



OPEN FORUM

ROTARY 7620 NEWSLETTER
SERVING CENTRAL MD & DC



Rotary Opens Opportunities

Rotary District 7620 Newsletter July 2020

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JIMMIE GORSKI INSTALLED AS DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Remarks by District Governor Jimmie Gorski

As the torch is passed each year in Rotary from the departing District Governor to the new district leader, we have a formal ceremony complete with pledges and speeches to commemorate the occasion. I did not expect when I was selected to be District Governor for 2020-2021 that my situation would be different, but different it has been. I never expected a global health issue like COVID-19 to be dead ahead for my year.

expand our reach by creating satellite clubs and new Rotaract Clubs. Furthermore, he has challenged us to engage our members, new and old, and to meet and continue to meet their expectations. In our Rotary Zone, many of our Districts have adopted the message penned by my friend and colleague, District Governor Harry Henderson. "Not One Member Lost, Not if we have anything to think, say, or do about it." In short, our members are precious to us during the pandemic AND when it ends,



Rotary Opens Opportunities, our theme for the year was quickly realized by the new group of District Governors in our Zone and in Zones throughout the world. We adapted through necessity to virtual platforms for our club and committee meetings. We made adjustments to our fundraisers and service projects, and we began to see that surprisingly such changes often increased our member participation and even in some cases helped us to grow membership. We began to see that our opportunities to grow and to serve in Rotary have never been greater.

Our new RI President, Holger Knaack, has asked each District to work actively to create new, innovative models for clubs and to

and they should be treated with kindness, respect, and consideration.

It is my desire as District Governor to help clubs grow in spite of situations created by the pandemic and to address needs across our district.

Of great concern in our district is the issue of hunger. There are programs in our district to help remedy the problem of hunger among the homeless, among children, in urban as well as rural areas, where families have difficulty traveling to food pantries or other facilities. With many finding themselves suddenly unemployed, I am asking clubs, with their Area Governors

(continued on page 2)

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 23-24, 2021
District Conference
The Graduate, Annapolis



GOVERNOR JIMMIE GORSKI'S REMARKS AT THE JUNE 28TH INSTALLATION CEREMONY

(continued from page 1)

across our district, to examine the problem of hunger and to address these problems in ways that best fit the needs of those areas.

A unique program started in Southern Maryland, led by civic leader Bernie Fowler and endorsed by our Governor Larry Hogan, Farming 4 Hunger, combines our fight against Opioid addiction with instruction on making good choices and eating healthy foods grown in local communities. Beginning in elementary schools in our district, the premise is that early on making wise food choices can and does transfer to making wise decisions in other aspects of life.

Also, I would like clubs to consider addressing the issues of honoring those who help us every day—our first responders and other medical personnel, educators, local and state law enforcement, veterans, and others that fit into the areas serviced by our clubs.

As an educator for over 30 years in a number of services at different levels, I have been an advocate for youth. My interests lie in programs to promote and further the growth of young people. At the request of RI President Holger Knaack,

I would like to lead our district in programs to show that youth can, indeed, be sources of action and innovation as we all work together to achieve greater understanding of our world.

I thank those who are here tonight. I extend a special thanks to Sue Weber, the DG Installation Chair, and to Carolyn Richards, the Zoom moderator, both of the Annapolis Rotary Club.

Thank you to Sean McAlister and Geetha Jayaram. Although I have accepted the role of District Governor, the three of us form your DG string and work together in our planning for this district.

I thank Peter Kyle, our incoming RI Director, for being here tonight to conduct the installation. I would like to note that Peter has the distinct honor of being the first Director elected to Rotary's Board from our District. Congratulations, Peter, for this great achievement.

I thank Daniel Fischer, Club President from Metro Bethesda Rotary, and Andy Colevas, my Rotary sponsor twenty years ago and my former student, for being here for the Home Club banner exchange.

I thank District Rotary Foundation Chair Rich Glover for being here tonight as the Moderator, and also for being mentor, not only to me but also to the DG string.

Thanks to our 2019-20 DG Barton for being with us virtually. Our traditional gift exchange will, through necessity, occur through the mail.

Also, thank you Council of Governors, my family, and especially to my son Albert (Al) who is in the process of moving from North Carolina back to Maryland. He is the best son anyone could imagine.

And finally to my late husband, who, though not a Rotarian definitely had the heart of a Rotarian. I feel his strength and support daily.

I look forward to participating in club activities and to working along side you to solve problems and reach resolutions in what we realize will be a challenging time.

And last, thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve this great district as your District Governor.

WELCOME ROTARY CLUB OF INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP

By John Hannes

Congratulations and welcome to the 43 charter members of the new Rotary Club of International Friendship chartered on June 1, 2020!

Thanks to your efforts along with the support and guidance of DG Barton Goldenberg and many others you've now joined the network of over 1.2 million members and 35,000 clubs that are doing good in the world. You're well on your way to being *People of Action*!

We meet Paul Harris Rotating Style in the Washington area, and around the Country and the World. Please call/text 703 399 0034 or email rotaryfriendship@gmail.com to find out when our next meeting will take place.

We are Relationship based. Friendship based. Not meeting based. We meet but our Club is not grounded by a regular meeting. It is grounded in active dynamic relationships.

We have active Zoom calls various times of the day on various days.

We have an active WhatsApp Group and an active LinkedIn Group.

Our date and time are the first and third Wednesday for meetings, loosely 6:00 to 8pm, with locations "Rotating" hosted by different members on an host basis, with in person gatherings in our major zones, the DMV, Denver,

NYC, Spain, and Colombia, and Zoom used to broaden the participation.

Club Address

7620 Old Georgetown Road
Suite 1026

Bethesda, MD 20814

Meeting Information

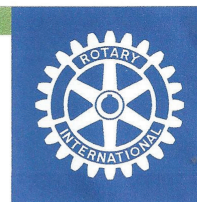
We meet Paul Harris Rotating Style in the Washington area, and around the Country and the World. Please call/text 703 399 0034 or email rotaryfriendship@gmail.com to find out when our next meeting will take place.

Contact Information

Phone: 703 399 0034

Email: rotaryfriendship@gmail.com

Club Website



This Certifies that the Rotary Club of

International Friendship

having been duly organized and having agreed, through its officers and members, to be bound by the Constitution and Bylaws of Rotary International, which agreement is evidenced by the acceptance of this certificate, is now a duly admitted member of

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

and is entitled to all the rights and privileges of such membership.

In witness whereof the signatures of its officers, being duly authorized, are subscribed hereto this **first day of June 2020**.

Admission to membership in Rotary International recommended by




District Governor

President, Rotary International

<http://www.rotaryfriendship.org/>

[Below] Rotarians open opportunities.



COLUMBIA TOWN CENTER ROTARY RESPONDS TO COVID-19 BY DELIVERING HELP TO THE MOST VULNERABLE

Rotary Delivers Food & PPE

By President Harsana Showunmi and Sharon Waligora

month. The ODFP offers a good selection of food including canned goods, dry goods, fresh produce, frozen meat, and dairy items.

To help with the increased demand, CTC Rotary contributed \$4,000 over the past 3 months to help buy additional food and stepped up its hands-on support to load cars, direct traffic and deliver food. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, food bags were pre-packed and then loaded into the

trunk of each car. So, instead of transporting our families who have no transportation to pick up their food at the pantry, CTC Rotary improvised and delivered food to 27 families each month. Because of the increased demand from families in need and the requests for food to be delivered, Running Brook Elementary School (RBES) volunteers have willingly helped with deliveries. We anticipate that these families will continue to need our assistance in the coming months.

It was evident that in addition to the food crisis, there was a PPE shortage. Senior citizens are also extremely vulnerable to COVID-19, hence the need to take the necessary steps to help keep them safe. To help fight and protect against COVID-19, we provided PPE to Winter Growth, Inc., a Senior Care Facility in Columbia, MD. We acquired over \$2,000 worth of the following equipment and delivered it to the Columbia facility: 11 gallons of hand sanitizer, 80 KN95 masks, 130 washable cloth masks, 700 surgical masks, 100 face shields and 30 boxes disposable gloves.

Our thanks to several craftspeople who contributed equipment to this project including Elena Sotnikova for the face shields; Debbie from Frederick, HoCo Mask Makers, and Oanh Nguyen for sewing the cloth masks.

We truly enjoy serving the community and look forward to the months of service ahead. Read more about our service at ctcrotary.org. Visit us on Facebook at CTCrotary. Support our project at ctcrotary2020.org.

The Columbia Town Center (CTC) Rotary Club sprang into action in April to set up a hands-on project to help the most vulnerable citizens in our community deal with food insecurity and lack of PPE in response to COVID-19.

Fueled by a District 7620 COVID-19 grant, donations from Columbia Rotary Club, Howard West Rotary Club, and generous contributions from community members, CTC Rotary set out to provide food for families living in downtown Columbia, struggling with food insecurity due to lost jobs and lack of access to the Free and Reduced Meals (FARM) program for their children at school. Additionally, CTC Rotary took on the difficult task of acquiring PPE for senior citizen care facilities and volunteers during the peak of the COVID-19 crisis.

When the pandemic hit our community, prompt response was paramount. After a record grant request turnaround from District 7620, with the leadership of Sharon Waligora and Harsana Showunmi, CTC Rotary sprang into action, leveraging our existing partnership with the Open Doors Food Pantry (ODFP) at Mt. Zion United Methodist Church in Highland MD. Every 3rd Saturday of the month the Food Pantry provides food to an average of 80 food-insecure families in the community and was ready to take on the challenge of providing more. Since this crisis began, CTC Rotary has helped the ODFP distribute food to 180, 206, and 192 families in April, May and June, respectively, at their "Drive-Thru" Food Pantry; serving more than double the typical number of families each

[Below] The Open Doors Food Pantry volunteers photo shows our members in their black Rotary hats posing socially distanced with other volunteers including ODFP board members in red shirts. Sharon Waligora is in a red shirt with a Rotary hat on because she is on both boards.



[Above] Columbia Town Center Rotary Club President Harsana Showunmi and Alvin Thompson delivering PPE to Winter Growth Director.

[Below] Rotarian Alvin Thompson loading cars to deliver food.



[Below] In response to COVID-19, the Olney Rotary Club and Roots Market donated



OLNEY ROTARY CLUB PARTNERED WITH LOCAL GROCERY STORE TO DONATE \$1600 IN GIFT CARDS TO OLNEY HELP

By Michael Weiner

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, and the affect it has had on many in our community, Roots Market and the Rotary Club of Olney have contributed Roots gift cards to Olney HELP, with a very generous 1:1 match, which have been donated to Olney HELP. Rotary Club President Gaspar Colon said, "With the incredible generosity of Roots, who matched funds from our Rotary Club's Trust and a Rotary District Grant, we were able to generate \$1,600 worth of Roots gift cards. We especially want to thank Katie Smallwood of Roots Market for her enthusiastic response working with us to make this possible." The Rotary Club of Olney members continue seeking involvement from the other local grocery stores to help provide this gift to those served by Olney HELP.

Olney HELP is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides short-term emergency food and financial assistance to individuals and families in Olney, Sandy Spring, Ashton, Brinklow and Brookeville MD.

The Rotary Club of Olney was formed in June of 1951, and has been involved in local, national and international service projects for the betterment of humankind. Currently, due to the virus, the Club meets by Zoom every Thursday morning at 7:30 AM and invites anyone interested in learning more about Rotary and the impact it has had over the years. Please visit our website at OLNEYROTARY.ORG.

INTERACT NEWS

By Marilyn Nevy Cruz, District 7620
Interact & RYLA Chair

As the 2019-20 Rotary year ended, we

want to thank you for championing Interact!

We know for many of you COVID-19 has impacted your work as an Interact club sponsor or adviser. Rotary International continues to monitor the situation closely and encourages you to follow the guidelines set by the World Health Organization and the national, regional, or local health authorities.

Below, we include actions you can take to end your year strong. Whether this is your first, third, or fifth year serving as Interact leader, let's work together to ensure the continued success of Interact.



REPORT INTERACT ADVISERS

Sponsor clubs are required to report the name and contact information of an adult adviser to Rotary by 1 July every year to maintain the active status of their Interact clubs. Interact club sponsors can report a club adviser through the online reporting form. Remember, while Rotary International only collects information on one adviser, Interact clubs may benefit from having multiple advisers to mentor and support them.

ARE YOU UP TO DATE ON ROTARY'S YOUTH PROTECTION POLICIES?

Ensuring the safety and well-being of Rotary's youth program participants is everyone's responsibility. Review the recently updated Protecting Youth Program Participants in Rotary's

Learning Center. This course helps advisers, and club and district leaders to understand, recognize, address, and prevent abuse and harassment.

CELEBRATE YOUR HARD WORK

Do you know an Interact club that goes above and beyond? Recognize Interact clubs that are taking action to make a positive difference through the Rotary Citation for Interact Clubs. Nominate qualifying Interact clubs no later than 15 August. For any questions regarding the Rotary Citation for Interact Clubs process, please email riawards@rotary.org.

KEEP YOUR MOMENTUM

Inspire Interactors to continue their Rotary journey — introduce them to Rotaract, Youth Exchange, and RYLA. Connect them to people, clubs, and opportunities that will continue to enhance their future for a lifetime. Their success is your legacy!

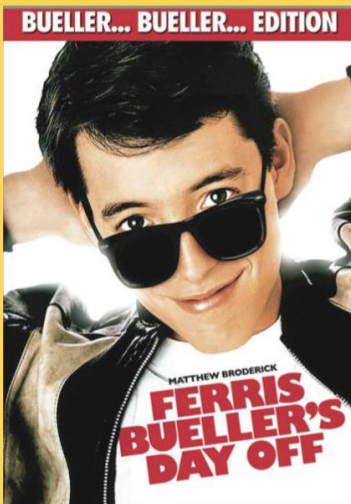
SHARE YOUR MEMORIES AND GET INSPIRED

Tell your community and the world about your amazing year in Interact — post stories, photos, and videos on our Interact Facebook page. Sponsors can also share successful Interact service projects on Rotary Showcase. Looking for inspiration? Check out the winners of the Interact Video Awards.

We know that these are unusual times, but by coming together, we can find new and innovative ways to support Interactors! Thank you for your service as an Interact leader. By supporting Interact and taking these important steps, you help leaders of all ages connect through Rotary's global community of service.

DRIVE-IN MOVIE POWERED BY ELLICOTT CITY ROTARY

By Charles Kyler, President, Ellicott City Rotary Club



[Above] The next Ellicott City Rotary Club Drive-In Movie is on July 3 and features "Ferris Bueller's Day Off."

In a few hours, the empty grass parking field at the Howard County fairgrounds was transformed into a pop up drive-in movie theater for 300 cars, a nostalgic view to the past. With a beautiful sunset as the backdrop, parents introduced their children to what they did as kids. For

others, it was a date night, and for some, it was a first time experience.

The Ellicott City Rotary Club hosted the first of what they hope will be many drive-In movie nights at the Howard County Fairgrounds. Born out of the desire to do something good for the community, the HoCo Community Drive-In premiered on June 13th, 2020. The goal was to create a way for people to safely get out of their homes for an evening of family fun that supported local businesses by raising funds to assist those being impacted by COVID-19. A spectacular night under the stars was the result.

Rotary members, family, and friends volunteered to help park the sellout screening of The Princess Bride. Using an open donation model, community members donated as they were able, and

this allowed those who might not be able to afford a night out with their family be do so. The event, which sold out in just 4 days, was greatly helped by the support of Senator Katie Fry Hester. In addition to sponsoring the first movie, Senator Hester helped the Rotary Club of Ellicott City navigate the state's shutdown/reopening guidelines. With her sponsorship, the event raised over \$3000 for local charities.

The atmosphere at the event was relaxed and friendly. Local restaurants offered discounts; people chatted with others from their cars, and the mood was cheerful. At the end of the movie, everyone started honking their horns with approval. And, in less than eleven minutes, the field was empty again.

The Club is hoping to run the event in July, and may make this an annual fundraiser. The drive-in movie organizer, Charles Kyler, noted the importance of supporting our local community. "It is a Rotary tenant and being able to lift people's moods and raise some relief funds was a bonus." Kyler was pleased to report that, a spectator exclaimed, "My five year old nephew said it was the best night of his life!"

For more information about the Ellicott City Rotary Club's Drive in, email: hocodrivein@gmail.com or find the cause on FaceBook at HoCo Drivein.



PAROLE, ANNAPOLIS AND GLEN BURNIE ROTARY CLUBS SET UP COVID-19 FIRST RESPONDERS RELIEF EFFORT

By Capital Gazette Staff Writers, April 13, 2020 [Excerpted]

The Rotary Clubs of Parole, Annapolis and Glen Burnie set up the Anne Arundel COVID-19 First Responders Relief Effort, an effort to support healthcare workers, firefighters, police and restaurants during the coronavirus pandemic.

The \$30,000 effort will provide approximately 3,000 meals per week for six weeks for the workers putting themselves at risk on a daily basis to protect others. the clubs said in announcing the program, organizers said.

Donations began Easter Sunday with deliveries to Anne Arundel Medical Center and Baltimore Washington Medical Center.

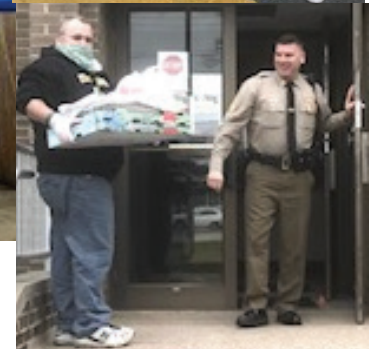
"Faster than expected because we learned there was an expected shortage of support to workers on Easter Sunday," said Anne Myers, a spokeswoman for the effort.

Each of the clubs contributed \$5,000 to the effort, which was matched with \$15,000 from Rotary International District 7620.

Round Table Relief, an organization recently founded in Annapolis in partnership with Warrior Events and the Annapolis Police Foundation, will coordinate the order and delivery of meals to local hospitals, firehouses, and police departments. Restaurants have been closed to in-service dining, laying off thousands of service workers.

Warrior Events, an Annapolis nonprofit that works with veterans,

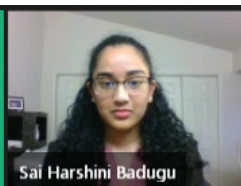
first responders and their families, was the first recipient of the funds and is helping coordinate the project. It started with food purchased from Heroes Pub, Adam's Ribs of Eastport and Sammy's Kitchen to provide lunches and dinners for police



headquarters as well as the four firehouses around Annapolis.

For information, contact Kristi Neidhardt, Rotary Club of Parole, 410-599-1370, kristi@kn-team.com; Luisa Gil, Rotary Club of Annapolis, 443-254-3008, luisagil99@yahoo.com; or Carol Ann McCurdy, Rotary Club of Glen Burnie, 410-241-7497, mccurdy@aacps.org.

[Above] Rotarians from Annapolis area clubs donated food to health care workers at the Anne Arundel Medical Center. The volunteers were led by Kristi Neidhardt Sargent, incoming president at Parole Rotary in the white vest and blue short sleeve shirt.



FIRST VIRTUAL ROTARY DISTRICT CONFERENCE

By Sonia Liu, MetroBethesda Rotary Club

A very first and different kind of Virtual District Conference 2020 kicked off on Friday, June 26 at 6:30pm and successfully closed on Saturday, June 27 at 12:30pm. The highlights are:

- A Stimulating Opening Keynote: "What Will Rotary Look Like in 2025" by Tom Thorfinnson, Chief Strategy Officer of RI.
- An Amazing 4-Way Test Competition, the winners are: 1st place: Aislinn Murray - Severn High School; sponsored by Lake Shore-Severna Park Rotary Club; 2nd place: Sai Badugu - Mt. Hebron High School; 3rd place: Rio Biran - Urbana High School; 4th place: Ben Ault - Rockbridge Academy.
- A Wonderful Panel of Global Scholars:
In-Bound Global Scholar: Dr. Satoshi from Japan;
Out-Bound Global Scholar: Ms. Aminata.
- A Thoughtful Memorial Service - Celebration of Life for our passing Rotarians.
- District Club Awards - Rotary Year 2019-2020.
- An Impressive Keynote Entrepreneur: "The Intersection of Entrepreneurship" by Seth Goldman, Honest Tea.
- People of Action: Virtual Service Projects for Your Club by Catonya Lester from Baltimore Sunset Rotary Club.

- DG Barton Goldenberg's Acknowledgements and Awards.
- Remarks from Incoming District Governor Jimmie Gorski.
- Closing Remarks: DG Barton Goldenberg.
- Special Session | Council on Legislation

Presentation & Vote:

PDG Andy Baum was elected to be our District COL Representative for 2020-2023 and PDG Claude Morissette was elected as the Alternate Representative.

This unprecedented COVID-19 threatened and changed our life. However, it also gave us the opportunities to connect the world even more and better. We are fearless, we are people of action. We got a record-high contribution, we also got a record-high registration for a virtual meeting, thank you for all of your great and strong support! Your participation made our very first Virtual District Conference even more special!

Comments from Jane MacMillan:

Just wanted to say how wonderful the Virtual District Conference was. Really impressive!

I have been a Rotarian since 1989, first year we women were invited to join.

Originally in the now defunct Towson Club, I was later in the Downtown Towson Club, formed by a few of us from Towson.

That club only lasted about 6 years, and now I am with Hunt Valley Rotary since 2009. So proud of the part our Matt May played in tonight's 4-Way Test contest.

That has been our club's signature project for 51 years and includes elementary school poster and middle school essay contests. I am so disappointed that could not happen this year.

I think I saw that the program was being recorded. I hope it can be shared with those of us who did not tune in.

Thanks for making this possible, Ashley, Temrah, Jennie and Sonia. You go, girls! It was great!

Best regards, *Jane MacMillan, Secretary, Hunt Valley Rotary*

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES-ROTARY EVENT HONORED WORLD REFUGEES DAY

By Lara Bersano, PDG Rich Carson, and Quentin Wodon

On June 23, the Rotary Club of Washington Global and the Organization of American States (OAS) organized an event in honor of World Refugee Day. The OAS brings together all 35 independent states of the

Americas and constitutes the main political, juridical, and social governmental forum in the Hemisphere. It uses a four-pronged approach to implement its essential purposes based on its main pillars: democracy, human rights, security, and development. It is one of the international organizations with which Rotary International maintains collaborations through its network of Rotary Representatives.

Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are among the most vulnerable people on earth. Due to conflicts and economic crises, their number has increased with UNHCR estimating that 79.5 million people were forcibly displaced in 2019. After Syria, Venezuela has the largest number of displaced people. The OAS has played a critical role in gathering support in Latin America for programs to support refugees.

The high level event on June 23 was entitled "Migrants and refugees in the Americas in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic: Challenges and multisectoral solutions." As shown in the flier for the event, the list of speakers included the Secretary General of the OAS, the General

Venezuela and globally to provide relief and create opportunities for refugees. The report shows in practical ways how Rotarians and other people of action can alleviate the suffering of refugees and invest in their future. Videos from the event are also available on the club's website.

"MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN THE AMERICAS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: CHALLENGES AND MULTISECTORAL SOLUTIONS"

OPENING REMARKS



LUIS ALMAGRO
OAS SECRETARY GENERAL



ALEXANDRA HILL
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF EL SALVADOR



JOHN HEWKO
GENERAL SECRETARY OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL



CLAUDIA BLUM DE BARBERI
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF COLOMBIA



DIEGO BELTRAND
SPECIAL ENVOY FOR THE IOM FOR VENEZUELAN MIGRANT AND REFUGEE FLOWS

PANEL: MULTISECTORAL APPROACHES TO MIGRANT AND REFUGEE FLOWS IN THE AMERICAS



INGO PLOGER
President of the Business Council of Latin America (CEAL) Brazil



BETILDE MUÑOZ-POGOSSIAN
OAS Director of the Department of Social Inclusion



DAVID SMOLANSKY
Commissioner of the OAS Secretary General for the Crisis of Venezuelan Migrants and Refugees



CRISTAL MONTAÑEZ
Rotary e-Club of Houston HOPE for Venezuelan Refugees



BARTON GOLDBERG
District Governor of Rotary 07620 Rotary International



GUSTAU ALEGRET
MODERATOR
U.S. News Director NTN24



QUENTIN WODON
President
Rotary Club of Washington Global



RICH CARSON
RI Representative to the OAS

Secretary of Rotary International, the Foreign Ministers of Colombia and El Salvador, and representatives from OAS, the private sector, and civil society – including DG Barton Goldenberg for our district. The event was a great way for all participants to renew their commitment to helping refugees.

Ahead of the event, the Rotary Club of Washington Global published a report available on its website (www.WashingtonGlobalRotary.org) on the role that Rotarians have played in

What are the next steps? One of the ideas following the event is to explore the feasibility of creating a Rotary Action Group (RAG) on refugees to help clubs and districts globally implement projects in support of refugees and IDPs. No decision has been made yet on submitting a proposal for a RAG to the board of Rotary International which would need to approve such a RAG, but if you are interested in the idea, please send an email to Quentin Wodon at rotarianeconomist@gmail.com.

THANKS TO OUR ROTARACTOR “DREAM TEAM”

By Monique S. Toussaint, District Rotaract Chair

I just wanted to take a moment to thank the Dream Team of Rotaractors that stepped up to the challenge and became District leaders this past Rotary year. Led by our fearless District Rotaract Representative (DRR) Ugonna Ezeanya, Charter President of the Rotaract Club of Howard University, the team worked together to serve as a resource for Rotaract Club Presidents and their members. Ugonna held quarterly President check-in meetings, one-on-one conference calls and virtual meetings, etc. to ensure that the leaders felt supported and received technical

assistance from the members of the District Rotaract Team (DRT). Alexander Tu, Immediate Past DRR and member of the Rotaract Club of DC, played an essential role in ensuring the brand new DRT stayed in compliance with RI requirements, visiting the clubs, and demonstrated tremendous leadership this year. Madeleine Blunt, Assistant DRR and member of the Rotaract Club of Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, took on the challenge of supporting Ugonna and Alex, endured a steep learning curve, and came out triumphant. Taylor Kimble, Secretary and member of the Rotaract Club of Howard County, played a pivotal role in keeping the team organized, sharing information, and ensuring effectiveness in our work. Michelle Ramos, Director of Professional Development and member of the Rotaract Club of DC drafted an outline for a District Mentoring Program and coordinated a virtual trivia event when COVID-19 hit to maintain member engagement. All in all, this team worked tirelessly to support the 13, including 3 brand new, Rotaract Clubs in the District. I could not have had a successful year without them.

As we gear up for the new Rotary Year, the majority of the team will remain in place. Ugonna will be studying for the MCAT and preparing to attend medical school so we wish her the best in her educational journey. Alex will become a Rotarian and serve as my Assistant District Chair; Madeleine will become DRR; Taylor will be the Assistant DRR; and Elizabeth Anderson from the Rotaract Club of American University will serve as the Secretary. I am grateful for the groundwork that we put in place this year and look forward to continue building infrastructure to support our current and future Rotaract Clubs in the upcoming Rotary Year. Thank you all for your service and thank you District Governor Barton Goldenberg for your support.

Thank you to the amazing members of the District 7620 Rotaract Leadership Team for an amazing year!



Rotaract
District 7620



Alexander Tu
Immediate Past DRR



Ugonna Ezeanya
DRR



Madeleine Blunt
Assistant DRR



Taylor Kimble
Secretary



Michelle Ramos
Director of PD



Yours in Service,

Monique S. Toussaint, District 7620 Rotaract Chair

CONGRATULATIONS ROTARACTORS ON A MOST SUCCESSFUL YEAR

By Madeleine Blunt, Assistant District Rotaract Representative

As the Rotary year comes to a close, we would like to thank all of our outgoing club presidents; Javoniel Trowers from Howard University, Ela Pinar from George Washington University, Elise Franchino from Washington DC, Eric Gillentine from Howard County, Amber Charles from Johns Hopkins University, Kate Fin from Georgetown University, Joshua Hirakwa from Annapolis, Diane Hale from American University, Mike Spano from UMBC, Minahil Cheema from UMD-College Park, Ji Hye Park from UMD School of Dentistry, and Audrey Kacur from Frederick Community College. Thank you for your time and service; and welcome to the incoming presidents!

The Rotaract Club of American University has been actively serving those communities most at need during these times of unrest. Club member, Elizabeth Anderson, organized a fundraiser for individuals displaced by and affected by the riots, while at home quarantining in Minneapolis, Minnesota. In two days, she was able to raise around \$1000. With the help of a few friends, she bought non-perishable foods, baby supplies, cleaning supplies, and other necessities. She then brought them to drop-off sites and helped distribute them as needed. Great job Elizabeth and American University!

The Rotaract Club of Howard County is actively recruiting new members for the upcoming Rotary calendar year. On June 3rd, they hosted a virtual open house and info session for prospective members. On June 30th, they hosted a virtual induction ceremony for new members and officers. If you know anyone who is interested in joining this fantastic club please email hoco.rotaract@gmail.com.

ROTARACT AND INTERACT CLUBS

By Marilyn Nevy Cruz, DC Interact & Rotaract Adviser

The Rotaract Club of Washington DC was honored to use a portion of their DC Rotary Foundation remaining funds to support health care workers responding to the COVID-19 crisis. The club purchased 240 face shields through Project Shield, an initiative by Rotary District 5320 in southern California. Shields will be donated to first responders at Howard University Hospital.

The Rotaract Club of George Washington University was pleased to host a virtual fundraiser to raise funds for Food*4*DC*Kids. The Club used a portion of their remaining DC Rotary Foundation yearly budget to provide additional COVID-19 pandemic relief funds (\$500) to this organization.

Food*4*DC*Kids, launched in response to COVID-19, provides delicious prepared meals to needy students and families from DC schools. Sponsored by WNDCEducational Foundation, Food*4*DC*Kids is collaborating with local farmers and FreshFarm Markets' Food Hub to provide at least 50 meals per day. The program is working with the Columbia Heights Educational Campus and other DC schools to distribute meals to families affected by COVID-19. <https://wndceducationalfoundation.org/>

The Interact Club of Columbia Heights Educational Campus (CHEC) was pleased to use their remaining yearly DC Rotary Foundation budget to provide the Rotary Club of San Salvador Maquilishuat with a \$1035 grant for disaster relief efforts as a result of Tropical Storm Amanda in El Salvador.

On May 31, 2020, hundreds of Salvadoran families had to evacuate their homes due to the devastation caused by Tropical Storm Amanda. Many have died,

many families have lost everything, and many more have been affected by this terrible event.

Local Rotarians from District 4240 Rotary Clubs are working hard in distributing help. They are working in supplying relief, support and hope.

"In the context of COVID-19, tropical storm Amanda has exacerbated the needs and vulnerabilities of children being left homeless, losing their belongings, including school supplies and have had to move to shelters to protect themselves," says UNICEF Representative Ivette Blanco.

The DC Rotary Foundation added an additional \$1000 grant towards relief efforts as a result of Tropical Storm Amanda.

In addition, DC Rotary Club member, Marilyn Nevy Cruz was able to raise \$1500 through a birthday fundraiser to provide a \$750 donation to the Rotary Club of San Salvador Noreste to buy 39 mattresses for families who lost everything as a result of Tropical Storm Amanda. \$750 was also donated to the Rotary Club of San Salvador Maquilishuat to buy 80 non-perishable food packages for 80 families from the CRUZ ROJA community in the municipality of Cuscatancingo, in San Salvador.

The Interact Club of Richard Wright Public Charter School for Journalism and Media Arts hosted a fundraiser to raise funds for Best Kids. The Club was pleased to use their remaining DC Rotary Foundation yearly budget to provide additional COVID-19 pandemic relief funds to this organization. www.bestkids.org

The Rotary Club of Washington, DC along with its Foundation appreciates their clubs' energy and enthusiasm to support local and international causes during the COVID-19 pandemic. They will continue to support their interests and projects during the 2020-2021 Rotary year. We are very proud of all four clubs and couldn't have it any other way!



[Above] The Interact Club of Metro Bethesda is a community-based club open to all high school students (14-18 years old) with current academic attendance in any educational setting (public, private, religious, home-school, non-profit, for-profit, online).

NEW PLANS FOR ANNAPOLIS ROTARY CRAB FEAST

By Anne Myers, Annapolis Rotary Public Relations

The Rotary Club of Annapolis will hold "Rotary Crabs To Go!" a drive-through crab and corn fundraiser at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium on Friday, August 7, 2020.

This year, "Rotary Crabs To Go!" will replace the Club's traditional crab feast held annually at the stadium on the first Friday in August. While the coronavirus crisis has made the traditional gathering of 2,000 guests impractical this year due to social distancing requirements, the funds generated by the event to benefit the community are more important than ever.

Crab feast chair Leigh Rand says, "This is not what we expected this year, but as Rotarians we think it is very important to do our best to support our communities as we have done for so many years. We'd like to keep the tradition going and have a little fun too."

"Rotary Crabs To Go!" will focus on providing crabs and raising funds in the safest manner possible. Crabs will be steamed onsite at the stadium and packaged for travel. Rotarians and volunteers (with PPE) will direct traffic and provide customers with their orders in the parking lot between 4:30-7:00pm.

This event will be an online pre-order, drive-through pick-up event with competitive pricing. Large #1 crabs can be ordered by the bushel, half bushel, or one or two dozen - to include corn on the cob. Raffle tickets will be sold online as well. Net proceeds will be promptly granted to local nonprofit organizations in this increased time of need in our community.

People will be encouraged to take their crabs and corn home to hold crab feasts safely in their own back yards or in

picnic areas with appropriate spacing. Pictures and films of back yard feasts can be shared on a dedicated site to create the feeling of a community-wide feast.

Visit www.annapolisrotary.org/crabfeast for more information. Online sales will begin soon. Save next year's date - August 6, 2021 for the official 75th anniversary of the Rotary Club of Annapolis Crab Feast when everyone can get-together again for the traditional afternoon of fun and community fellowship!

THE INTERACT CLUB OF METRO BETHESDA

By Kallie Forman

The Interact Club of Metro Bethesda is a community-based club open to all high school students (14-18 years old) with current academic attendance in any educational setting (public, private, religious, home-school, non-profit, for-profit, online). The Interact Club was founded on March 3, 2020 because of Kody-Ann, Elsa, Jarvis and Leyla's participation at the District 7620 RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) event at Camp Letts in Edgewater, MD over President's Day weekend. The Metro Bethesda Rotary Club sponsored five students to attend this spectacular leadership development conference. The founding officers will continue to learn new skills, build their confidence, form friendships, have fun and become dynamic leaders in their schools and community. I sincerely thank our Metro Bethesda Rotary Club President, Daniel Fischer, Board of Directors and club membership for budgeting and enthusiastically supporting this new pillar of service, Youth Initiatives to our club's agenda.

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION OF WASHINGTON, D.C. AWARDED \$186,000 TO 41 GRANT RECIPIENTS SERVING THE D.C. COMMUNITY

by Marilyn Nevy Cruz, DC Rotary Club Community Engagement Chair

We are very pleased to announce the winners of the Rotary Foundation of Washington, D.C. grant awards for 2019-2020! As each year, we received many excellent applications from non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations that do great and amazing work serving our community in D.C. This year the Club will support 3 major grant recipients and 38 small grant recipients, and expect to continue to be actively engaged with all of these organizations and more, irrespective of award amounts or whether we were able to support a specific application project this year or not. Club members are especially invited to stay in touch with news on organization events and volunteer activities.

Special Projects Grants (\$20,000):

Central Union Mission; MCIP – CHEC; Northwest Center Community Center

Community Service Grants (\$500 – \$5,000):

A Wider Circle; Access Youth; Anacostia Watershed Society; Arts for the Aging; Christ House; City Blossoms; Dance Institute of Washington; DC Jail and Prison Advocacy Project; DC Youth Orchestra; Everyone Wins DC; First Tee of Greater Washington; FLOC – For the Love of Children; Free Minds; The Friendship Place; Girls on the Run; Hope and a Home; Iona Senior Center; La Clinica del Pueblo; Latino Student Fund; Liberty's Promise; Many Languages One Voice; Mary House (Casa de Mary); New Futures; Next Level Tennis; One Common Unity; Open Book Foundation; Richard Wright Public Charter School; Salvation Army; Shakespeare Theatre Company; Suited for Change; Teatro de la Luna; Teens Run; Family

Place; The Theatre Lab; UNA-NCA; Washington Bach Consort; Wesley Housing Development Corporation; Woodley House.

BROADNECK H. S. INTERACT CLUB

by Vernon Penner, Annapolis Parole RC Adviser

After a very successful 2019 fall term of activities with membership of over 50 Interactors, the Broadneck High School Interact Club abruptly entered the pandemic quarantine period when schools closed in mid-March. This forced the cancellation of the club's signature spring term project, a 5K race to benefit Doctors Without Borders. However, according to the club's teacher adviser, the IC continued in operation using Google Classroom. Its first order of business was to elect a new slate of leadership officers for the 2020-21 school year. The election was held using a poll on Google Classroom and was based on a paragraph written by all prospective candidates as reported by incoming IC President Rowan Pilarski. She

also noted that it was a struggle getting members actively involved in club activities, but one project carried out was a food and supply drive for the local Lighthouse Shelter. Earlier, club members organized a grocery delivery service in the local community. In addition to a new slate of officers, the incoming First Vice President Madeline Stern was selected to represent the club on the Anne Arundel County Public Schools Service Leadership Team. Finally, the incoming Club Treasurer Jacob Spitzer competed in the District's 4-Way Virtual Speech Contest basing his remarks on his experiences as a short-term youth exchange program participant during the summer of 2019.

Brunswick Interact Club Puerto Rico Relief Effort Fundraiser Kickoff Event Bus Excursion to Luray Caverns, VA Saturday, August 22, 2020



The Island of Puerto Rico (a territory of the U.S.) has been ravaged by several earthquakes and Hurricane Maria over the past two years. Brunswick Interact Club members (sponsored by Smoketown Rotary) are organizing a fundraising effort to purchase and deliver much-needed supplies and aid to Puerto Ricans in need.

The Interact Club will raise the initial funds for this effort by hosting a fun, bus excursion to Luray Caverns, Virginia on Saturday, August 22nd, 2020. All members of the club, plus family and friends are welcome to secure a spot on the air-conditioned bus transport. Learn more about this awesome venue at LurayCaverns.com

Smoketown Rotarians have stepped up to ensure that proceeds from this excursion will be donated to the Interact Club to launch this effort. The plan is for these funds to be matched by Rotary District 7620, and then again by Rotary International as we build toward a winter 2020/21 Relief Aid Effort to the island. People who support the fundraiser will be constantly updated on all progress toward materials secured for the people in need. Club Members will have the opportunity to deliver the aid directly to the island.

The Brunswick Interact Club is a collective of 14-19 year old students & citizens of the Brunswick, MD area and is supported by all Rotary Clubs in Frederick County. Each member of the club will be reaching out to family and friends to sponsor their seat on the bus. Learn more at SmoketownRotary.org

Support one of these ways:

- Write a check (payable to Smoketown Rotary Club). Mail it to Smoketown Rotary Club, PO Box 84, Brunswick 21716. Reference the Interact Club Fundraiser. Any amount is fine.
- Log on to www.SmoketownRotary.org, click the headline that says 'Support the Brunswick Interact Club Fundraiser' and use the paypal widget to buy a seat on the bus at \$99.
- Log on to your personal paypal account and send any amount you like to SmoketownRotaryClub@gmail.com - Reference the Interact Club member you would like to sponsor, in the notes section.

Smoketown Rotary Club - SmoketownRotary.org - [Facebook.com/SmoketownRotary](https://www.facebook.com/SmoketownRotary)



DISASTER AID USA AND DISASTER RELIEF UPDATE

By Bob Grill, President of Disaster Aid USA; and Paul Mahata, Chair, District Disaster Relief Committee

Disaster Aid USA, in coordination with the District Disaster Relief Committee, continues to fight COVID-19. With support from District 7620 and other Rotary Districts around the USA, we have procured Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) worth over \$110K. The PPE has helped the health workers stay safe in many hospitals and clinics. As a "Collaborating Partner" of Rotary International, DAUSA also remains ready to help the victims of disasters caused by natural causes such as Hurricanes, Tornados, Floods, and Earthquakes. We have over a dozen DAUSA Trailers stationed around the country ready to respond in a short notice. Our trained volunteers and DARTs provide the help and assistance needed to the disaster victims.

In order to expand our capability to provide disaster relief, we have taken concrete steps to do nationwide fundraising effort, using the vehicle of "Global Giving Campaign." At this time funds are urgently needed for fighting COVID-19 and for providing disaster assistance. For this reason, Disaster Aid USA is seeking donations now. Disaster Aid USA is a Rotary Club project providing aid and assistance when disaster strikes within and outside the United States. Past support from Rotary clubs and individual Rotarians has been very valuable. Please earmark your donation "COVID-19" or "Global Giving" and mail to: Disaster Aid USA, 9817 Lanham Severn Road, Lanham, MD

20706, or donate online using the website www.disasteraidusa.org via PayPal or going to link disasteraidusa.networkforgood.com/

For any questions, feel free to contact Bob Grill, President & Co-founder, Disaster Aid USA bob.grill@disasteraidusa.org Tel: 410-956-7344; or Paul Mahata, Chair, District Disaster Relief Committee, Pmahata@verizon.net.



INTERACT CLUB OF RICHARD WRIGHT PCS

By Amora Cambell, President, Interact Club of Richard Wright PCS for Journalism and Media

Coronavirus has put a stop to many community service opportunities around the world and yet, the result has caused new ideas to help our community be heard. Every Thursday our club would meet to discuss new projects or ways to help out in this time of need, which makes victories like getting together and sharing ideas for how to assist frontline workers and people at risk so much

more rewarding. However, before the coronavirus hit our city we raised over \$200 from a dress down fundraiser. Fundraising isn't common with non sport clubs, so this was an important landmark for our school as well as Interact club. The money was matched by Rotary DC which allowed us to donate to the Best Kids Foundation for their Virtual Superhero 5k and Fun Run. Best Kids Foundation supports foster children by trying to make a positive impact on their lives. Because of this amazing cause we chose to give this organization a new ally in making children of DC happier. This summer we will partner with the Arkansas Rotary Interact Club for an inspirational art project to say thank you to Healthcare providers. Without the pandemic causing a great amount of integration to technology this partnership most likely wouldn't have happened. In addition to the summer project and meetings, we were able to expand

our horizons when two exchange students, Jaden and Magda came to a meeting to talk with us about their experiences abroad. Every member asked questions about the schools, host families, and culture of the place they went to. We had a great achievement by two of our members who participated in the Four-Way Test Speech Competition. They had a great time writing and learning about the Four Way Test, a skill that will continue to help them throughout their service career. Lastly, we celebrated our one year anniversary with a beautiful slideshow of our accomplishments this year. We would like to thank Rotary DC for making this possible by sponsoring our club.

IN MEMORIAM: ALLEN JONES, JR

It is with sadness and reflection that Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association (WANADA) reports on the passing of its longtime legal counsel, supporter and friend Allen Jones, Esq. He died peacefully at his home on the Chesapeake Bay with his wife Cheryl, son Matt, and family. He was 90 years old.



Allen was counsel to WANADA for 38 years, commencing in 1979 and continuing until 2017. He followed a long tour of legal service to WANADA from his predecessor and law partner, Lou Mann. In his work for WANADA, Allen was first affiliated with the DC firm, Wilkes and Artis, later Wilkes, Artis, Hedrick and Lane; ultimately, he was with the DC firm of Hamilton and Hamilton. Throughout his extensive service to WANADA, he worked with innumerable WANADA dealer leaders and senior staff members while interfacing regularly with NADA, AIADA, MADA and VADA, along with other dealer associations across the U.S., on a variety of legal and regulatory matters facing automotive retailers. He was also an expert in real estate and corporate law and represented several major hoteliers in Washington.

A native Washingtonian, who grew up in DC, Allen graduated from Georgetown University Law School in the 1950s after finishing a tour of service in the U.S. Army and completing his undergraduate degree at Michigan State University where he was a quarterback on the football team in one of its national championship seasons. Among professional and voluntary organizational leadership positions he held, Allen was admitted to the prestigious Barristers Club, of which he was later elected president; he was also president

of the Bar Association of the District of Columbia in 1986; and he was president of the Rotary Club of Washington, DC in the years 1998-99, and president of the Rotary Foundation of Washington, DC, 2002-03.

The family has not made known memorial service arrangements at this time. Contributions to his memory can be made to the Rotary Foundation of Washington, DC, c/o The University Club of Washington, DC, 1135 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036.

To Cheryl and Matt, the rest of Allen's family and his many friends, WANADA extends its sincerest condolences at this time.

"In a world where precious little love is being lost between nations, [the] movement to save the children is revealing man's best and perhaps truest side.... Just how great or small Rotary's part in this movement will be, nobody can yet say...[But] Rotary will open its great heart and do as it has always done when facing emergency — rise with magnificent courage, grateful for another opportunity to exemplify its one fundamental principle, the service of one's fellowman."

- Walter D. Head, 1939-40 President, Rotary International

Rotary



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