



OPEN FORUM

ROTARY 7620
NEWSLETTER
CENTRAL MD & DC



January 2021

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The Environment Workshop	1
Upcoming Events	2
Youth Exchange Proposal	2
Annapolis Rotary Rings Bell	2
Enviroclub District Awards	3
Rotary International's Service Partners	3
Aberdeen Rotary Club	4
District Governor for 2023-2024	4
Youth and Peace in Action	5
Clubs Donate COVID-19 PPE	6
Clubs Donate COVID-19 PPE	7
So. Harford Rotary Chef Series	7
Howard Business of the Month	7
Gaithersburg COVID-19 Relief	8
Rotaract Club News	9
RI and COVID-19 Vaccination	10
Rotary Foundation Highly Rated	10
Honduras Hurricane Relief	11
Broadneck Interact Club	11
International Service Calendar	12
Annapolis Rotary Service Projects	13
Trees for the Capital	14
Interact Club News	14
In Memoriam: Michael Harrison	15
Quote of the Month	15
District Conference April 23 & 24	16

“THE ENVIRONMENT” WORKSHOP ON JANUARY 16, 2021

*by Dr. Christopher F. Puttock, ESRAG Chair
2019-2021*

January is Vocational Service Month for Rotary International, and we are having a webinar for the Environment. Perfect timing. This provides us with a really great opportunity to investigate the vocations and service that are now available through this new area of focus. Also see the brief video from Rotary International President Holger Knaack at www.ifixthepplanet.org.

We will be looking at the different aspects that can be covered within Rotary projects through the addition of the “Environment”. There are some important overlaps with the other six areas of focus. Therefore, this webinar-workshop is timely for everyone in Rotary. I encourage all Rotarians, Rotaractors and Interactors in the District to join us in exploring what in the natural and in the built environment is under the purpose, goals, and parameters of this new area of focus. You will be surprised by what isn't here.

Under five broad domains (breakout rooms) we will workshop Rotary projects that fulfill the prospects, goals, and vocations of this new area of focus (AOF). Our domains for vocations and environmental service are:

1. **Planetary health** - a) healthy air, b) healthy land, c) healthy soil, and d) healthy water. Our nexus is with AOF water and sanitation: providing clean water, sanitation and hygiene.

2. **Biodiversity** - a) preventing biodiversity loss, b) ecosystem health and restoration, c) sustainable food production, and d) environmental resilience.

3. **Clean energy** - a) solar, b) wind, c) water and wave, d) other sources: thermal, nuclear, hydrogen, biofuels, others.

4. **Circular economy** - a) design, production, and marketing b) transportation and connected communities, c) responsible consumption-reduction, and d) reuse, repurpose, recycle. Our nexus is with AOF economic and community development: growing local economies

5. **Wellbeing and Resilience** - a) a healthy environment, b) a wealthy environment, c) a happy environment, and d) a just environment. People find themselves caught between their built environment and the natural environment. Our nexus is with three AOF maternal and child health: saving mothers and children; disease prevention and treatment: fighting disease; and peace and conflict prevention/ resolution: promoting peace.

Yes, the AOF that is missing is basic education and literacy: supporting education. Education is fundamental to all we do. It holds the key to all the domains, and the environment provides instructional tools everywhere. Also missing is monitoring and measurement. These are key elements to sustainability: economic, social, cultural, and environmental.

There are vocational opportunities throughout the natural and built environments. The goal of our workshop is to engage the Rotary family in finding which activities can match with people's gainful employment, not only locally but across the world, and in doing so, doing good for the place where we live, and for our sustainable future.

Please join us for “The Environment” Workshop on Saturday morning, 8:30-11:30am, January 16, 2021. Register at <http://www.rotary7620.org/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 16
The Environment Workshop

January 23
Virtual Pre-PETS 2021

February 23
Rotary's Anniversary

April 23 and 24
Rotary District Conference
Graduate Annapolis Hotel in
downtown Annapolis. Two
days of action packed events,
breakout sessions and hands-on
projects.

June 6-10, 2021
Rotary International Convention
Taipei, Taiwan

[Below] Photos courtesy of Donald E. Roland. Annapolis Rotary Breakfast Group friends support the Salvation Army fundraiser: Elaine Shanley, Trish Farrell, and Barb Eilertsen. Rotarian Fred Fishback and his golden retriever visit Trish Farrell and Elaine Shanley at the Salvation Army Red Kettle at the foot of Main Street.

DISTRICT CLUBS SUPPORT PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH AN RI YOUTH EXCHANGE STANDING COMMITTEE

By Andrew Baum, PDG 2001-2002 and Council on Legislation Representative 2020-2023, and Jimmie Gorski, District Governor

We are pleased to report that the majority of the clubs in our district have cast votes in favor of an enactment to the RI Bylaws creating a Standing Committee on Youth Exchange. Our clubs and club presidents have demonstrated leadership and teamwork and have shown support of our youth and youth programs.

During this holiday season, we express to all our thanks and sincere appreciation for what you have done for our district. We look forward to your continued support in the coming year.

Wishing you Happy Holidays and a Joyous New Year.



NEW ROTARY AREA OF FOCUS

Supporting the Environment

JOIN US VIRTUALLY TO LEARN ABOUT

ROTARY & THE ENVIRONMENT

SAT, JANUARY 16, 2021
8:30AM - 11:30AM



REGISTER AT [ROTARY7620.ORG](https://rotary7620.org)

A new era unfolds at Rotary International. Rotary now engages in all issues relevant to humanity with its recent addition of the environment as an area of focus. Join this workshop to learn more about biodiversity loss, clean energy, human pollution, hunger, poverty, emissions and other important topics.

Rotary
District 7620

ANNAPOLIS ROTARY RINGS SALVATION ARMY BELL

By Anne Myers, Annapolis Rotary Public Relations

Rotarians are "ringing the bells," the sound of the season, to support the Salvation Army's traditional holiday fundraiser. Rotarians Jim Dolezal and Carole Brown have managed the Rotary's Red Kettle site at the foot of Main Street downtown for the last 10 years. They have engaged

numerous Rotarians, friends, local companies, and community organizations to join in bell ringing at the festive corner of Main Street daily from the Friday after Thanksgiving to Christmas Eve, except on Sundays. For safety this year, all volunteers will be wearing PPE and maintaining appropriate distancing.

Donations made to the Salvation Army provide food, shelter, utility and rent assistance, and other services to our neighbors in need. Because of the pandemic, requests to the Salvation Army for help have increased significantly this year, yet donations are down - including those made to the kettle - as people are not out and about as they normally would be. To make up for the expected shortfall in vital contributions, on-line kettle donations can be made to the Salvation Army on our Rotary Club's website at:

www.annapolisrotary.org/kettle.



ROTARY DISTRICT ENVIROCLUB AWARDS

Dr. Christopher F. Puttock, District Environment Committee Chair; ESRAG Chair 2019-2021

Many environmental problems are facing the world today: loss of biodiversity and habitat degradation; water, food, and energy insecurity; waste management and pollution leading to global warming/climate change.

The EnviroClub Awards Program is a progressive criteria-based system where a club first works for a "Bronze" Award before progressing to a "Silver" Award and finally a "Gold" Award. The EnviroClub Award recognition is available to any Rotary, Rotaract, or Interact Club in the District.

Basic criteria for recognition for an EnviroClub Award are as follows:

1. A club has an Environmental Committee and Chair, or a key person in another Committee, such as their Service Committee who holds the title of Environmental Officer.
2. There are no specific environmental projects in which a Club must participate for any level of Award. The objectives are to:
 - Recognize existing or beginning environmental initiatives* (Bronze)
 - Encourage further development of their environmental initiatives (Silver)
 - Develop new more challenging environmental initiatives (Gold)
3. Environmental projects can span many avenues of service, such as Community Service, International Service, and Youth Service.
4. The EnviroClub recognition is an annual award. It is progressive designed to advance yearly, starting with a Bronze Award and moving towards Silver and Gold Awards.

The application form for the EnviroClub Awards will be available on the website on January 1, 2021 or soon after.

The closing date for applications will be 23:59pm ET, March 31, 2021. Applications for an EnviroClub Award are forwarded to the District

Environmental Sustainability Officer (DESO) who reviews the submission with members of the District Environment Committee (with input from the District Governor, Assistant Governors or District Chairs, as appointed). The final decision to approve the award is made by the District Governor. The District Governor will present a certificate to each club that meets the requirements for an Award at either a club meeting, a District event, or District Conference.

Separately, individual Rotarians are also encouraged to be catalysts for environmental action in their communities. Should a person emerge as an Environmental Champion for the District, that person may be acknowledged by the District Governor. This award is for outstanding merit and may not be awarded annually.

*Initiatives are activities, events, projects, or programs.

For more information:

Contact: Dr. Christopher F. Puttock
Chair District 7620 Environment Committee

Mobile: 202-262-9773

Email: christopher.puttock@gmail.com

CONNECT WITH ROTARY'S SERVICE PARTNERS

By Kiki Melonides, DISC Rotary Service & Engagement

Rotary's service and project partners are finding creative ways to connect while gathering in person is difficult. Look at what they're doing and get inspired.

Ashoka: The organization is supporting social entrepreneurs in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America who have innovative approaches to the COVID-19 crisis. Changemakers United has grown into a global coordinated effort connecting social

innovators and leaders from business and philanthropy. Ashoka offers regionally organized virtual events for innovators.

Habitat for Humanity: The housing nonprofit has continued its mission in the midst of COVID-19, making strides in advocacy, microfinancing, and community reinvestment. Its +You series brings together experts from around the world for streaming events to discuss significant issues in housing, including housing and health, the effect of the pandemic on low-income families, racial inequity in housing, and more.

Mediators Beyond Borders International:

MBBI is encouraging people to understand that global problems require collaboration, creative problem solving, and consensus-building. It believes now is a critical time for people to use communication and empathy to reduce prejudices and stay connected. Learn how to facilitate these conversations in your community with the town hall resource guide and other online resources.

Peace Corps: Rotary members who have also served in the Peace Corps can help the agency celebrate its 60th anniversary by sharing their Peace Corps experience. The Through the Decades series honors the legacy, volunteers, and the communities that have been served. Help represent your decade and share a story and images about your experience as a volunteer, supporter, or host community leader or member.

ShelterBox: The organization is working alongside Rotary and Rotaract clubs to respond to emergency shelter needs around the world, including those caused by severe weather in the Philippines and hurricanes that battered Central America. ShelterBox has adapted and scaled its response during the pandemic while continuing to work with local partners. Learn more from its weekly virtual updates.

DELORES EDWARDS HARDING TO LEAD ROTARY DISTRICT IN 2023-24

By Governor Jimmie Gorski

The District 7620 Nominating Committee has selected Delores Edwards Harding of the Baltimore Rotary Club to lead District 7620 in 2023-2024. Delores will work closely over the coming years with current Governor Dr. Jimmie Gorski, and incoming Governors Dr. Geetha Jayaram (2021-2022) and Dr. Sean McAlister (2022-2023).



Delores earned her Bachelor's Degree in Spanish, with a concentration in Foreign Affairs from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, VA. She has also earned a Master's Degree in Student Development in Higher Education (Educational Leadership), and a Juris Doctor Degree from the American University in Washington, DC.

On behalf of District 7620, I thank all the Rotarians involved in the District Governor Selection process. Please join me in welcoming our new DGN-D Delores Edwards Harding. (Please see her bio below)

Yours in Rotary,

Jimmie

Delores Edwards Harding Bio

A Rotarian since 2006, District Governor Nominee-Designate (DGN-D) Delores presently serves as an Area Governor for six Area 2 Clubs. Delores is a member of the Board of Directors for her home club and has held several leadership roles including the following: Club President 2017-2018, President-Elect, Invocation Committee Chair, Membership Chair, and Director of the Student Scholarship Fund. In addition to her various leadership roles, Delores is an engaged club member and has served on several club committees: Youth Service, International Service, and Community and Vocational Service.

As a lawyer, Delores formerly served as the Executive Director of the Maryland Legal Services Program within the Maryland Department of Human Resources (DHR). As part of DHR's Executive Leadership Team, Delores was responsible for managing the provision of contracted legal services to indigent adults involved in Adult Public Guardianship cases, and to vulnerable children involved in Children in Need of Assistance and Termination of Parental Rights (CINA/TPR) cases statewide. Prior to this position, Delores served as a child advocate and represented children in foster care for the Maryland Legal Aid Bureau, in the firm's Child Advocacy Unit. She provided a voice for children who were abused and/or neglected by their parents in Baltimore City.

As an entrepreneur and consultant, Delores has coordinated organizational leadership retreats and is adept at working with Executive-level leadership of non-profit organizations and churches in Virginia and Maryland. Her professional experience has been noteworthy in the arena of organizational conflict management, resolving internal and external organizational conflicts.

As a small business owner in Maryland, Delores provides direct sales to men and women in the skin care and color cosmetics industry.

As a Founding Member of the Greater Baltimore Leadership Association (GBLA) of the Greater Baltimore Urban League, Delores has spent over twenty years mentoring Young Professionals between the ages of 21-40 and has served as a role model for leadership for both the current and past administrations of GBLA.

Delores is a Diamond Life Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. She has been involved in providing public service through her sorority for over twenty-five years in Northern Virginia and Maryland.

For over twenty years, Delores has been a member of several Baptist Churches, where she served as a Steward (Trustee) and volunteer. She was a mentor and advocate for children in the church, and she was an advisor to the Pastor and members of the congregation.

Delores was married to James in September, 2019, in Howard County, Maryland, where they currently reside. In her free time, Delores enjoys animals and long walks in natural surroundings. She also enjoys listening to motivational and spiritual messages, and reading books on leadership and entrepreneurship. According to Delores, her life's call is to be of service to others, to walk humbly, and to uplift others with her faith.



[Above] Aberdeen Rotary Club President Teresa Stout and Rotarian Gary Barnoff presented an oversized check for \$10,000 to Sara Garbarino, Senior Director of Resource Development for The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region.

[Below] Aberdeen Rotary Club President Teresa Stout was thrilled to present a check to fellow Rotarian Derek DeWitt, Executive Director of Boys & Girls Clubs of Harford and Cecil Counties, in the amount of \$25,000. Rotarian Dave Lynch, Vice President of Ferrell Fuel Co., Inc, also presented a check from Ferrell Fuel to Derek in the amount of \$10,000.



YOUTH AND PEACE IN ACTION: ENGAGING 100,000 COMMUNITY PEACEBUILDERS

“Would you like more Peace?”

New Peace Education Initiative

By May Yoneyama O'Brien, District International Service Committee Co-chair

Two Rotary Peace Fellows, Ana Patel and Patricia Shafer, announced a new Peace education initiative, “Youth & Peace in Action (YPA): Engaging 100,000 Community Peacebuilders,” at the Rotary Zone 33/34 Leadership Summit on November 21, 2020. Ana opened the “IMPACT” Breakout by asking Rotarians, “Would you like more Peace?” The Peace Fellows outlined plans to create models for peace education, training, and mentoring for the new zone-wide education project to begin in 2021-22. Rotarians, clubs and districts will be provided “YPA” road maps and toolkits and will be offered many opportunities to participate in the new program.

RI Director Peter Kyle is leading this signature initiative, and, as former chair of the Rotary Peace Centers, has been involved in Rotary’s peacebuilding agenda for years. Inspired by the work of Rotary Peace

Fellows, Peter, Ana and Patricia together have designed a project that they believe could “harness the enormous potential . . . that Rotarians have to become community Peacebuilders.”

Peter pointed to the already existing peace education resources in Rotary

is composed of nine states, Washington, DC, most countries in the Caribbean, and three countries in South America.

Ana Patel described the motivation for the program:

“Rotary was created to take on bold and ambitious goals. Polio, hunger, and clean water are some of the many initiatives that the united work of thousands of Rotarians has resulted in global impacts and progress. And yet, all of these goals also require peace. They require peaceful communities where all people have the opportunity to reach their highest potential.

“Peacebuilding is the ultimate work of Rotary. From its history in establishing the United Nations to the expanding work of the Peace Centers, Rotary was established to further the work of peace through community and service, club by club, district by district, and zone by zone. In zones 33 and 34 we have an opportunity to develop a model for translating the Rotary

goal of peacebuilding into real action on the ground, a model, I believe, that will influence and inspire Rotarians across the world.

(continued on page 8)



Zones 33/34, including the Duke-UNC Rotary Peace Center in North Carolina, the 144 Peace Fellows, and several Rotary Peace clubs and districts. The pilot project will begin in Zones 33/34, which

EIGHT ROTARY CLUBS PROVIDE 50,000 ITEMS OF PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT TO CONGREGATE LIVING FACILITIES IMPACTED BY COVID-19

By Gerri Berman, Treasurer, Rotary Club of Southern Frederick County, Project Manager for Global PPE Grant and Peter Notari, President, BWI Rotary Club

Project: Provide Personal Protection Equipment to Congregate Living facilities impacted by COVID.

The BWI Rotary Club, (Rotary Club of BWI Airport), in conjunction with Rotary clubs from Frederick, Montgomery, and Howard Counties and the Rotary Club of Purulia (West Bengal, India), have raised funds for the purchase of PPE supplies for distribution to Assisted Living facilities impacted by the second wave of COVID. Over the past few weeks shipments have arrived in Urbana, MD for distribution. In the past week, BWI Rotary distributed PPE supplies to eight Assisted Living facilities in Linthicum, Glen Burnie, and Pasadena.

Arundel County facilities: A & E Homecare; Abraham's Garden

Assisted Living, Inc.; G and C Care Assisted Living; Inspirations Memory Care of Linthicum; Oak Lodge Senior Home; Peartree House, Inc.; Unlimited Solutions Adult Care; Walker's Group Assisted Living.

What we provided:

We worked with the Facility Administrators to understand what PPE was needed. We put together assistance packages for each of the facilities that contained items of PPE, including Surgical Masks, N95 Respirators, Face Shields, Eye Protection, Boxes of Gloves, Gowns.

Who we Helped:

Twenty eight facilities across Maryland (Rotary District 7620). Including facilities in Frederick, Howard, Anne Arundel, and Montgomery Counties.

Who we are:

Eight Maryland Rotary Clubs:
Rotary Clubs of Southern

Frederick County, Fredericktowne, Montgomery Village, Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Potomac, Columbia Town Center, Howard West and BWI Airport.

International Sponsor: Rotary Club of Purulia West Bengal, India

Global Grant from The Rotary Foundation

District Grant from Rotary District 7620

Disaster Aid USA – 501c3 - Rotarians providing International and Domestic Disaster Response

Funding:

The Eight Clubs above, along with the International Sponsor and Disaster Aid USA, worked together to raise \$19,500 then applied to Rotary District 7620 for a Grant of \$15,000 and to The Rotary Foundation for a Global Grant of 22,750 for a total of \$57,250 in Project funds. Over 50,000 items of PPE were distributed.

[Below L-R] Inspirations – Bruce Fink, BWI Rotary member; G and C Care – Carolyn Cabauatan; Oak Lodge – Jay Lee; Peartree – Rena Buckreis.



COLUMBIA ROTARY DONATED \$60,000 IN PPE TO FIGHT COVID-19

By Ana Faguy, Howard County Times,
December 14, 2020 [Excepted]

target of \$60,000 to meet the counties' needs.

According to Cecil Phillips, 78, public relations chair for the Rotary Club of Columbia Town Center, the nine clubs together raised \$15,000, funds that were matched through a Rotary district grant. The group also received \$22,750 through a Rotary global grant, and \$4,000 from Disaster Aid USA, a national Rotary project that assists U.S. Rotary districts, clubs, and members in times of disaster.

Early in the summer, the Rotary clubs contacted the counties to see what was available in their stockpiles; then clubs called every assisted-living facility in their respective counties to see what was needed and where, according to Berman.

"The idea [was] to provide PPE in anticipation of a second wave," said Berman, an Urbana resident. "We were anticipating that during a second wave it would be hard to acquire PPE again, and we were right — people are starting to run short."

According to Berman, the groups were able to purchase and donate 40,000 three-ply masks, 3,000 N95 respirators, 400 safety goggles, 400 face shields, 5,000 gowns and 1,500 boxes of gloves.

Phillips, a Columbia resident, said Rotary members met in a parking lot to separate and distribute the supplies among the 28 facilities. Afterward, the members delivered the PPE to the respective facilities.

"This is an ongoing process. The need in Howard County is absolutely astonishing," Phillips said.

Showunmi said she's hopeful the current supplies can last the facilities for the next three months. She said if the opportunity presents itself, the Rotary Club of Columbia Town Center will continue to raise funds and apply for grant opportunities.

Since the beginning of November, the Rotary Club of Columbia Town Center has donated nearly \$60,000 worth of personal protective equipment to 28 local senior care facilities, nine of which are in Howard County.

With the help of eight other Rotary clubs in Howard, Montgomery,

Frederick, and Anne Arundel counties, the Rotary Club of Columbia Town Center raised funds, organized and supplied local facilities with necessary PPE amid the coronavirus pandemic.

"When [COVID-19] happened, we identified the need quickly and tried to see if we could bridge the gap between getting PPE and helping the different organizations financially," said Harsana Showunmi, 42, president of the Columbia Rotary club.

Showunmi, an Ellicott City resident, said the idea originated in a weekly Rotary meeting, when club member Alvin Thompson, a 72-year-old Columbia resident, mentioned an existing need for PPE at Winter Growth Howard Center, an assisted living facility in Columbia. That idea transformed into a multicounty project.

Columbia Rotary members, including Showunmi, began reaching out to local Rotary clubs to join forces, bringing nine clubs together for the effort.

Gerardine Berman works as the treasurer of the Rotary Club of South Frederick County and was one of the individuals brought on board. Berman, 55, worked to secure funding and apply for grants to reach the group's



Cooking With Chef Lou Piero!

Dramatic Dinners and Wine Pairings

A Three-Part Virtual Series



[Above] Southern Harford County Rotary is having a three-part virtual series on "Cooking with Chef Lou Piero" beginning Friday, January 15, at 6:30pm.



[Above] The Rotary Clubs of Howard County are proud to announce Cindy's Spirits in Elkrige as their business of the month. Long term Elkrige residents Cindy and Tom Quick have owned and operated Cindy's Spirits since 2007. Cindy is also the Elkrige Rotary club president and comes from a family of Rotarians. Most recently, Cindy offered to sponsor the Pints for Polio event to raise funds to help eradicate Polio. Recognizing a Business of the Month is a new initiative sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of Howard County. To learn more go to <http://www.howardcountyrotarymaryland.org/> or contact AG Temrah Okonski at okonskitg@verizon.net

GAITHERSBURG ROTARY HELPS WITH COVID-19

By Ken Weiss, Gaithersburg Rotary Club

This year, the Gaithersburg Rotary Foundation added COVID-19 relief to its portfolio of grant awards and scholarships.

The thousands of U.S. Rotary Clubs cannot give tax exemptions, so most create 501c(3) foundations. The club in Gaithersburg formed one in 2003, and it has given numerous small grants to non-governmental organizations that work locally and in developing countries. This year, it has responded well to the COVID-19 pandemic. It has given grant funds to help Nourish Now provide food relief and to the Germantown and Gaithersburg “hubs” for assisting families affected by the virus. It recently awarded \$3,000 to Gaithersburg Family Services to help needy people make rent and utility payments.

Other foundation grants this year have gone to Imagination Library, the Little Free Library at Watkins Mill High School, The Bernie Scholarships, the Montgomery County Muslim Foundation for food distribution; the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association, to provide auto mechanic training; the Coins for Alzheimer’s Research Trust, Camp Fantastic for children with Cancer; SEEC, which helps persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities, the Rotary program named Disaster AID USA, and a project to provide water to a small town and a school in Haiti. This project is championed by the Rockville Rotary Club.

In addition, the Gaithersburg Rotary Foundation has awarded scholarships to graduating seniors in Gaithersburg High School (the Sam and Ester Eig Scholarship) and in Quince Orchard High School (the Linda M. Hanson Memorial Scholarship). These annual

awards help outstanding seniors to pay for college education.

YOUTH AND PEACE IN ACTION

(continued from page 5)

“We are calling it the “Million Dollar Peace Challenge.” A million dollars is a significant number. It is a number that translates, in this initiative, to over 100,000 young people having access to peace education training to the creation of up to a thousand youth-led peace projects. It is a number that provides more than 65,000 Rotarians in 1,700 clubs access to great content about positive peace and thousands of community members will be touched in the process. We estimate nearly 200,000 beneficiaries in just a year and a half for about the cost of a cup of Starbucks coffee. “Here today, I invite each of you to join us in this Million Dollar Challenge to put Rotary and young peacebuilders in the front lines of work to build bridges for positive change. Let’s be a force for peace in this world.”

Starting in July 2020, the Peter and Ana and Patricia, the Peace Fellows from the implementing partners NewGen Peacebuilders and Outward Bound Center for Peacebuilding, began planning and mapping out the action plans for “Champions for Peace.” Beginning in 2021, Rotary “Youth & Peace in Action” hopes to equip 65,000 Rotarians with toolkits and roadmaps, provide training at multi-districts PETS, and ask clubs and districts to commit to the youth-focused peace education program. More details will be announced when the initiative will be officially launched during Rotary Peace & Conflict Resolution month in February 2021.

Million Dollar Peace Challenge.

The organizers have already met the initial fundraising goal of \$61,000 for Phase One of the peace initiative, and 21 district governors of 31 districts have already invested in the program. Many of these “peace champion” districts are already providing input and critical feedback into the peace initiative. The organizers aim to scale up with the goal of creating 1,000 peace projects at schools and communities across the zones. Implementing Partners:

Patricia Shafer is Executive Director of NewGen Peacebuilders and Senior Fellow for Peace Education at the Alliance for Peacebuilding, composed of 110 organizations with a peace mission. NewGen Peacebuilders is an award-winning peace education, training, and mentoring organization focusing on youth ages 14-24 in achieving a peaceful world.

Ana Patel is a senior consultant and former Executive Director of the Outward Bound Center for Peacebuilding (OBCP) and is the RI Representative to UN Women. OBCP uses experiential learning to challenge and inspire leaders to learn and teach peace, working with 3,000 peacebuilding leaders from 25 countries.

For more information, fill out the interest form on the Zone 33-34 website or contact info@youthpeace.org. Also, Rotary international service partners, Mediators Beyond Borders, the Peace Corps, and the Institute for Economics and Peace have offices in Zones 33/34.



DISTRICT ROTARACT CLUB NEWS

By Monique S. Toussaint, District Rotaract Chair



[Above] The Rotaract Club of Howard County came together for some socially-distanced holiday decorating at Grassroots Crisis Center in Columbia on Saturday December 5, 2020.

[Below] Howard University Rotaract inducted 11 new members on December 12, 2020.



[Below] The Rotaract Club of Washington, DC held a cultural exchange with the Rotaract Club of Islamabad.



As we reach the midpoint of the Rotary Year, we celebrate our District 7620 Rotaract Clubs that continue to embrace the tenets of Rotary, membership,

meaningful community engagement, and matters of the world. Many of our 13 clubs are small but mighty. I'm grateful for my District Rotaract Committee, Rotary Club Sponsors, Rotaract Advisers, and Rotarians that continue to support Rotaractors as they work to serve the members of their campus and/or local communities.

If your club is interested in starting a Rotaract Club in your local community or university, please do not hesitate to contact my team at rotaract@rotary7620.org or me directly at rotarianmonique@gmail.com.

Below are the Rotaract events that occurred and/or were promoted on social media within District 7620 in the month of December.

The Rotaract Club of Annapolis held a community service event to make the holidays bright for local youth. On Thursday, December 10th at 6:00pm at the Annapolis Target, they picked out gifts for CASA kids and provided a little magic for the youth who need it most.

The Rotaract Club of Howard University (HU Rotaract)

During their last community service event, the Rotaract Club of Howard

University printed and delivered the greeting cards to orphanages in Jamaica that they made online via Canva. As a refresher, the card making event was a joint project with HU Rotaract, Rotaract Club of Georgetown University and the Rotaract Club of New Kingston in Jamaica, West Indies.

HU Rotaract inducted 11 new members on Saturday December 12, 2020. Their guest speaker was District Chair and HU Rotaract Adviser Monique Toussaint. Other special guests in attendance were Area Governor Mandy Warfield and newly inducted Dupont Rotary Member Mandi Osby who will be serving as their Rotary Liaison with Monique.

The Rotaract Club of Howard County

came together for some socially-distanced holiday decorating at Grassroots Crisis Center in Columbia on Saturday December 5th. This event has become an annual event for the club. Members and

friends look forward to supporting this local shelter each year to help spread the holiday love and cheer!

The Rotaract Club of University of Maryland College Park (UMD)

The Rotaract Club of UMD held a professional development workshop on resume building on December 4th.

The Rotaract Club of Washington, DC held a cultural exchange with the Rotaract Club of Islamabad where they shared and learned about different history, culture, and languages between both clubs.

Thanks for supporting Rotaract, and I look forward to continued success in 2021 and beyond.



ROTARY'S INVOLVEMENT WITH COVID-19 VACCINATION

By Governor Jimmie Gorski

As your District Governor, I often receive important emails from RI leaders which I share with you through your club presidents and Area Governors. Recently I received the following letter from RI President Holger Knaack and The Rotary Foundation Chair K.R. Ravindran.

A number of you have asked what Rotary's role will be with Covid-19 vaccination now that authorities have reported the long-awaited vaccine will soon become available. The letter answers this question and asks us as Rotarians to continue our important work to eradicate polio as we struggle against a global pandemic.

Yours in Rotary,

DG Jimmie Gorski

Dear District Governors,

In these difficult days, we are so heartened to receive such uplifting reports on the unrelenting efforts of our Rotary members who have responded in their communities against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Today, the single question we hear time and again as we traverse the virtual world is, "Are we getting involved with COVID vaccination?" Considering the success and expertise we have gained in our polio eradication effort, this question is both natural and timely.

The answer is yes. We will have an important role in the months ahead.

This does not mean we will deviate in any way from our avowed commitment to eradicating polio, which remains our highest priority and will continue to be our only corporate program. Polio vaccinations and surveillance activities must continue unabated, as must our effort to raise \$50 million per year for this effort.

But as we know, there is a pandemic sweeping the world. The Board of RI

and the Trustees of our Foundation met in joint session and have agreed that we have a role to play.

We ask you, then, to encourage your clubs to:

Utilize Rotary's knowledge of vaccine safety and efficacy based on our polio eradication experience to conduct vaccination education and communication outreach in your communities. This will need to be tailored to local contexts to address unique cultural and regional needs. Your leadership will be critical in crafting the appropriate messages and strategies.

Engage, where appropriate, with our current polio eradication partners WHO and UNICEF at the country level to offer Rotary's support to COVID-19 response activities, including vaccination efforts.

Partner at the local level with governments, corporations, and foundations to support Rotary activities at the country level.

Through hundreds of global grants and projects, Rotary members have demonstrated what we can accomplish to raise awareness, deliver critical personal protection equipment, and provide support for frontline health workers. As you learn of work being done in your area, please encourage clubs to add to the more than 3,000 projects already registered on [Rotary Showcase](#) (please log in to My Rotary first, and navigate to Rotary Showcase). We would like to know about them.

We have one final call to action: Help us combat the powerful, growing force of vaccine resistance and misinformation. Our advocacy in our communities will be critical — we need to spread the message about the power of vaccines to save lives.

Working together, we have done so much to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic, to care for our communities, and to prepare Rotarians for the work ahead.

We do this for ourselves and for future generations. We do this as part of our obligation to support our world as it faces the most significant challenge of this generation.

Thank you.

Holger Knaack
K.R. Ravindran

President, Rotary International
Chair, The Rotary Foundation

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION RECEIVES HIGHEST RATING

By Rotary International

For the 13th consecutive year, The Rotary Foundation has received the highest rating — four stars — from Charity Navigator, an independent evaluator of charities in the U.S.

The Foundation earned the recognition for adhering to sector best practices and executing its mission in a financially efficient way, demonstrating both strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency. Only one percent of the organizations Charity Navigator evaluates have received 13 consecutive 4-star evaluations.

"Your achievement and 4-star rating will enhance your organization's fundraising and public relations efforts," says Michael Thatcher, president and chief executive officer of Charity Navigator. "This exceptional designation sets the Foundation apart from its peers and demonstrates to the public its trustworthiness."

The rating reflects Charity Navigator's assessment of how the Foundation uses donations, sustains its programs and services, and practices good governance and openness.

DC ROTARY'S HONDURAS HURRICANE RELIEF

By Marilyn Nevy Cruz, Rotary Club of Washington, DC

The Rotary Club of Washington, DC continues to support the world with disaster relief funds.

This year has been challenging for all of us. A pandemic has changed the world. On November 5th, Hurricane Eta slammed Central America and specifically Honduras causing landslides and flooding that affected more than 2 million people according to the International Red Cross. As if this wasn't enough on November 15th Hurricane Iota entered to devastate the country even more. At least 15 of the 18 departments (states) of Honduras present geological conditions that have caused landslides. The Sula Valley—60% of the Gross Domestic Product of the country is produced in the valley—remains under water. The statistical recount from

Hurricane IOTA keeps increasing. According to the Permanent Contingency Commission (COPECO—acronym from Spanish Comisión Permanente de Contingencia), 75,144 people are in

846 opened shelters across the most affected areas. However, accessing basic commodities, such as food, clean drinking water, basic medicines, and masks for Covid-19, has proven difficult. As roads and even 71 highways and 7 major bridges remain flooded and/or destroyed, supply chains to shelters and isolated communities are heavily compromised. This unprecedented

double blow comes on top of the Covid-19 pandemic, which had already depleted government resources and left many people unemployed. No donation is too small and will have a tremendous impact of the lives of those hurting the most.

Because of this enormous disaster relief need, the Rotary Club of Washington, DC, awarded a grant to the Rotary Club of Merendon located in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. The grant assisted the victims of the recent hurricanes Eta and Iota, through Honduras Compassion Partners, an eligible 501(c)(3) in southern Maryland listed with a 100% score on charity navigator.

With our donation, the Rotary Club of Merendon will support families who lost their entire homes in San Pedro Sula. The Club will oversee providing all essential needs including food bags, clothes, beds, and linens. Honduras Compassion Partners is working with other local Rotary Clubs in the San Pedro Sula area such as the Rotary Club of La Paz.

BROADNECK INTERACT

By Vern Penner

As reported by Broadneck High School teacher adviser Julie Andrews and the BHS Interact Club president Rowan Pilarski, December has been a busy month for the IC with its google zoom meetings.

A major month-long project was collecting food donations for the Annapolis Light House shelter as illustrated by the poster for the "12 Days of Giving."

Broadneck IC collected enough cans, jars and packaged food to fill 10 large bags destined for the Lighthouse Shelter. They also sent 25 Santa letters for a day care center. Not a bad record for a virtual club at Christmas time!

Broadneck Interact Club's 12 Days of Giving



During the month of December, Broadneck Interact Club will be hosting a "12 Days of Giving" food drive for the Annapolis Lighthouse Shelter. On each day, pick the designated item out of your pantry or from the store. At the end, collect all of the items in a box/bag and bring them to the designated location. Happy Holidays!

Dec. 1st: Box of Cereal
Dec. 2nd: Jar of Peanut Butter
Dec. 3rd: Stuffing Mix
Dec. 4th: Boxed Potatoes
Dec. 5th: Macaroni and Cheese
Dec. 6th: Canned Fruit
Dec. 7th: Canned Tomatoes
Dec. 8th: Canned Tuna
Dec. 9th: Dessert Mix
Dec. 10th: Jar of Apple Sauce
Dec. 11th: Canned Sweet Potatoes
Dec. 12th: Canned Mixed Vegetables



DISTRICT INTERNATIONAL SERVICE COMMITTEE CALENDAR

Expand your international horizons!

By May Yoneyama O'Brien, District DISC co-chair

11 January – PEACE Rotary Action Group – Chat with the Chair, 5:00 PM. Ring in the New Year by building Peace with RAGFP Board Chair, Alison Sutherland, and by joining the latest Chat with the Chair meetings. Chat with the Chair started in April as a means for Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Peacebuilders to connect and discuss actions for Peace in a world being socially distant. Through these meetings, over 20 Peacebuilder Clubs from 10 nations worldwide have convened and taken action for Peace. Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/5336326427> Meeting ID: 533 632 6427

12 January – Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group Regional Chapter Meeting, 6:30-7:30 PM. Rob Altenburg will speak on solar power and the challenges of growing clean renewable generation. For more information, contact Jennie Lewis, ESRAG Eastern North American Regional Chapter Chair, easternna@esrag.org.

ZOOM -Link <https://esrag.zoom.us/j/89357348682?pwd=eWkwTlkwS2p3dUQ3N3FnOXJkM3hMQT09#success>

13 January – ESRAG Biodiversity Task Force meeting, 9:00 AM. Topic: Clean Air—Charlie Garlow will address clean air policy in general and climate in particular, including possible solutions: price on carbon, other market-based alternatives, planting billions of trees, carbon capture and storage, and other ideas. As an environmental lawyer, Charlie worked for nearly 30 years in DC, suing polluters who violated the Clean Air Act. He is an advocate for clean technologies, smart transportation alternatives, and alternatives to carbon based fuels. Charlie holds degrees from Harvard and WV U.Law School. A leader in the Citizens' Climate Lobby of Lower Delaware, he is a Rotarian and Paul Harris Fellow. For Zoom link, contact christopher.puttock@gmail.com.

14 January, 7pm, Repeated 15 January at 11 AM - WASRAG Webinar -- Nuts & Bolts of WASH Global Grants – MONITORING & EVALUATION, Part 3 – sponsored by the WASH Rotary Action Group and The Rotary Foundation.

Join us for the third of a three-part webinar series on global grants focused on WASH in Schools (WinS). This is a popular and informative webinar; Hundreds have participated in Part 1 & 2; slides and webinars are available at wasrag.org. Register for either day at WASRAG.org.

Also available at wasrag.org is the two-part program, **“World Water Summit 12– Making Partnerships Work.”**

14 January, 1:00 pm -- PEACE RAG -- Turkey Peacebuilders: Those who attended the Turkish Global Virtual Peace Conference over the weekend of 12th and 13th December will be well aware of what has been happening on this call. Since July, members of Rotary, Interact and Rotaract in Turkey have been meeting with the Chair and other interested Rotarians. The Peace Conference was mooted by the Turkish Rotarians, they grew a Committee, everyone on the call pitched in to help, both in the planning and in taking part in the actual conference. The rest is history! Over 64 countries in attendance. 1500 registrants. Speakers/Panelists from multiple countries, including Palestine, Israel, Cyprus. Join us on a Thursday, the journey has only just begun. They plan to do more! Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/5336326427> Meeting ID: 533 632 6427

15 January, 9:00 AM -- PEACE RAG - Hong Kong Peacebuilders: We are delighted to say that Hong Kong is one of three pilot Chapters of the RAGFP. The other two being Germany and Serbia. Hong Kong began their conversation on Chat with the Chair back in March. From there they formed their Chapter, brought 70 new members into the RAGFP, helped create 30 Peacebuilder Clubs, and put 55 Rotarians through the RI Peace Academy online training. They had a joint Multi-District Conference (District 3450 and

6690) in September, bringing together DG Eric Chak and DG Steve Heiser. Peter Kyle was the keynote speaker. They have undertaken much training, including Every Rotarian/Rotaractor is a Peacebuilder offered and presented by Tom Carlisi of Columbus, Ohio. They put on a fantastic display of the work of Rotary and they have Chartered and began the work of their Chapter. They welcome Rotarians from around the globe to join in this Chat on a Friday. Contact +1.503.505.5720 for details. Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/5336326427> Meeting ID: 533 632 6427

15 January – 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM and 16 January – 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM – B.I.G. Sale ! Books for International Goodwill's next book sale: 451 Defense Highway, Annapolis, MD. Sponsored by the Parole Annapolis Rotary Club, B.I.G.'s book sales offer an excellent opportunity to purchase books at highly discounted prices. The BIG warehouse is located 1.7 miles west of the Annapolis Mall on the south side of the road. Books are priced at \$3 for hardbacks, \$2 for trade softbound, and \$1 for pocket paperbacks. You may fill a provided grocery shopping bag for \$35 or \$25 after 1:30 p.m. All participants MUST wear masks and practice distancing.

The proceeds are used to ship books overseas to underserved populations in developing countries. The Parole Rotary Club has delivered over 8.7 million books to more than 30 countries to promote literacy, education & culture and to recycle gently used books. Over 1,000 books are donated a day!

B.I.G. is currently preparing to pack shipments to Nigeria and Mongolia. For more information, or to join the mailing list, contact: www.big-books.org or 4bigbooks@gmail.com. Phone: 410-757-2785. Volunteers welcome!

16 January -- 8:30-11:30 AM – District 7620 Webinar on “The Environment” focusing on Rotary's New Area of Focus, hosted by the D7620 Environment Committee with Dr. Christopher Puttock, ESRAG Chair and D7620 Environment Chair. Register online at the D7620 website.



[Above] Annapolis Rotary Club held its annual Rebuilding Together Project.
 [Top] Rotarian Phil Reynolds with power drill;
 [Middle] Rotarian Tom Maybach on a ladder;
 [Bottom] Rotarian and Past Club President Bill Regan with Shannon McDowell.

By Anne Myers, Annapolis Rotary Public Relations

The Rotary Club of Annapolis continues frontline community service projects through difficult times.

Rebuilding Together In October the Club held its annual Rebuilding Together project to help a resident repair his long-time home so that he can age in place with dignity and independence. Led by Sue Weber, the project involved 18 Rotarians and spouses who painted, replaced ceiling fans, and installed grab bars and other safety equipment at the Eastport home. On the exterior, improved lighting and landscape modifications were made for safety and convenience. The Rotary is proud to work with Rebuilding Together to support the health, safety, well-being, and financial status of residents and the community.

The Dictionary Project One of the club's favorite activities is the annual distribution of dictionaries to third grade students in the fall of each new school year. The nationwide Rotary project is intended to help students become good readers, writers, and thinkers. Presenting the dictionaries was a challenge this year with hybrid school schedules, remote learning, and strict safety measures in place, however, Club members were able to give 475 dictionaries to eager third graders in seven Annapolis elementary schools.

Winter Coat Drive This year's Winter Coat Drive has had a big impact with 115% more coats collected than last year. Project chair Carolyn Richards and her committee gathered 140 coats,

35 hats, 20 scarves, snow pants, and dozens of pairs of gloves and socks for Seeds 4 Success to distribute to school-aged children and families throughout Annapolis. Richards was thankful for generous support from the community this year.

"Everyone knows people are struggling," she said. "At the very least, we want children to have coats."

Quick Impacts A new program to increase opportunities for both service and fellowship was initiated by the Rotary Breakfast Group at the beginning of Covid. Called Quick Impacts, the program has rapidly become a Club-wide program linking people wanting to help in the community with service opportunities needing volunteers. Projects that are appropriate for the program (1) can be completed in a day or less (Quick); (2) will benefit community and member fellowship (Impact); (3) will align with Rotary's mission; and (4) can benefit from a small group of 4-6 Rotarians helping out as a group.

The projects are vetted and announced on the Club's website and newsletters to recruit volunteers. A Rotarian acts as in-house liaison for each project, coordinating with the project lead and the Rotarian volunteers who sign up to help. All volunteers follow appropriate safety protocols when participating. Area nonprofit organizations needing a small team of volunteers for a quick, impactful project are encouraged to contact a Rotarian or send details to RCAQuickImpacts@gmail.com.

DC ROTARY'S TREES FOR THE CAPITAL INTERACT CLUBS

DC Rotary Club Historian Monica Smith shares the history of our Trees for the Capital project.

December 2, 2020, is considered the official 50th anniversary for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This date derives from when William Ruckelshaus was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the EPA's first administrator in 1970. Note that, earlier that same year, the first annual Earth Day was held on April 22. Clearly, there was significant national awareness at the time that our planet needed more attention paid to its caretaking and sustainability.

Interestingly, it wasn't until this year – 2020 – that Rotary International (RI) added "supporting the environment" as an official area of focus. That said, RI and clubs around the globe, including ours, have shown long-time commitment to environment-related service projects locally, nationally, and internationally. For our DC Club, one of our most prominent, sustained service activities for the local environment continues to be the "Trees for the Capital" project.

Started around 30 years ago, during Rotary Year 1990-91, this project was inspired initially by a meeting between then-RI President Paolo Costa from Brazil and then President of the United States, George H. W. Bush, which was organized by the Rotary Club of Washington, DC. As RI President, Costa's theme was "Save Planet Earth" and he got Rotary involved in a world-wide tree planting program. On April 26, 1991, President Bush launched the Federal program by planting a tree on the White House lawn, with DC Rotarians in attendance.

Under the leadership of Peter Gilsey (then chairman of the Club's program committee), the Club established a collaboration with the National Park Service and the DC government for our new "Trees for the Capital" program. Initially, we helped plant and maintain primarily Japanese cherry trees around the iconic Tidal Basin area near the National Mall.

Today, under the leadership of President

Elect Bill Dent and December 2nd's birthday celebrant Dr. Sam Hancock, we continue to work with the National Park Service to support and help coordinate tree planting ceremonies one to two times per year around the capital city. These trees reflect our tradition at the end of each Wednesday Club meeting of presenting a "Trees for the Capital" certificate to each guest speaker, reflecting our intention of planting a tree in their honor. Recently, speakers have the added bonus of knowing that they will receive an exact GPS location of "their" trees after the official National Park Service ceremony with our Club.

For more about the Rotary Club of Washington, DC's "Trees for the Capital" project, please check out Dr. Sam's "Emerald Planet" website: http://www.emerald-planet.org/?page_id=11787. And if you have personal photos from past NPS-Rotary tree ceremonies, please send them to me for the club archives!

Hannah Dean of the National Park Service created a new map, which shows tree plantings in recent years with a speaker's name assigned to each of them. This is a major milestone! We are now finalizing the search feature, so that a speaker can locate his/her tree with relevant information on the tree. By clicking on any of the tree icons (at the "opening level"), it will take you to a closer-up view with more trees. In the near future, the link will be placed on the club's website. We are very grateful to Bryan Ingram and Hannah for making this a reality!

Link to Map: <https://nps.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=cc59d7f32aa04350b8f9af75ba3e11e3>

By Marilyn Nevy Cruz, District 7620 Interact Chair

On December 13, 2020, **Metro Bethesda Interactors** wrapped 98 toys for Angels for Christmas 22nd Annual Toy Drive! What a fantastic 1-hour community service project!



2020 Interact Video Award!

Congratulations to the 'Fan Favorite' video from the Interact Club of Prativa Pokhara Fishtail, Nepal! Their video received over 13,800 votes!

Stay tuned for the eight finalists for the 'Best Video' award announced soon! https://youtu.be/TNW0YeE_p1k

On Saturday, December 5th, more than 20 members of the **Interact Club of Charles County**, along with Rotarians, friends, and family, spent the morning and afternoon preparing and assembling 1,000 arts-and-craft kits for local schools at Christ Church, in Gaithersburg, MD. These kits were distributed during the Gaithersburg Neighborhood Creative Center's First Annual Living Fair, on Dec 12th.



IN MEMORIAM: MICHAEL HARRISON

Courtesy Delores Edwards Harding, DGND, and Carl Hossfeld, Baltimore Rotary Club

Michael Harrison became a member of the Baltimore Rotary Club in 1989. He would occasionally bring Baltimore Opera Company Singers to the Rotary Club meetings to sing and entertain.



[The following obituary is excerpted from the *Baltimore Sun*]

Michael Harrison, the former general director of the old Baltimore Opera Company, died of colon cancer complications Nov. 21 at Holy Cross Hospital in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He was 80 and formerly lived in North Baltimore.

He earned a bachelor's degree at Vanderbilt University. An aunt paid for him to attend the Yale School of Drama, and he completed two semesters before being chosen for a role in the 1963 musical "110 in the Shade" on Broadway.

Mr. Harrison later performed in regional theater productions, once on Broadway, and was cast and performed in the role of Tony in the touring company of "West Side Story. Mr. Harrison went on to become general director of the Providence Opera Theatre and the Columbus Opera Company.

He became the general director of the Baltimore Opera Company in 1988 after the death of Jay Holbrook and remained with the company in 2009 after it closed due to financial pressures.

A company history said, "Harrison's expertise in the world of theatre and opera led to a decade of unprecedented growth during the 1990's."

In 1993 he began a Summer Aria Series dedicated to works by American composers. A year later the National Arts Stabilization Fund awarded the company a grant that allowed it to run additional performances.

A history of the Harrison years at the opera company said it continued to expand the repertoire and attract American and internationally renowned artists. "Notable

productions from the late 1990s include Sherrill Milnes in 'Falstaff,' Diana Soviero as Madama Butterfly, 'The Flying Dutchman' with James Morris, Chris Merritt and Paul Plishka, and the company's first Russian opera in 20 years, Tchaikovsky's 'Eugene Onegin' starring Dwayne Croft," the history said.

Mr. Williams said that during his tenure, Mr. Harrison assembled acclaimed productions with international conductors and performers. Among the most memorable productions were "Dead Man Walking," with Sister Helen Prejean and composer Jake Heggie in the audience, and "Norma," attended by Supreme Court Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Antonin Scalia, who were both opera fans.

Mr. Harrison will be interred in a family plot in Westover Memorial Park in Augusta.

Mr. Harrison leaves no immediate survivors. His marriage ended in divorce. A son, Graham Bernard Harrison, died of acute lymphocytic leukemia in 2009 at age 15 as a Friends School freshman.

"Science has broken down the barriers between people, but that merely accentuates our problems, particularly those which arise out of misunderstandings, unless there is also a spiritual growth. For every shortening of the distance between peoples, there must be a broadening of human sympathies."

-- Clinton P. Anderson, 1932-33 Rotary International President



District Governor Jimmie Gorski
3321 Ben Oak Dr.
Huntingtown, MD, 20639
Phone: 410-474-3490
email: jimmiegorski@comcast.net

Executive Secretary Sonia Liu
1800 Old Georgetown Road #1304
North Bethesda, MD, 20852
Phone: 240-480-5800
sonia@rotary7620.org

Newsletter Editor Bob Nelson
22104 Goshen School Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20882-1404
Phone: 301-254-7620
email: BobNelson20854@yahoo.com
Please send articles and photos by 24 January



Save the Date

District Governor Jimmie Gorski invites you to explore historic Annapolis and attend the District Conference.

District 7620 Conference
April 23 & April 24, 2021

The Graduate Annapolis
126 West Street





District Governor Jimmie Gorski

District 7620 Conference ~ April 23 & 24, 2021

The Graduate Annapolis Hotel in Annapolis, MD

Dear Club President;

Please review the following items that we ask you to consider

*Participate in the House Of Friendship by creating a club Brag Board to display.+

*Complete the District Awards Form and submit no later than 3/31/21.

go to the district website / district links /printable documents / print and complete the District Awards 20-21 form

*Submit a photo of any deceased club members for the Memorial Presentation.

*Participate in the Hospitality Tables. In lieu of having Hospitality Suites we will all be in one large room, making it easy for Rotarians to visit all the tables offering desserts. We currently have clubs that plan to give away pies, cakes, crab dip cups, and bourbon taste testing. What will your club do? Partner with another club.+

*Submit at least 5 photos of Club activities for the slide show presentation

*Plan to participate in Meals For Hope—This will be a hands on project during the conference. Our District goal is to prepare 40,000 meals. Each club raises the money for the number of meals they plan to prepare, the club takes them home from the conference and distributes the meals to the recipient(s) of their choice. Each meal is 25 cents.

*Get at least one foursome together for the golf tournament on Friday, 4/23.

*Each club is requested to have a minimum of 2 members to register.

*Plan to take a tour of Annapolis, the Naval Academy, the State house, or go on a haunted Pub Crawl or go out on the water. Great adventures will be offered. +

More details to come. Contact Sue Weber at Sailorsue02@aol.com with any questions. +additional fees

