevation, soil, climate, temperature, and other parameters. Site clearing has prepared the area for assisted natural regeneration, a cost-effective method to achieve regrowth of the lush forest.

Billboards and signs have been installed to promote awareness among

Families adopt sustainable practices that reduce waste. Plastic containers and old items are repurposed to create container gardens.

To learn more about protecting the environment and all of our causes, visit rotary.org/our-causes.



tourists and REINA residents on how to nurture and care for the forests. The community is being taught how to raise seedlings on the same land area and plant trees intercropped to provide people a livelihood while protecting and maintaining the seedlings. This will also restore degraded soil and prevent erosion.

A BACKYARD FOOD SOLUTION

The Rotary Club of Makati in District 3830 has adopted and implemented ARK Feed Back, an innovative approach to growing food to nourish families, generate income, and feed communities in an environmentally sustainable way.

ARK Feed Back is a 16-week program that inspires families to farm in their backyards and produce excess to share with neighbors or sell to nearby villages. After six weeks of capacity building, a vegetable exchange takes place for 10 weeks in villages across the community. Inspired by the exchange, families transform their backyards into climate-positive spaces. On average, families create 30-square-meter gardens where they plant six to eight vegetable varieties.

Rural communities have become food deserts, and farmers and fishers are most at risk. Thirty percent of Philippine farmers and fishers live below the poverty threshold. In 2019, 57 percent experienced hun-

ger and food insecurity. A healthy diet for a family costs about 3.5 times their daily wage.

Farmers produce food for export and are forced to buy imports with high prices and carbon footprints. Desperate to feed their families, they have historically relied on what’s familiar and accessible: monocropping, chemical farming, and kaingin (slash and burn). Monocropping leads to deforestation and large-scale land conversion. Chemical farming disrupts ecosystems and endangers human health.

ARK Feed Back is a behavior change catalyst that localizes and decarbonizes the food system. It is low-cost, replicable, and sustainable. Born out of a heightened hunger crisis in rural communities during the COVID-19 pandemic, ARK Feed Back became a sustainable path out of a broken food system.

Sixteen weeks into ARK Feed Back, farmers and families are food secure and no longer hungry. Before the program, families earning less than 5,500 Philippine pesos (US\$96) a month were barely subsisting on 1.5 meals a day. Now, families eat three complete and nourishing meals a day. The Rotary Club of Makati has introduced and implemented the program in the following locations: La Libertad, Negros Oriental; Inabanga, Bohol; Bay, Laguna; and Cauayan, Isabela. ■



HANDBOOK

WHERE IN THE WORLD

This month, Rotary International Convention attendees will converge in Calgary, part of an annual tradition that has spanned 115 years and circled the globe. We dug through the archives to find photos of past conventions. Can you guess the cities where these were taken?



1



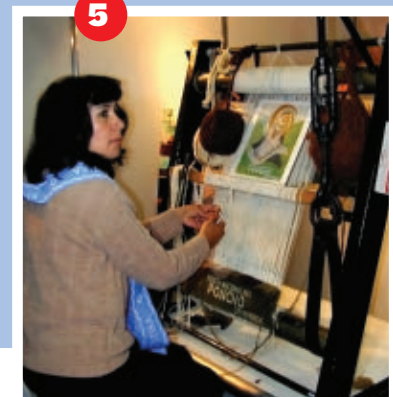
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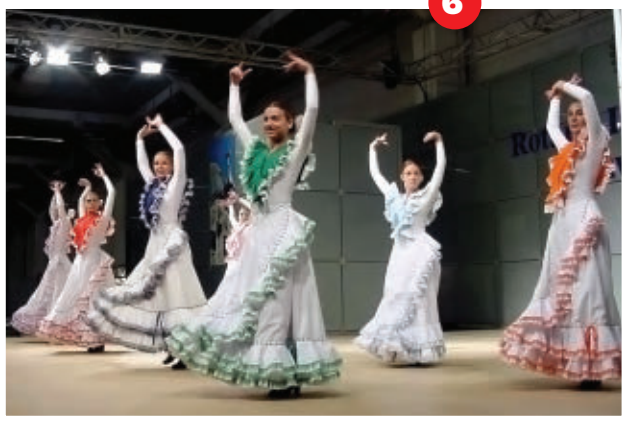


4



5

Ponchos are a traditional symbol of gaucho culture, Rotary members discovered in this city.



6



7

The convention's opening session coincided with the dedication of this city's iconic amphitheater, hewn out of solid rock.

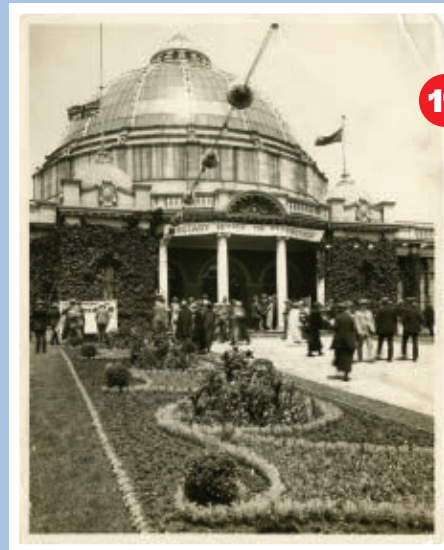


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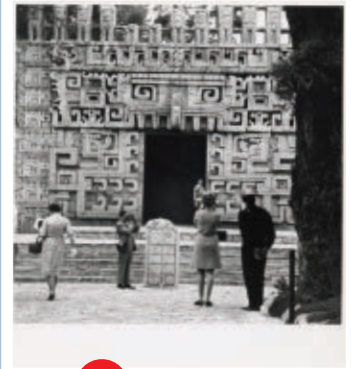


8

Rotary is revisiting this city for its 2026 convention.



11



12

When you're in Calgary for this year's convention, check out this other Canadian city.



10



13

Answer key:

1. Seoul, 1989 2. Honolulu, 1969 3. Sydney, 1971
4. Osaka, Japan, 2004 5. Buenos Aires, 2000
6. Barcelona, 2002 7. Minneapolis-St. Paul, 1974
8. Taipei, 1994 9. Denver (Red Rocks Park), 1941
10. Dallas, 1982 11. Toronto, 1924
12. Mexico City, 1968 13. Munich, 1987

CALENDAR

June & July events

LITTLE BLACK CORVETTE

Event: Corvette Raffle

Host: Rotary Club of Defiance, Ohio

What it benefits: Local projects and nonprofits

Date: 6 June

For the 35th year, the club is raffling off a Chevrolet Corvette. A maximum of 1,200 tickets are sold for \$125 each, with the drawing held at a Chevy dealership. First prize is a 2025 black Corvette or \$50,000 in cash. Second prize is \$1,500, third is \$1,000, and seven other ticket holders win \$500 each. The club has raised about \$1.4 million through the raffle over the past two decades.

GATHER ROUND

Event: Flatwater Tales Storytelling Festival

Host: Rotary clubs of Oak Ridge, Oak Ridge-Breakfast, and Oak Ridge Sunset, Tennessee

Dates: 6-7 June

A trio of professional storytellers — the Rev. Robert Jones, Bil Lepp, and Anne Shimojima — will inspire and entertain audiences at this annual cultural fest, a service project of the three clubs of Oak Ridge. Each storyteller presents a different show each day, from Jones' "The History of America Through Music" to Lepp's humorous tales of growing up in West Virginia and Shimojima's account of her Japanese American family's incarceration during World War II. The first two shows on Friday are free.

STEAKS AND SEDANS

Event: Cars and Carnivores Street Festival

Host: Rotary Club of Wake Forest, North Carolina

What it benefits: Medical debt relief for cancer patients at local hospitals

Date: 7 June

This annual street festival in downtown Wake Forest features a steak cook-off alongside a show of classic and modern cars and trucks. The cook-off awards cash prizes for top grillers of ribeye steaks, with a first prize of \$1,000. This year, for the first time, there will also be a dessert competition. Vehicles on display will be awarded Best of Show and People's Choice trophies.

TOTALLY CLAW-SOME

Event: Lobster Feed and Charity Auction

Host: Rotary Club of Lake Oswego, Oregon

What it benefits: Local and international projects, nonprofits, and scholarships

Date: 14 June

For this fundraiser, which the club organizes with the Lakewood Center for the Arts, hundreds of people work together to offer up dinners of fresh lobster flown directly from Maine and served with corn, clams, and other traditional sides. Steak and vegetarian meals are also available. The event has raised more than \$4.2 million over the past 40 years.

PAPAS AND PANCAKES

Event: Father's Day Fly-In Breakfast

Host: Rotary Club of Batavia, New York

What it benefits: Local projects and scholarships

Date: 15 June

This Father's Day celebration is held in a hangar at the Genesee County Airport, where pilots from across western New York fly in for all-you-can-eat eggs, pancakes, and sausage. For the hundreds of people who arrive each year by car instead, the breakfast offers an opportunity to meet the aviators and get an up-close view of their planes.

DON'T MISS THE BOATS

Event: Invasion of the Dragons

Host: Rotary Club of Norfolk Sunrise, Ontario

What it benefits: Cancer Support and Resource Program

Dates: 21-22 June

At this event, two dozen teams will race dragon boats, canoelike vessels that can hold up to 20 paddlers each, across Shadow Lake in Waterford. No experience is necessary; all competitors practice on Saturday afternoon before a full day of races on Sunday. Spectators set up lawn chairs to watch the action and enjoy food from on-site vendors. Proceeds go toward a local nonprofit that supports people with cancer.

RED, WHITE, AND YOU

Event: 4th of July Celebration

Host: Rotary Club of Brazil, Indiana

What it benefits: Local nonprofits

Dates: 1-5 July

The town of Brazil welcomes visitors to its 90th annual Independence Day celebration, an event that has been organized by the club since nearly the beginning. The five-day festival includes carnival rides, food and drink booths, and a fireworks show on July Fourth. There will also be musical performances, from a school marching band to a group covering the hits of Indiana native John Mellencamp. Entrants in a raffle have the chance to win \$10,000.

5 DAYS OF SUMMER

Event: Elk Grove Rotary Fest

Host: Rotary Club of Elk Grove Village, Illinois

What it benefits: Local and international projects and nonprofits

Dates: 16-20 July

With carnival rides, food from local restaurants, and plenty of live music, this summer festival has been a community favorite since 1986. This year's schedule features a performance by rock band O.A.R. followed by a drone light show on Thursday, as well as a fireworks display on Saturday.



DRUM ROLL, PLEASE!

Event: Music Festival Drum & Bugle Corps Show
Host: Rotary Club of Cedarburg-Grafton, Wisconsin
What it benefits: Local nonprofits and scholarships
Date: 2 July

For more than two decades, this outdoor music festival north of Milwaukee has showcased the colorful pageantry and precision marching skills of drum and bugle corps and brought in more than \$1 million for the club's efforts. This year's event, held at the Cedarburg High School athletic field, will include six corps from across the U.S. that were finalists in the 2024 Drum Corps International World Championships.

THE WHEEL WORLD

Event: Concours d'Elegance
Host: Rotary Club of Forest Grove, Oregon
What it benefits: Local projects and scholarships
Date: 20 July
 More than 300 vehicles are put on display, and some are awarded trophies, at this long-running annual classic car show on the tree-lined Pacific University campus. In addition to admiring the antique autos, attendees will enjoy live music, food, a beer garden, and a wine pavilion. On the day before the show, the car owners are invited to a vineyard tour through the Willamette Valley and a social dinner.

RUN FOR FUN

Event: Summerfest 5K
Host: Rotary Club of West Shore, Ohio
What it benefits: Local and international projects and scholarships
Date: 26 July
 The club, which serves Cleveland's West Park area and western suburbs of Fairview Park and North Olmsted, organizes this 5K race as part of the annual Fairview Park Summerfest. The course starts at Fairview High School and runs along Bain Park. Awards are given to the top three male and female runners overall and in various age groups.

READY FOR SOME FOOTBALL?

Event: Pigskin Preview
Host: Rotary Club of New Bern, North Carolina
What it benefits: Local high school athletic programs
Date: 29 July
 In the eastern North Carolina counties of Craven and Pamlico, the high school football season kicks off with an event in which coaches and student athletes from the area speak to fans ahead of the first day of practice. The preview, similar to a media day in college and pro sports, is emceed by a local TV sports anchor.

Tell us about your event. Write to magazine@rotary.org and put "calendar" in the subject line. Submissions must be received at least five months before the event to be considered for inclusion.



TRUSTEE CHAIR'S MESSAGE

What you make possible

This past year, my wife, Gay, and I have been privileged to witness the impact of The Rotary Foundation. From dialysis centers in India to environmental projects in Taiwan and educational initiatives worldwide, we have had a front-row seat to the life-changing results of your generosity. To see the work of our Foundation firsthand gives one a deeper understanding of Rotary's power to transform lives by spreading peace, hope, and health.

In Bangkok, we saw a specialized life support machine for critically ill patients with lung and heart problems at a public hospital — only the second machine of its kind available to the city's 11 million residents outside of private care. Funded through a global grant, this technology is saving lives because Rotary members saw a need and responded.

Everything Rotary accomplishes through the Foundation — Rotary Peace Centers, Programs of Scale, global and district grants — relies on a strong and growing endowment. This is *The Magic of Rotary* that you make possible through your generosity.

That is the reason I am so passionate about our goal to build the net assets and commitments of The Rotary Foundation Endowment to \$2.025 billion by 30 June 2025. The Trustees set this goal in 2016, after exceeding earlier targets and recognizing the growing interest in endowed giving. Thanks to your

extraordinary support — including gifts from the estates of members — the net assets and commitments of the Endowment have grown substantially and are within reach of our goal.

To contribute to the Endowment, talk with your endowment/major gifts adviser or your major gifts officer, or visit rotary.org/donate. Your generosity can help us reach our goal, which we will celebrate at the Rotary International Convention in Calgary this month.

The fruits of these gifts may not be seen for several years. We are planting trees — trees that will grow to fund Rotary Peace Fellows and scholarships, put an end to polio, support high-impact Programs of Scale and global grants, and allow our Annual Fund to spread more hope.

During my 40-year journey in Rotary leadership, The Rotary Foundation has always been at the core. From leading a Group Study Exchange team in 1986 to serving as district Foundation chair, trustee, RI president, and now as trustee chair, it has been the honor of a lifetime.

I am fortunate to have experienced and been inspired by the magic that you have created through your dedication, service, and action. Let us together continue planting trees that will provide fruit for generations.

MARK DANIEL MALONEY

Foundation trustee chair

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
5. Help maintain a harassment-free environment in Rotary meetings, events, and activities, report any suspected harassment, and help ensure non-retaliation to those individuals that report harassment.



USE ROTARY VIDEOS TO TELL OUR STORY

The Rotary Brand Center has dozens of videos for you to enhance your meetings, engage with your community, and help tell the Rotary story. These high-quality videos promote our campaigns and causes, showing that we're people of action and saving you the time and expense of creating them.



Visit brandcenter.rotary.org and explore our video selection today.



Rotary Fellowships

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

New fellowships are added frequently; for the most recent list, see rotary.org/fellowships. If your recreational or vocational interest isn't represented, contact rotaryfellowships@rotary.org to learn how to start a new group.

- 4x4
- Antique Automobiles
- Argentine Culture
- Artificial Intelligence
- Astrology
- Authors
- Badminton
- Bathhouse
- Beard and Moustache
- Bee
- Beer
- Bird Watching
- Bowling
- Camping
- Caravanning
- Chess
- Coffee Lovers
- Comedy
- Composting
- Computer Users
- Corporate Social Responsibility
- Cricket
- Cultural Heritage
- Curling
- Cybersecurity
- Cycling
- Doll Lovers
- Draughts (Checkers)
- E-Clubs
- Editors and Publishers
- Educators
- Egyptology

- Empowering Women
- Entrepreneurs
- Esperanto
- Ethics
- Fashion
- Fine Arts
- Fishing
- Flying
- Francophonie
- Gaming Globetrotters
- Genealogists
- Gift and Estate Planning
- Gin
- Global Development
- Golf
- Gourmet Cooking
- Graphic Designers
- Healthcare Professionals
- Hiking
- Home Exchange
- Horseback Riding
- Horse Racing
- Hunting
- Internet
- Italian Culture
- IT Professionals
- Jazz
- Kites
- Latin Culture
- Lawyers
- Leadership
- LGBT+
- Magicians



Getachew Yitelelu, of Ethiopia, is a past chair of the Rotary Fellowship of Urban Gardening.

- Magna Graecia
- Marathon Running
- Mental Wellness Counsellors
- Mentoring
- Metalhead
- Metaverse
- Military Veterans
- Motorcycling
- Mountains
- Music
- Old and Rare Books
- Palmwine
- Past District Governors
- Past Presidents, Officers, and Friends
- Peace Fellows
- Performing Arts
- Photographers
- Pickleball
- Public Health
- Public Speakers
- Quilters and Fiber Artists
- Railroads
- Real Estate
- Recreational Vehicles
- Rotary Global History
- Rotary Means Business
- Rotary on Pins
- Rotary on Stamps
- Rowing
- Rugby Fans
- Scouting
- Scuba
- Shooting Sport
- Skiing
- Startup Investors
- Surfing
- Table Tennis
- Tea Lovers
- Tennis
- Total Quality Management
- Travel and Hosting
- Triathlon
- Urban Gardening
- Vegans
- Vintage Collectibles
- Weather Enthusiasts
- Whisk(e)y
- Wildlife Conservation
- Wine
- Yachting
- Yoga
- Young Rotarians

ROTARY ACTION GROUPS

Leading positive change for
20 YEARS!



Rotary Action Group members leverage their experience and global networks to support service projects that address critical issues like peace, water, and the environment. Contact these experts to get advice, find partners and funding, and make personal and professional connections around the world!

25+
action
groups

50,000+
group
members
since 2005

In 150+
countries

\$10 million+
raised to
make a
difference

10,000+
humanitarian
projects
supported



rotary.org/actiongroups



2025 CONVENTION

A Calgary sneak peek



Attention last-minute adventurers: Many of you still have plenty of time to join thousands of members in Calgary for the Rotary International Convention, especially our friends a short trip away in the U.S. and Canada! Lots of members register in these final weeks leading up to the big event — or even pay at the door.

The schedule for Calgary 21-25 June is crowded with bold voices and big ideas to help you grow your club's impact and membership. We hear it all the time: Everyone should attend the convention at least once. "A convention is where Rotary comes to life," RI President Stephanie Urchick says.

The event, as always, offers world-class speakers, including women's rights advocate Tawakkol Karman, the first Arab woman to win a Nobel Peace Prize, and climate scientist Katharine Hayhoe, named to one of *Time's* 100 Most Influential People lists.

Breakout sessions are a build-your-own learning experience on topics from using artificial intelligence in Rotary to recruiting young leaders and diverse members. The House of Friendship is like the town square where Rotary's global community mixes with friends and percolates project ideas.

And your destination is downright fun to visit, with views of the Canadian Rocky Mountains on the horizon and a Western heritage that you'll notice throughout the easy-to-tour modern city. "Calgary is a breathtaking mix of warm hospitality and natural beauty," Urchick says.

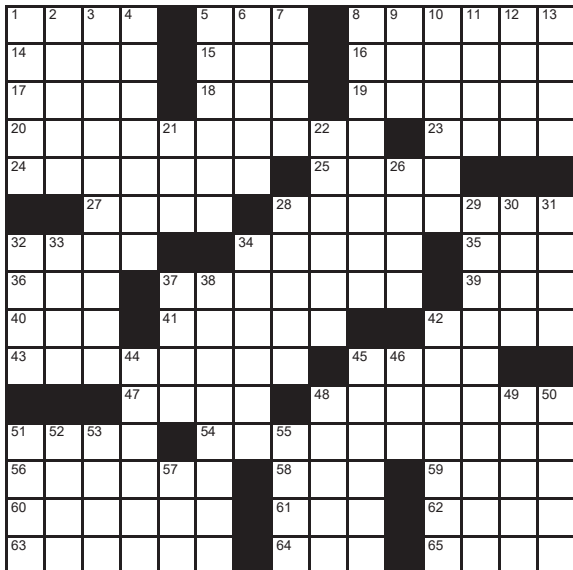
Everyone at a convention is part of a family, says Elizabeth Villafranca, of the Rotary Club of Carrollton-Farmers Branch in Texas. "This has been something that has changed my life, my perspective, and has given me enough energy to continue working to make our world a better place." ■

Learn more and register at convention.rotary.org.

CROSSWORD

When in Calgary

By Victor Fleming
Rotary Club of Little Rock, Arkansas



Solution on opposite page

ACROSS

- 1 100-yard ____
- 5 Hole-punching tool
- 8 Bath water quantity
- 14 "Tell Mama" singer James
- 15 *Bamboozled* director Spike
- 16 Make an entrance
- 17 Prefix with -algia
- 18 Bed-and-breakfast, e.g.
- 19 Stabs
- 20 Scotiabank ____ (indoor arena in Stampede Park)
- 23 "Buenos ____"
- 24 Famed
- 25 Blood type, for short
- 27 On the ____ with
- 28 Carries on
- 32 Card balance
- 34 ____-bottom (comprehensive)
- 35 Bald-faced ____
- 36 Dutch commune
- 37 With 44-Down, pedestrian mall downtown
- 39 Birthday-present holder
- 40 Big picture? (abbr.)
- 41 Start of a toast
- 42 Overly thin
- 43 Indefinite feelings of debility
- 45 Cast forth
- 47 Large vessels for liquids
- 48 Plymouth colonizer

- 51 Gospel singer Winans
- 54 Vivid turquoise body of water below the Victoria Glacier
- 56 Blake of *Guns* movie
- 58 "Bali ____" (South Pacific tune)
- 59 "Terrible" tsar
- 60 Commuter's home
- 61 UNC's conference
- 62 Advance, as money
- 63 Levy, as taxes
- 64 Arts-supporting grp.
- 65 Bits of energy

DOWN

- 1 Firmly packed
- 2 First-stringers' squad
- 3 Home of the National Music Centre museum
- 4 "This is a ____ to crack"
- 5 Star Wars extras
- 6 George of Cheers
- 7 Former *Tonight Show* host
- 8 Pay attention
- 9 Banquet dispenser
- 10 See 48-Down
- 11 Common name for a poodle
- 12 Eye part containing the iris
- 13 Couldn't care ____ (was indifferent)
- 21 "____ Me Call You Sweetheart"

- 22 Undergoes a transformation
- 26 Bus. major's course
- 28 Vatican VIPs
- 29 One of two streams that meet at the Confluence Historic Site and Parkland
- 30 *Titanic* theme singer
- 31 Alluringly attractive
- 32 Believe
- 33 *Giant* writer Ferber
- 34 Mother ____ (1979 Nobel Peace Prize recipient)
- 37 LaBeouf of *Constantine*
- 38 Places of research and development
- 42 Enchant
- 44 See 37-Across
- 45 Glassmaker's powder
- 46 Middle East grp. since 1964
- 48 With 10-Down, walking and cycling span across the Bow
- 49 Darius Rucker's "So ____"
- 50 Darns, e.g.
- 51 "Mi ____ es su ____"
- 52 Flightless Australian birds
- 53 Airport curb queue
- 55 *Star Trek II: The Wrath of ____*
- 57 Hosp. employees



Hail, Caesar!

We who are about to imbibe salute Canada's national cocktail

In 1969, the Calgary Inn (now the Westin Calgary hotel) opened an Italian restaurant. Asked to create a celebratory cocktail, the hotel's bar manager drew inspiration from spaghetti with clams. He mixed crushed clams and tomato juice and added vodka, Worcestershire sauce, oregano, and celery salt. The concoction got a celery stick garnish, and voilà, the Caesar cocktail was born.

Today, it's estimated that Canadians drink more than 350 million Caesars every year. Considered the national cocktail, they're typically served at brunch, lunch, or before dinner. "Caesars to open?" is a common question predinner," says Joe Connelly, a seasoned mixologist. Around the time of the Calgary Stampede, he adds, you might find them served at breakfast, given the cocktail's capacity to rejuvenate those who may have had a late night after the rodeo.

LOAD 'EM UP: You can make your Caesar with tomato juice and clams, but most people speed things up by using Clamato, a premade tomato and clam juice combo. Then comes the fun: adding the garnishes, which, Connelly explains, can include pepperoni, bacon, shrimp, waffles, corn dogs, chicken wings, and more. "Who needs a meal when there is dinner in a glass?"

DRINK 'EM UP: Connelly is something of an expert on cocktails: As a bartender in the 1980s, he created the Bazooka Joe shooter (a layered shot), which tastes like bubblegum. That recipe and more can be found in his book *Shots and Shooter Drink Recipes: The Bartender's Guide to Tasty "Little" Cocktails*. Connelly was a Calgary alderman in 2009, when the city officially commemorated the drink's 40th anniversary.

— DIANA SCHOBURG

Joe Connelly
Rotary Club
of Calgary at
Stampede Park

What food is your region famous for? Tell us at magazine@rotary.org and you may see it in an upcoming issue.

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Learn more and register at
convention.rotary.org



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**EXCHANGE IDEAS
AND INSIGHTS**



**STRENGTHEN
PROJECT IDEAS**



Get inspired at the Rotary International Convention

MAGIC ALL AROUND

21-25 JUNE 2025 • CALGARY, CANADA

