



NEWS CONNECTION

ROTARY DISTRICT 7620 NEWSLETTER

CENTRAL MARYLAND AND WASHINGTON DC, USA

Rotary District 7620 Newsletter April 2020

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38 CHARTER MEMBERS IN NEW DC GLOBAL ROTARY CLUB TESTING A NEW MODEL: NEW CLUB & SATELLITE LAUNCHED IN DC & GLOBALLY

By Quentin Wodon, District Membership Chair

Creating new clubs is one of the best ways to grow Rotary. It's also a great way to give the gift of Rotary to new members who may not have access to existing clubs where they live or work. As discussed in previous newsletters, Rotary International gives us ample freedom to be creative when launching new clubs. This has led a group of us – professionals working in international development – to charter a new club – the Rotary Club of Washington Global (<https://www.washingtonglobalrotary.org/>), that will aim to serve as a small “think tank” for Rotarians on international development and other issues.

Our 38 charter members are mostly based in Washington, D.C. and working for organizations such as the World Bank, the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Development Bank, USAID, international NGOs, and other groups involved in international development. With Sahar Fahmy, we just agreed to sponsor our first satellite club with new members in Maryland and Virginia who are passionate about empowering women in their service work. Finally, we are starting to get applications from abroad – the first two were from China and India, but we have on-going discussions with a few other potential

members in other countries. So in total, we went from 0 to 38 (charter) to 52 members in about a month. While short term membership growth does not imply long term growth, and we have a ton of work to make the club successful, early progress is encouraging.

Given our core group in Washington and members globally, we will function as a hybrid club with the ability to meet in-person or online (currently, due to coronavirus, all meetings are online only). We plan to have great speakers in all of Rotary's areas of focus – our program of online seminars until the end of December 2020 is already available, and all are welcome to join. And we plan to practice Service Above Self by using our skills in support of other clubs, Rotarian Action Groups, and nongovernmental organizations. We are also working hard to keep our dues to a minimum (\$250 per year).

In terms of service, while we will fund projects, we also hope to give back in large part by using our professional expertise and volunteering our time. In practice, we will support NGOs, other Rotary clubs, and occasionally even Ministries with their projects, by advising them on the design and evaluation of interventions.

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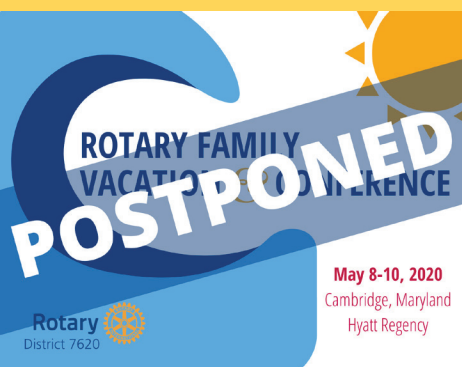
Are you at high risk for Covid-19 and unable to leave your home?

Call us: 240-781-6586

for immediate volunteer assistance to deliver your groceries and medicine.

UPCOMING EVENTS

D7620 is currently evaluating the impact of coronavirus on District events that are scheduled for the months of April, May and June. As decisions get made, D7620 District Governor will share these decisions with all the D7620 Rotarians.



[Above] In honor of World Rotaract Week, the Rotaract Club of Washington DC was invited by the DC Rotary Club to lead their weekly meeting. They kept the tradition alive, and presented to their wonderful Rotary family what they have been up to in the past year.

CLUB MEETINGS AND RESOURCES IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

By Jennifer Coppitt, District Membership Chair

District 7620 wants to support our clubs as you find ways to keep your club members engaged during this difficult time. We encourage you to work with your Boards to assess and determine which strategies would be useful to your club. This is simply a compendium of resources. It is not a mandate of any sort on the part of the District to use any of these options. None of the strategies are a replacement for timely, transparent and regular communication with your members about how you plan to manage your club during this time. Be sure, however, that officers and committee leaders in your club are equipped with consistent messaging to minimize confusion to your members. Forgetting to communicate with ALL members regularly is a sure fire way to build discontent and resentment among members who may feel ignored or minimized at this time. Attached to this email is a document sent to me by the Zone 33 Coordinator Team.

If you have a strategy that has been effective for your club, please send details to District Membership Chair, Jennie Coppit via this email: rotariancoppit@gmail.com.

Virtual Meetings

Considering the use of technology creatively can offer a breath of fresh air to your normally scheduled meetings. You may find that you have members who already have professional access to the following formats. There are many free as well as paid options. There are also many programs offering reduced fees and no cost-extended trials during this time.

Highly Interactive Formats

Zoom Basic Free I www.youtube.com/watch?v=2pq4l1urXA

GoTo Meeting Free I <https://support.goto.com/meeting>

Google Hangout Free I <https://support.google.com/hangouts/answer/3115553?co=GENIE.Platform%3DDesktop&hl=en>

Less Interactive Formats

These formats are very useful. They do not require that everyone log in at a specific time, which could be the perfect level of flexibility for your club. The ideas below range from social media to project management and communication tools.

Facebook Live I <https://blog.hubspot.com/marketing/facebook-live-guide>

Instagram TV I <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EaRxgAW9mUY>

Basecamp I <https://basecamp.com/>

Slack I <https://slack.com>

Tips for hosting a "Virtual Meeting"

- Consider shortening the length of the virtual meeting to make it more feasible for members to "tune in."
- Do keep your fellowship activities if they can easily migrate online (for example, "getting to know you" activities, interesting speakers, and happy bucks/dollars)
- Avoid taking up "video time" with elements of your meeting that would be better shared in writing such as basic announcements or upcoming dates to note - consider sending those in a follow up email once the virtual meeting concludes
- Check out Rotary resources on virtual meetings :

www.rotary.org/en/how-take-your-club-online

www.my.rotary.org/en/learning-reference/learn-topic/online-club-meetings

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KEEPING ROTARY SERVICE ONGOING IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

Engagement through Social Media Tools

Social Media is a great tool for engaging members and the general community every day. Clubs can optimize and concentrate their social media channels as a resource to bolster engagement during the hiatus from in-person contact. Many of these strategies can be used once you return to business as usual, so this may prove to be a pilot for your club.

Fellowship

Use social media prompts to mimic

[Below] Presidents-elect and District Rotary Leadership at the Chesapeake PETS held March 5-7, 2020.

the fellowship your members enjoy during your meetings. Included among the resources are social media assets that you may use to start these online conversations. Here are few examples:

- What are you reading?
- Picture Contest: Sunrises
- Kindness is Contagious Social Media Takeovers

Allow various members to “take the reins” on your social channels and let them use pictures and stories to share how they’re dealing with the changes

to daily living brought on by the pandemic.

Here is a useful guide: <https://blog.hootsuite.com/social-media-takeovers/>

Migrating Meeting Activities to Social Media

“Getting to know you” activities like Hot Seat or Member Profiles

Happy Bucks or Happy Dollars online (sample social assets are included in resources)

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Rotary

District 7620



Stay up to date with COVID-19 announcements from Rotary International at bit.ly/3doQbXc

#serviceaboveself
#peopleofaction



HARNESSING THE WIND: CARROLL CREEK KINETIC ART PROMENADE FEATURES SCULPTURES THAT MOVE



[Above] The Carroll Creek Kinetic Art Promenade, a new public art project at Carroll Creek in downtown Frederick, was organized by The Rotary Club of Carroll Creek in Frederick and features three kinetic artwork pieces from four area artists on display along Carroll Creek between the suspension and stone bridges. [Photo by Bill Green]

By Crystal Schelle, Frederick News Post, March 18, 2020 [Excerpted]

The Rotary Club of Carroll Creek in Frederick is the organization behind the not-for-profit community enhancement project, which features three kinetic artwork pieces from four area artists on display along Carroll Creek between the suspension and stone bridges.

Chairman of the project is Bernard Gouin, who is also a member of the club.

"The Rotary Club of Carroll Creek has been tied with Carroll Creek for a long time," Gouin said, noting the club was founded in 1993. "Ever since, we've always been part of projects along the creek."

One of the club's first donations was for the mural on Carroll Street, and members have either helped or volunteered their time for several events at the creek, including planting aquatic plants. One event the club has been involved in since 2017 Sailing Through the Winter Solstice, which features decorative boats in the creek throughout February.

Gouin said Rotary members were looking at how to decorate Carroll Creek after the sailboats are removed. He said the plant life isn't added until April and wouldn't bloom for several weeks after that.

"So the idea was, well, how do we fill the gap?," he said.

That's when members settled on the idea of kinetic art sculptures, which move and change depending on the strength of wind.

Gouin said the sculptures were selected on originality, creativity, cost and public appeal.

"We ended up being very fortunate to select three that were very diversified in appearance and in structure," he said.

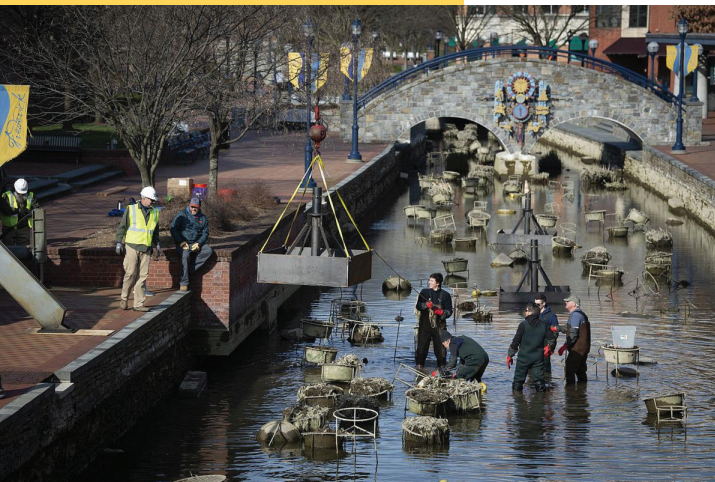
Artists chosen were Erin Aylor and his "Three Little Birds," which is sponsored by Ann and Ric Adams; Marguerite de Messières and Tsvetomir Naydenov and their piece, "An Elusive Kinetic Portrait," which is sponsored by the Ausherman Family Foundation; and Thomas Sterner and his piece, "Tree of Life," which is sponsored by The Hendrickson Group at Morgan Stanley.

The three pieces, which were installed on March 14 in the creek, will remain on display until November. They will then be removed for the sailboats.

"So that's basically the genesis of it, to optimize the beauty of the creek. And for us, the Carroll Creek Rotary Club, it's really in sync with our mission," Gouin said. "Art is something that resonates with everyone. But moving art, not only resonates, it fascinates people."

The most difficult element to the planning was how to install the pieces. Gouin explained that large steel pyramids had to be made that would allow the pieces on polls to be attached. The pyramids need to sit in the creek the entire time and the water had to be lowered for them to install them first. The bottom will be hidden once the water level returns. Then using a crane, the sculptures were installed on the pyramids.

Gouin said there are plans to add another three sculptures next year.



[Above] Members of the Carroll Creek Rotary Club and other volunteers used a crane to install large steel platforms for the large artworks to be supported in the creek for the Kinetic Art Promenade on March 14. [Photo by Bill Green]

PROVIDING FOOD & MORE DURING CHALLENGING TIMES: FREDERICK ROTARY CLUB'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

By Joanne McCoy, President-elect, The Rotary Club of Frederick

If ever there was a time to put service of others above self, it's now.

As a club, we were painfully aware of the increasing number of individuals in our community whose needs were being intensified due to their risk factors for COVID-19...but how could we help and still observe social distancing restrictions?

We got our answer when our President Mark Lancaster was made aware of 30 local senior citizens for whom the COVID-19 restrictions were potentially devastating. These seniors, all with low, fixed incomes (\$2100 for a single/\$3,000 for a couple, pre-tax), had been relying on a local nonprofit, **SOAR** (Supporting Older Adults through Resources), to help them with their basic needs, including food.

The situation with these 30 seniors had the potential to become very serious, especially since many of them are homebound, due either to pre-existing conditions or elevated risk factors for contracting COVID-19. With churches, senior centers, American Legions, and other gathering places now closed, these seniors were also very lonely—and loneliness increases fear and depression. Understandably, these elderly neighbors were experiencing not only “food insecurity” but a rising level of anxiety as well.

The generous partners who had been assisting SOAR were becoming challenged by the ever-increasing need—reinforcements were clearly needed. I'm proud to share that the Rotary Club of Frederick stepped up, creating and implementing an initiative called **Food & More** in less

than 72 hours.

The goal of Food & More is twofold: 1. To provide twice-monthly deliveries of fresh, frozen, and canned foods to these seniors to help meet their nutritional needs, and 2. To do what we can to provide friendly support and encouragement to keep these older neighbors and community members feeling connected and less anxious during these times of imposed isolation.



In response, our Board came together quickly online and thoroughly vetted a number of possibilities. By unanimous vote, we created Food and More, a 3-4 month program that we were able to fully fund from our financial reserves, a large portion of which resulted from our annual community-wide event, the **Leprechaun Luau®**.

After consulting with SOAR and other eldercare providers, we developed a list of senior-friendly, nutritious foods. Using Instacart (a local, online shopping service that hires community members to pull and deliver grocery orders placed online), we set up recurring, “contact-less” grocery deliveries twice monthly for these senior citizens through June 30, 2020. (Instacart drivers simply leave the bags of food where they are directed to on the date and during the window of time provided. The seniors can pick the items up outside their front doors, on their porches, or wherever they designate.)

Because none of us lives by bread alone, we also came up with a way to provide friendly support and encouragement to these seniors as well—from a distance. In an email blast, we asked for club members to step up and “adopt a senior” during these challenging times. An amazing number responded within just a few hours, offering to mail cards, notes, and perhaps a small gift or two (Sudoku books, WordFinds, mints, crosswords, magazines, flavored teas, hand lotion, etc.) to their assigned senior in the coming months while social distancing is the norm. Most importantly, we asked these volunteer “RotaBuddies” to call their senior regularly, especially after their scheduled Instacart food deliveries to make sure all went well.

Quite a few of our members with younger children were eager to adopt a senior as a family to help their own kids understand the importance of coming together in hard times. (I imagine many carefully colored pictures will be sent to these seniors in the coming months, thanks to these little helpers—who will never forget the fact that they were able to be of service during an event that will no doubt be talked about for generations.)

Thanks to the kindness of our members and the generosity of this community (who have enthusiastically supported our major fundraiser, the Leprechaun Luau®, for almost 10 years), Food & More deploys this week.

We will get through this if we work together and refuse to let the extraordinary circumstances we're living in these days limit our ability to serve!

SMOKETOWN ROTARY CLUB LEADS TREE-PLANTING DC GLOBAL ROTARY CLUB

By Richard Foot, Rotary
Club of Carroll Creek

THE GREENING OF BRUNSWICK'S PARKS

On St. Patrick's weekend under the leadership of the Smoketown Rotary Club, volunteers from the Brunswick High School Interact Club and Brunswick Crossing Adopt-A-Park Team planted twenty-five trees on Brunswick's

Kim Weddle Park and Wenner Park. The all-volunteer community initiative was organized by Smoketown Rotarian Chris Mourlas, owner of Brunswick-based Residential Reforestation. The local Rotary Club funded the purchase of the native tree species, the fertilizer and mulch.

Species native to Maryland were planted in the municipal parks, including Acer Rubrum (red maple), Betula Nigra (River Birch), Platinus Occidentalis (Sycamore), Quercus Alba (White Oak), and Amelanchier Canadensis (Serviceberry).

Participating in the community service project were: Smoketown Rotarians Kim Grizzle, Charlie Harris, Arch Hodges, Eric Johnson, Chris Mourlas, as well as Reid and Adaliz Hodges; Brunswick High School Interact Club members Rylie Johnson, Atiyn Jackson, and Zoe Mourlas; and Brunswick Crossing "Team Weddle" members Richard Foot, Charlie Harris, and Dave Roberts.

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As just one example, we supported the Rotarian Action Group for Population and Development and the Federal Ministry of Health of Nigeria for the submission of a proposal for a large Rotary grant on maternal health. This may lead as well to a series of knowledge notes prepared on maternal and child health using the latest available household surveys and other data.

Said differently, we will conduct analytical work to help inform Rotarians worldwide about best practices in various areas. Essentially, we will engage in pro bono consulting work to support projects that reach some of the most vulnerable groups. In addition, several of us are involved with Rotarian Action Groups and as members of the Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers – we will encourage new members to do that as well. Quite a few of our charter members are former Rotary Peace Fellows.

If you know of individuals who may be interested in becoming member of a club like ours, please let us know. And if you would like to participate in some of our online seminars, please register for the seminars you would like to attend on our website so that we can send you the weblinks ahead of time. On April 7, Peter Kyle will be our speaker, and thereafter, our next three seminars are on conflict and displacement. For more information, contact me at rotarianeconomist@gmail.com.

MARCH IS MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH MONTH



[Above] On St. Patrick's weekend under the leadership of the Smoketown Rotary Club, volunteers from the Brunswick High School Interact Club and Brunswick Crossing Adopt-A-Park Team planted twenty-five trees on Brunswick's Kim Weddle Park and Wenner Park.



[Above] Rotary speakers at the GPE-Rotary-WB event on March 6 at the World Bank.



[Above] Table that some Washington Global Rotary Club members staffed at the World Bank event..

EDUCATION FOR GENDER EQUALITY: GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATION PARTNERS WITH ROTARY

By Quentin Wodon, District Membership Chair

Gender inequality remains massive. A study published last week by the World Bank suggests that the cost of gender inequality in earnings could be as high as \$172 trillion in terms of lost lifetime earnings for women. What should be done to achieve gender equality? While investments in education are not the sole answer, they could go a long way to improve economic opportunities for women.

Girls' education matters, clearly. Research sponsored by the Global Partnership for Education suggests large benefits from investing in girls' education. Globally, the cost of girls not completing their secondary education is estimated at up to \$30 trillion. In sub-Saharan Africa, low educational attainment for girls leads not only to earnings losses, but also to child marriage and early childbearing, lack of decision-making ability in the household, higher risks of intimate partner violence, and higher risks for children to be stunted or die before age five. These effects are pervasive, as illustrated in recent reports for Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda, and Chad-Mali-Niger-Guinea.

Yet boys' education matters too. Higher levels of educational attainment for boys as well as for girls tend to be associated with lower levels of violence in adult life. But in addition, how boys are taught in school is essential to change social norms that are detrimental to women. As gender-based violence remains widespread in schools, it may be reproduced in adult life. Violence in school is sometimes perceived by boys as an expression of their masculinity. Instead, schools should be safe. They should promote a culture of mutual

respect, between boys, between girls, and between boys and girls.

Governments play a leading role in efforts to improve educational opportunities for boys and girls alike, but civil society can help too, including by testing innovative approaches that can later be scaled up by governments, and by holding schools accountable to parents and students at the local level. This was a key message of the event organized on March 6 ahead of International Women's Day by GPE and Rotary International at the World Bank on the theme "Education for Equality." Some 200 people attended the event in person, and many more connected online. Apart from Alice Albright, CEO of the Global Partnership for Education, speakers included Keiko Miwa (Regional Director for Human Development in the Middle East & North Africa Region at the World Bank), Geeta Manek (Incoming Trustee of the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International), Carolyn Johnson (Rotary leader for the Guatemala Literacy Project), and Brenda Erickson (Rotary leader for the Project "Sounds" in South Africa, Puerto Rico and the US). The purpose of the event was to share a successful initiative led by women to improve literacy.

- Alice Albright announced that gender inequality would be at the core of the new GPE strategy being prepared. Together with Geeta Manek, she also announced a new partnership with Rotary International to improve education and school accountability with a focus on Kenya.
- Carolyn Johnson talked about an innovative project in Guatemala to improve literacy among indigenous populations through teacher training, a low-cost textbook rental program,

literacy materials, and computer labs. Together with intensive teacher training, the textbook program has helped decrease the middle school dropout rate by almost half, and more than 80 percent of graduates use their computer skills to further their education or get higher-paying jobs.

- Brenda Erickson talked about Sounds – a Montessori-minded, early literacy program through which educators and parents acquire tools to help children build their literacy skills by introducing a concrete letter in association with its most common sound in the child's language. The child first learns individual letter sounds, then how to build words by listening to spoken sounds, and finally how to read words by sounding out the letters. Sounds is easy to implement, does not require extensive training, and utilizes durable materials. Sustainability has been the key to progress as experienced teachers train new teachers.

Our new club, the Rotary Club of Washington Global (<https://www.washingtonglobalrotary.org/>) helped in organizing the event, with Clara Montanez from the Rotary Club of Metro Bethesda in the lead. A full recording of the event is available at <https://live.worldbank.org/equality-education>. The event demonstrated how all of us, whether through our professional or volunteer work, can make a difference towards achieving SDG4, namely to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. And if you are interested in these issues, you may be interested in our upcoming seminars on conflict and development for which a flier in this issue of our district newsletter provides more details (on page 11).

MAANASI - A SUSTAINED, INNOVATIVE, INTEGRATED MENTAL HEALTHCARE MODEL IN SOUTH INDIA

By Dr. Geetha Jayaram, Rotary District Governor Nominee; Johns Hopkins University, Departments of Psychiatry, & Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore



Studies in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) point to a significant association of common mental disorders with female gender, low education, and poverty. Depression and anxiety are frequently complicated by lack of disease awareness and non-adherence, the absence of care and provider resources, low value given to mental health by policy-makers, stigma, and discrimination towards the mentally ill. Female village leaders/community health and outreach workers (CHWs) can be used to overcome the lack of psychiatric resources for treatment of common mental disorders in rural areas.

A multidisciplinary team was set up to evaluate and treat potential clients in the villages. A program of care delivery was planned, developed and implemented by: (a) targeting indigent women in the region; (b) integrating mental health care with primary care; (c) making care affordable and accessible by training local women as CHWs with ongoing continued supervision; and (d) sustaining the program long-term. Indigenous CHWs served as a link between the centre and the community. They received hands-on training, ongoing supervision, and an abridged but focused training module to identify common mental disorders, help treatment compliance, networking, illness literacy and community support by outreach workers. They used assessment tools

translated into the local language, and conducted focus groups and client training programs.

As a result, mental healthcare was provided to clients from as many as 150 villages in South India. Currently the services are utilized on a regular basis by about 50 villages around the central project site. Empowerment of treated clients is the final outcome, assisting them in self-employment.

Rural mental healthcare must be culturally congruent, and must integrate primary care and local CHWs for success. Training, supervision, ongoing teaching of CHWs, on-site resident medical officers, research and outreach are essential to continued success over two decades.

The MAANASI clinic has an active caseload of 1900+ clients, and the CHWs have logged hundreds of visits using donated mopeds, over 2 decades, to provide outreach and teaching to hundreds of households. A program that would cost around \$3.2M annually to run in the United States, costs \$62,175 in India today for all comprehensive activities.

Several focus groups (FGs) were conducted that revealed the vital role of the CHWs in addressing issues such as adherence to treatment. Villagers, primarily females, reported that the CHWs were concerned, compassionate and empathic concerning clients' illnesses and well-being. Clients reported that the CHWs' supportive therapy with family members had changed attitudes and created an enabling home environment. All the FGs revealed that the CHWs cleared myths and misconceptions about illnesses and medications, leading to reduced stigma.

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Happy birthday, Paul Harris!

19 April marks the 152nd anniversary of our founder's birth. Celebrate with a gift to The Rotary Foundation today.

GIVE TODAY: rotary.org/donate



ROTARY'S MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR INDIA, LITHUANIA AND KENYA

(continued from page 8)

Social workers hold women's educational and personal therapy groups, enable empowerment through job placements, and diffuse conflicts among family members. The team also adopted culturally relevant educational methods such as street-plays to address stigma related to mental illness.

The partnerships of the MAANASI clinic are now developing a cloud-based database to help organize data, assess outcomes and evaluate progress by employing evaluation tools used worldwide in quantifying symptoms and ascertaining progress. The database will be the first of its kind in village settings, used and supported by women who are local residents, and coordinated by the use of hand-held tablets by the CHWs. This task is not without its hardships, such as difficult internet access in remote areas. The goal is to develop and sustain a model that can be deployed through Rotary-driven partnerships worldwide in LMICs.

One innovative out-of-the-box solution such as the MAANASI program, combines the efforts of philanthropists, medical personnel, and local leaders to identify and tap resources, and volunteer their efforts to implement care using female residents of the villages. Over two decades it has been noted that these trained and supported CHWs are able to successfully identify needs and help treat clients, since the dire need is to assist depressed women in the world. The program also addressed treatment of male clients with alcohol abuse, and children with epilepsy and neurological difficulties.

Viable partnerships across continents are not easy to create and establish.

However, the Rotary International World and St. John's Medical College have demonstrated that volunteer efforts, vision, and sustained support can accomplish more than what individuals, institutions or governments are able to, in rendering mental healthcare to the neediest.

In summary, I have now provided a vehicle for mental health care with PDG Jay's support and with others, particularly with the help of Rotarians, using a low cost integrated model in 3 countries: **India** for a population reach of over 2 million, 211 villages for 22 years; **Lithuania** for the whole country for a population reach of 2.79 million with a phenomenal input from Rotarians and PDGs especially Vygintas Grinis for the last 3 years (2 visits with travel countrywide) and now in **Kenya** in Bungoma County with a population reach of 1.67 million, to be supported by a Global Grant application in progress.

I have been invited to help in several countries but it takes time to set up, support and finance the model.

The key factors that make it a success are: hands on work by Rotarians in the recipient country, input and linkage with academic centers to conduct research, teach, mentor and collect data on outcomes, publish papers citing the contributions of Rotary, and the training and continued supervision of local village women or community health workers to sustain care.

We also provide vocational training, empower women to become economically independent through becoming seamstresses (established tailoring center), donating cows to each worker (Kenya), helping with education and literacy, and so on.

We have built restrooms, provided transportation, cross-trained caseworkers in other common medical disorders, educated and re-educated villagers in cooperatives and village schoolrooms. We have sponsored and taught visitors from abroad to our centers. We have provided nutritious meals for workers. We have promoted immunization and prevention in all villages.

We have established and run a Rotarian Action Group for Mental Health Initiatives that a Canadian Rotarian and I started. He passed away but Bonnie Black, a PDG from New York, is now the Chair. We have 30+ countries involved and we train and disseminate information to Rotarians from other countries,

We have also talked to the Fellowship of Rotarian Doctors (400 of us from 50 countries) to explain how to do this elsewhere.

There are many subprojects within these projects. My hope is that if we form a Doctors and Medical Professional Fellowship here in District 7620, we can train younger Rotarians to carry on the work. It has worked in India and now Kenya; my mentee nurse is now independently going to Kenya to update them.

Finally, we are developing a cloud-based database in India to be used by low and middle income countries with identified social determinants of care delivery and compliance that we as Rotarians plan to donate to all LMICs. It costs us about \$78,000 annually for the entire effort.

For more information, please contact Dr. Geetha Jayaram, District Governor 2021-22, districtgovernor2122@gmail.com.

HOWARD U ROTARACT CELEBRATED ROTARACT WEEK



*By Javoniel R. Trowers,
President, Rotaract
Club of Howard
University*

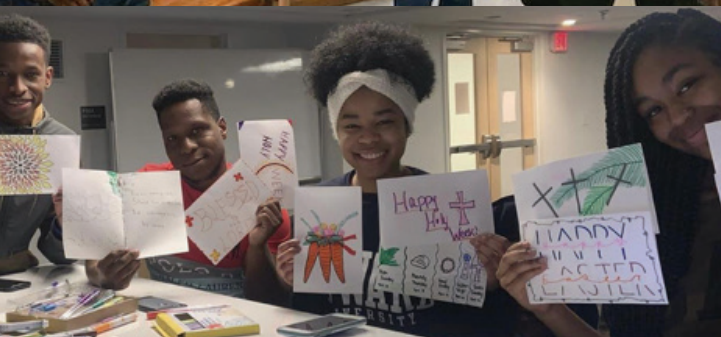
The Rotaract Club of Howard University held its Rotaract Week from Saturday March 7th to Wednesday March 11th. We started our week making cards for the elderly of Little Sisters of the Poor and ended our week on a photoshoot social called "Pop-up Flic' Up". A highlight from the week was on Tuesday when we held an event called "Rotary Around The World". That event showcased videos of projects developed by

Rotarians internationally and the "End Polio Now" initiative (with a kahoot quiz about polio). We also used that event as a way to platform a student project to build a road in Haiti. The main message is that solutions in our community can be used to solve problems elsewhere and vice versa. Please follow us on Instagram and Twitter at @hurotaract.

ANNAPOLIS ROTARY IN ROTARIAN MAGAZINE

Excerpted from the April 2020 Rotarian Magazine, page 36

The Rotary Club of Annapolis, Maryland, partnered with a local environmental organization and a composting company to make its annual crab feast zero-waste for the past seven years. The event uses compostible cups, trays, and utensils, and composts all food waste. Each year more than 14.5 tons of waste is composted.



[Above] For their first event of World Rotaract Week, the HU Rotaract Club spent their morning designing cards for Little Sisters of the Poor Retirement home for their Holy Week from April 14-21. They also hosted a week full of events including an info session for prospective members and a social photoshoot.

APPLICANTS NEEDED! FRANCE - USA PEACE SEMINAR



Applicants are needed for the France - USA **Positive Peace Seminar** to be held from October 22 - 24, 2020 in Rennes, France. In continuity with the first two seminars sponsored by the Rotary France-USA Intercountry Committee, (Paris France, October 2016 & New Orleans, LA, USA, October 2018), the Committee will be holding its third peace seminar intended to give opportunity to younger generations to prepare themselves to reflect on peace in the world and global issues. This seminar will be sponsored in cooperation with Rotary French Districts 1650 and 1720, multiple USA Districts, the [Institute for Economics and Peace](#) and [Rotary International](#). It will be a three-day, interactive workshop aimed at deepening participants' understanding of Positive Peace, its relevance for their own work and communities and enable them to become peace building leaders.

Applicants must be in a Masters' level program or higher. This [website](#) contains the [application](#) and detailed [seminar information](#). Contact Bart Cleary for additional information.

CONFLICT AND DISPLACEMENT ONLINE SEMINARS

Learn about innovative approaches to prevent and mitigate the impact of conflict and displacement on development. To register, go to www.WashingtonGlobalRotary.org/Speakers

APRIL 21, 2020

IMPACT OF FORCED DISPLACEMENT ON HOST COMMUNITIES



Paolo Verme is a Lead Economist at the World Bank and Head of Research and Impact Evaluations in the Fragility, Conflict and Violence group at the World Bank. He holds a PhD from the London School of Economics. He will talk about the impacts of forced displacement on host communities and their implications for policy.

MAY 5, 2020

GENDER DYNAMICS AND CONFLICT PREVENTION



Ayse Kadayifci-Orellana is a Professor and Research Affiliate with the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security and a Senior Fellow at the Center for Global Peace. She is also a Rotarian from the Rotary Club of Metro Bethesda. She will talk about gender dynamics in conflict, and Muslim women's role in peacebuilding initiatives.

MAY 19, 2020

LEVERAGING HUMANITARIAN DATA IN AFGHANISTAN



Nandini Krishnan is a Senior Economist at the World Bank. She holds a PhD from Boston University. Together with **Hisham Esper**, she will talk about a new joint World Bank-IOM-UNHCR initiative in Afghanistan to leverage data collected by humanitarian organizations to learn about the causes and consequences of displacement.

About us: We are a dynamic and global Rotary club with a majority of women and 40% under 40. We use our professional skills in our service work and create learning opportunities for our members. Our dues are low so that all who want to can join.

Rotary 
Club of Washington Global



[Above] 1. Rotary Club of Annapolis Past Presidents Cynthia McBride and Chara Hutzell; 2. Rotarians Sue Weber, Pam Urnoway, Rotary Club of Annapolis president, Rev. Dr. Carletta Allen, Carolyn Richards, and Kevin Hurley, with Special Olympics development services manager Claire Huston, second from right; 3. Rotarians Frank Hurd, Jeff Neufeld, Leigh Rand, Frank Andracchi, Bea Carson, Dave Rand; 4. Athlete John Wolfe and Special Olympics Maryland CEO Jim Schmutz; 5. Mary McLaughlin and Rotarian Michael Walsh. Photos courtesy of Dave Mattingley and Donald E. Roland.



The Annapolis Rotaract club volunteered at Rotary's Black Tie & Diamonds event at The Graduate Hotel. They spent their time helping with the silent and live auctions, raffles sales, and pledge appeals to benefit the Maryland Special Olympics.

ANNAPOLIS ROTARY RAISED \$54,000 FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS

By Anne Myers, Annapolis Rotary Public Relations

The Rotary Club of Annapolis' Black Tie & Diamonds gala held March 7, 2020 raised \$54,000 for Special Olympics Maryland. The glittering event at Graduate Annapolis Hotel was the 17th iteration of the gala and continued the Club's long history of raising funds to benefit the community.

Special Olympics provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in

27 Olympic-type sports, providing opportunities for individuals with intellectual disabilities to develop fitness, demonstrate courage, and experience joy with friends, family, and the community.

Gala Co-Chairs Sue Weber, Pam Urnoway, and Kevin Hurley hosted over 200 guests with a gourmet dinner, music, and dancing. The silent and live auctions, managed by Carolyn Richards, included trips, one-of-a-kind collectibles, and diamond earrings donated by Zachary's Jewelers.

For more information, contact Frank Andracchi, 410-615-0460 or frankandracchi@gmail.com, and visit www.annapolisrotary.org.

IN MEMORIAM: ED CAPPUCILLI

On March 7, 2020, Ed's giving and generous heart suddenly and sadly stopped beating. Ed, beloved husband of **Judy Cappuccilli** of 43 years, and Doggie Daddy to Maddie and Rusty, was born in Fall River, Massachusetts on May 2, 1943 to the late Elizabeth Tavares and Edmund D. Cappuccilli, Sr.

He is survived by his brother Michael [Lisa], and nieces and nephews, Joshua Cappuccilli [Karen], Tommaso Vannelli [Sabrina], and Liz, Jessie, and Joe Cappuccilli. Ed grew up in Warren, RI, the eldest of four children, including Michael, Peter, and Mary Lou. He graduated from the University Of Rhode Island and served in the US Army. Upon honorable discharge, he completed a Master's degree in Organic Chemistry at the University Of Maryland. For the next 37 years, Ed worked for the Federal Government, with the Environmental Protection Agency for the first few years, and ended his distinguished career as a senior analyst with the US International Trade Commission. In 1977, Ed married Judy, the love of his life. Together, they enjoyed many interests, including boating, golfing, gardening, travel, and volunteer work with the Rotary Club of Prince George's County. Ed enjoyed helping with both community service projects and fundraising projects, including more than 15 years working at a concession stand at FED Ex Field during Redskins home games. Ed was a Rotary Paul Harris Fellow, and along with Judy, they were major donors to The Rotary Foundation. Ed also loved auctions, the art of the deal, and collecting lots of Stuff! Ed, a kind, gentle, and generous man was blessed with many friends who already miss him greatly. A mass of Christian Burial will take place on May 2, 2020 at 10AM at St. Alexander Catholic Church, 221 Main Street, Warren Rhode Island 02885, followed by burial in his family's plot in St Alexanders Cemetery. Donations can be made, in memory of Ed, to The Rotary Club of Prince George's County Foundation, c/o Sharon Tolliver Wilson, PO Box 782, Lanham, MD 20703, or Disaster Aid USA, 9817 Lanham Severn Road, Lanham, MD 20706

ROTARY STRATEGIES IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

(continued from page 3)

- Asks members or “guest speakers” to record video presentations to promote through social channels.

Have a member with an interesting hobby like beekeeping? Any business owners getting creative during the pandemic? Have members who are passionate about particular service projects? Ask them to share a self-recorded video!

- These can be recorded simply using a cell phone. Try to limit video recordings to 5-6 minutes maximum.
- Remember to write engaging posts that encourage members and guests to interact with the content.
- Facebook Live is a great tool for short presentations featuring your members with interesting hobbies, because the audience can ask questions in real-time that the presenter can answer on the spot.

Engagement through Service (from Afar)

Of course, the BEST way to engage members is the same in-person or on-line! Get creative with ways to keep the spirit of service alive with your members!

Donate As always, you can ask members to donate to The Rotary Foundation (hint: use the array of Rotary assets including videos to promote; all available on My Rotary). Other considerations include initiating “friendly competitions” with other clubs to see which can raise the most money for a particular focus area or fund to earn “bragging rights” (or maybe the “losing” club has to provide the manual labor for the

winning club’s future project). Get creative and use this opportunity to bolster promotion of opportunities for Rotarians to give.

Spread Goodwill

- Choose a local charity and ask all members to highlight it using their social channels. Choose a new charity each week! This is a great way to leverage the influence of Rotarian leaders to elevate causes that matter to your local community (and it might even sprout a future project collaboration!).
- Coordinate with local hospitals or nursing homes for members to send cards or letters to combat loneliness from isolation in facilities that have limited visitors.



- Ask members to make blankets for My Very Own Blanket or similar organizations
- Challenge members to look through their homes and sort items that can be donated to charity. Once it is safe to do so, hold a group donation day to a local charity thrift store (remember to take pictures!).
- Ask members to record themselves reading children’s books and post through your club’s social channels for parents to share with their children for “alt-tv time” during school closures.
- Start a gift card drive. Ask members to purchase gifts cards (bonus points if it’s a local small business) and then mail them along with a note from the Rotarian to organizations that would

be able to put them to good use

Creative Engagement Strategies

Chain Letters - Start a good old-fashioned-chain letter to engage members. See resources below for a template of an easy example to distribute via email.

Pen Pals - Develop a relationship with another club near or far to start “Rotary Pen Pals.” See the sample invitation letter. This is a great way to strike up a relationship with someone you’ve met at an International Convention or a District Conference. Invite the partnering club to share mailing addresses for their members and then assign each one to a member of your own club to start exchanging letters.

“Crash” an E-Club!

- Share information about e-clubs with your members. Some e-clubs hold “virtual meetings” and some

include online content. Anyone can peruse the websites of e-clubs and get inspired for other ways to maintain engagement without in-person meetings (they are the experts, after all!)

Board Buddies - Assign each of your board members (and possibly committee chairs) to 5-6 club members and ask them to maintain regular contact to foster engagement

I would like to thank [Rotary.org](https://www.rotary.org), our Zone 33 Coordinator Team, sister District 6690 and the many resources available on the Zone 33/34 website for the ideas and material. We are lucky to be in good company from Pennsylvania to the southern Caribbean!

IN MEMORIAM: ARCHIE AVEDISIAN



On February 21, 2020, Archie Harry Avedisian passed away surrounded by loved ones after nearly 92 years of life. For 48 years, Archie worked in various leadership roles at Boys & Girls Clubs in Jamestown, NY; Brooklyn, NY; East St. Louis, IL; San Francisco, CA; Santa Rosa, CA; Seattle, WA; and greater Washington, DC. He was central to racially integrating East St. Louis, advocated for clubs to serve girls in addition to boys, was responsible for the addition of "& Girls" to the name of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington, and increased the operating budget of the Clubs of Greater Washington from \$190,000 to \$10.5 million growing it from 4 clubs to 35 clubs and branches during his tenure. Shortly after his retirement in 1998, Archie began working for the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association (WANADA) fundraising and recruiting for its auto technician training program, which provides free education and tools to aspiring auto technicians. At the time of his death, Archie was still employed at WANADA and had raised over \$1.25 million, helping place over 500 men and women in jobs as auto technicians. Archie received numerous accolades and awards for his philanthropy. However, Archie would be the first to tell you that he attributes his success to the support of his wife, Gloria, to whom he was extremely devoted. Archie is survived by his daughter and her husband, Deb and Bill



[Above] The Rotaract Club of UMD College Park had fun collaborating with UMD's Office of Community Engagement to set up boxes for the annual Good Neighbor Day. They also encouraged people to keep donating nonperishable foods to the community.

Whitelock, of Parkton, MD; his son and his wife, Tony and Chris Avedisian, of Woodbine, MD; and his grandchildren, Lindsey Avedisian, of Washington, DC, and Nick Avedisian, of Colorado Springs, CO. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Archie and Gloria Avedisian Scholarship Fund, 3173 Daisy Road, Woodbine, MD 21797. This charity was created over twenty years ago to honor Archie and his wife, Gloria, for their unwavering commitment.

"I encourage you, as leaders in your community, to provide whatever assistance your community needs at this time. Contact your local health authorities to learn what your Rotary club can do to help prepare for and respond to the COVID-19 outbreak."

- Mark Daniel Maloney, 2019-20 President, Rotary International



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