



OPEN FORUM

ROTARY 7620
NEWSLETTER
CENTRAL MD & DC



June 2021

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A ROTARY YEAR OF OPENED OPPORTUNITIES

By Ryan Hyland, Rotary International

Rotary International President Holger Knaack encouraged Rotarians to seize the many opportunities Rotary offers to enrich their lives and the communities they serve.

Rotary isn't just a club for people to join, but rather "an invitation to endless opportunities," said President Knaack. He emphasized that Rotary creates pathways for members to improve their lives and the lives of those they help through service projects.

"We believe that our acts of service, big and small, create opportunities for people who need our help," Knaack said. He added that Rotary creates leadership opportunities and gives members the chance to travel the world to put their service ideas into action and make lifelong connections. "Everything we do opens another opportunity for someone, somewhere," said Knaack.

Knaack also urged members to embrace change so Rotary can expand and thrive. Rather than setting a specific target for increasing the number of members, Knaack said he's asking clubs and districts to think about how to grow in a sustainable and organic way. He wanted clubs to focus on keeping current members engaged and adding new members who are the right fit for their club.

"We will capture this moment to grow Rotary, making it stronger, more adaptable, and even more aligned with our core values."

"We need to stop thinking of new members as

people we can mark down as statistics and then forget about," Knaack said. "Every new member changes us a little bit. That person brings a new perspective, new experiences. We need to embrace this constant renewal. We will grow stronger as we learn from new members."

Knaack pointed to Rotary's Action Plan as a compass that can guide clubs as they evolve. He recommended that every club have a



strategic plan meeting at least once a year. At that meeting, clubs should ask where they want to be in five years and how they can bring more value to their members.

Knaack also wants to see more women in leadership roles and see Rotaractors play an integral role in how new clubs are formed and run. He encouraged district leaders to create new club models

and rethink what it means to be in Rotary, and allow young people to be the architects of these new clubs.

"We have to be open to new approaches, and creating unique clubs for younger people is just part of the solution," said Knaack. "Let Rotaractors decide what kind of Rotary experience works best for them. These young people are bright, energetic, and they get things done."

In stressing the need for Rotary members to embrace change, Knaack noted that time won't slow down for Rotary: "We will not let rapid change defeat us. We will capture this moment to grow Rotary, making it stronger, more adaptable, and even more aligned with our core values."

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 12-16
Rotary International
Convention

June 17 7pm
Legacy Fund Fireside Chat

June 26
Membership Seminar with
Jason Browne

June 27
Governor's Installation
Kings Contrivance, Columbia

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE - POLLINATOR GARDENING PROGRAM

*By Christopher F. Puttock, Environment
Committee Chair*

The District Environment Committee's Planning and Implementing Environmental Resources (PIER) meets virtually by zoom at 6:30pm on the last Friday of each month. The entire Rotary family is welcome. Rotary Club project opportunities are explored at every meeting. Our May theme was Recycling and at our meeting on April 30 Mary Anne Rishebarger from RC Baltimore Sunset and Monarch Sister Schools Program (MSSP) presented our April focus on pollinator gardening and community assessment.

Gaithersburg Rotary Built a Butterfly and Pollinator Garden in Lakelands Middle School

*By Kenneth D. Weiss,
Gaithersburg Rotary*

Our Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Garden is in. President-elect Janet gathered a crew and pitched in too, as we planted milkweed and other plants on Saturday morning, May 15th. Frank marked the upper edge with six 8-foot timbers, so we know the garden is 48 feet long. There are three rows. An irrigation system is ready to help ensure the plants' survival.

This was a nice club effort. We counted

13 people on the site, although a few

could not stay long. Most were from our club, but we also had Janet's son-in-law, two Interact advisors and Mary Anne Rishebarger from RC Baltimore Sunset and Monarch Sister Schools Program. The job took two hours, from 10:00am until high noon. At noon, a surprise - one of this year's scholarship winners came to say "hello." She hobbled to the site on crutches because of a recent sports injury. We expect to see her soon in one of our weekly meetings.

Rockville Rotary Built a Butterfly and Pollinator Garden in Lucy V. Barnsley Elementary

*By Hande Apaydin, Rockville Rotary,
District 7620 Environment Committee
Member*

On Sunday May 23rd, seven Rotarians from Rockville Rotary met to build a butterfly and pollinator garden in Lucy V. Barnsley Elementary School in Rockville. Rotarians Todd Franken, Edco Bailey, Cecilia Bailey, Ozlem Inci-Richardson, Irina Lujan, Eliseo Lujan, and Jim Gilchrist planted native milkweed and flowering nectar plants with a pledge to restore the monarch butterfly's disappearing habitat and support pollinators in our area which are vital for the whole ecosystem. The garden will provide educational opportunities for the students and teachers in the school and will help Rotary raise awareness within a wider community.

As part of activities to celebrate and honor June 5th World Environment Day, Rockville Rotary plans to build a minimum of one more butterfly and pollinator garden in a Rockville school or church and will organize a stream clean-up event to clean a segment of Watts Branch in Rockville on June 6th.



ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE - POLLINATOR GARDENING AND CARBON FOOTPRINT PROGRAM

(continued from page 2)

The Monarch Sister Schools Program (MSSP)

was founded by Rotarian, William Dent (RC Washington DC). William, Dr. Chris Puttock (RC College Park) and Mary Anne Rishebarger (RC Baltimore Sunset) have planted over 40 gardens since the program began in 2008.



This year under the leadership of Mary Anne, MSSP goal is to plant over 30 gardens, expanding beyond Maryland and DC, along the Monarchs migration path North through Pennsylvania, to Massachusetts and South through South Carolina to Texas. Through the magic of Zoom and in-person Rotary meetings, Mary Anne has been presenting the MSSP story. Monarchs have declined over 90% due to habitat loss and the use of herbicides and pesticides. In order to preserve the pollinators habitat, restoration with native milkweed for monarch caterpillars and native nectar plants for monarch butterflies and other pollinators is urgently needed.

Carbon Footprint Pledge Program

The Environment Committee is commencing a project to get our District to Net Zero.

Our country is moving to achieve Net-Zero for carbon by 2050, and aiming to reach the halfway mark by 2030. We believe Rotarians have the responsibility to lead the way, and to get there much sooner. Our goal for our District is to reach Net-Zero carbon footprint by June 30, 2025. Yes, in just four years.

To achieve this a very ambitious goal the first step is ask every Rotarian in our District to sign a pledge to measure their carbon footprint using a carbon calculator. There

are many calculators available on the web. We do not mind which one you try out, try several. Try this one to start <https://www.footprintnetwork.org/>. It is more important

to the Environment Committee that every Rotarian consider measuring their carbon footprint today.

To do this we would like you to take a carbon footprint pledge on July 1, 2021. Our first goal is to get a baseline. Then we can strategize how to get D7620 to be the first District in the world to be Net-Zero. We may be in a race to get there because others have heard about our idea. This may become a global Rotary Challenge. D7620 will be leading the way. Our PIER meeting on June 25 will be discussing Rotary and Carbon. We launch June as Carbon Footprint month on Friday May 28, 2021.

June 25, 2021 06:30 PM - Carbon footprint

July 30, 2021 06:30 PM - Energy

August 27, 2021 06:30 PM - Tree planting

September 24, 2021 06:30 PM - Cleanups



SMOKETOWN ROTARY'S CANAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

By Ernie Stepoulos, President

On Saturday, May 8th, members of the Smoketown Rotary Club of Brunswick, MD gathered at the Brunswick Boat Ramp to Launch its C&O Canal Stewardship Program.

Responding to an invitation by Becka Lee, Canal Steward Program Coordinator for the C&O Canal Trust, the club adopted the Brunswick Boat Ramp / Lock No. 30 / Mile 55 area for its stewardship location.

Volunteer tasks include general clean up, trash pick up, sweeping, cleaning of the wayfinding and interpretive signs, and the reporting of any hazards to National Park Service officials.

Smoketown Rotarians Jenny Diaz, Chris Mourlas, and Abbie Ricketts completed Canal Steward training, qualifying as Certified Canal Stewards, a requirement of the program.

Canal Stewards Launch Day coincides with the Canal Trust Canal Communities Day in Brunswick directed by Rod Newton.

Smoketown volunteers worked beside other volunteers to clean the area at the boat ramp and along the "social trails" nearby.

Along the 184.5 miles of the C & O Canal there are 74 lift locks. These locks were constructed to help boats overcome the 605-foot elevation change between Georgetown and Cumberland. The Lock No. 30 in Brunswick is built of Seneca sandstone, Patapsco granite, and some local stone.

Robin Zanotti and Heather Barnes from the leadership team at C&O Canal Trust were also in attendance at the event.

Group photo includes Abbie Ricketts, Karin Tome, Chris Mourlas, Emma Mourlas, Ernie Stepoulos, Jennifer Lolli-Hall, Arch Hodges, Charlie Harris and Dick Foot.

MAKING MEMBERSHIP MEMORABLE

Membership Recruitment, Retention & Improving Diversity with Jason Browne

By Dawn Wittfelt, District Membership Chair

Date: June 26, 2021

Time of Event: 10:00 am EDT

Link to zoom: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82643849404?pwd=eDVEQnlwWlJrRVVjWXpGREJsc1VwQT09>

Meeting ID: 826 4384 9404

Passcode: 201785

Convention. He loves to creatively create meaningful change and have fun along the way. His motto: Use what you love to fight what you hate.

Topics & Audience:

- Audience: Incoming Presidents and their Membership Chairs
- Themes are primarily Membership, secondarily DEI.
- Membership: Improving Retention & having a balance between the old guard and new members
- Membership: Improving Recruitment &

Make M&Ms

Make Membership Memorable



[Above] Membership Recruitment, Retention & Improving Diversity with Jason Browne

Jason's passions and successes are rooted in his diverse interests and experiences. Jason co-owns the streaming media company AWR rebels, charms the airwaves as a radio personality on WBHV B94.5 FM, and captivates audiences as a member and performer with Happy Valley Improv, a local improv company. A Past President of the Downtown Rotary Club of State College, PA, USA, and a Rollin' with Rotary founding member, Jason is highly active with Rotary public image on the local and national level. Jason has inspired Rotarians at District Conferences, PETS and at Rotary International

building new clubs

- Membership: Increasing Diversity
- Membership: Make it memorable

Speaker Info

- Speaker CV: <https://bit.ly/jasonspeakercv>
- Speaker Bio: <https://bit.ly/jasonspeakerbio>
- Speaker Images: <http://bit.ly/jasonspeakersphotos>
- Speaker Website: www.thejasonbrowne.com

DIVERSITY EQUITY & INCLUSION (DEI) WEBINAR

By Kashonna Holland, Chair, and Michael Larson, Co-Chair

What an incredible time of discussion and illumination we experienced on May 22 at our first Diversity, Equity & Inclusion webinar. There was insight as to how the DEI Committee will align with Rotary International's Diversity Equity and Inclusion Vision Statement by adopting the acrostic created by our own DEI Advisory Committee Member, Monique Toussaint:

Humility
Evaluation
Accountability
Responsibility
Trust

DG Jimmie Gorski opened the webinar with the excitement of seeing her vision fulfilled. She expressed how important it was to see the support of this initiative across districts. Although we are at year-end, she shared her anticipation of seeing this important work continue to unfold.

DGN-D Delores Edwards Harding helped bring clarity of DEI terms and what those terms mean to Rotary now and what they will mean as we begin to do the work. She gave us 3 reasons for promoting diversity, equity and inclusion:

1. Increase Membership
2. Source of Innovation
3. Increase Capacity

The more intentional we become in these 3 areas, the more opportunities we will have to reach our goals at an optimal level.

We then had a hot fireside chat with IPDG Jonathan Lucas of District 7610 who shared his leadership journey to bring DEI to the forefront in his district. He brought awareness to his district to include the LGBTQ community and ethnic diversity. With both support and resistance, he was determined to ensure the club reflected the community. "We can't ask people to come be a part of us if they

don't see themselves." He used an analogy comparing the great debate of tomato-based (westerners) and vinegar-based (easterners) barbeque to our DEI approach. To understand the debate, it will take understanding the history, how they came about, how they are made, and how they are relevant in today's society.

Jonathan then joined the panel discussion, along with DGE Geetha Jayaram and DGN Sean McAllister, to answer challenging questions regarding the impact that DEI has and will have in our clubs. Panelists tackled concerns, as well as cast vision, regarding how our district will continue to build upon and support this initiative.

Afterwards, we went into breakout sessions where attendees were randomly selected to discuss ways to integrate DEI into club operations, such as:

Membership
Programming
Youth Programs
Public Image
Accountability and
Service.

They returned to the main room to share those creative and innovative ideas with the group as a whole.

We closed with a reminder that the DEI Committee exists to Educate, Empower and Execute by sharing what each club can do to support and encourage diversity, equity and inclusion individually. We must make a decision to be willing and committed to see success.

Our next virtual committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 7th @6:30pm.

To join the committee or for additional information, email 7620dei@gmail.com.

DEI IN BALTIMORE

By Alex Short, Baltimore Rotary Club

Dr. Maya Rockey Moore Cummings
(Congressman Elijah Cummings widow)



luncheon talk to us on September 1, 2020, the Baltimore Club's discussions on racial justice and equity began on November 7, 2020 (Book was White Fragility) with a lively story-telling session with Michael Powell as discussion leader, sourced thankfully by Catalina Keilhauer. After a hiatus of several months due largely to her schedule, we continued the

series with Dr. Cummings as our facilitator in March. Our 90 minute sessions, completed our discussion on White Fragility (Robin DiAngelo, March 13) and then focused on Ibram Kendi's How to be an Antiracist on March 27. Dr. Cummings effectively parlayed personal testimonies of participants to highlight the principal themes of these fine works. DiAngelo's book provided a bracing challenge to us (a) to take a hard look at the behaviors of white people and how they function to maintain white supremacy and then (b) to seize the opportunity to change things. Kendi educated us on many aspects of racism and its pernicious consequences and then took us through a wide variety of antiracist behaviors and how to work to oppose racist systems. There was excellent turnout for both March sessions with attendance around 18 for both. In April Dr. Cummings also facilitated a session focusing on Isabel Wilkerson's book Caste: The Origins Of Our Discontents. In a well-researched narrative, Wilkerson explores how the US throughout its history has been molded by a "rigid hierarchy of human rankings" or insidious caste system through beautifully set stories and the eight pillars that underlie such system, a system that acts both to the ultimate detriment of the dominant white caste and the subordinate African-American caste.

FANNY BONDJE SELECTED FOR DISTRICT GLOBAL GRANT SCHOLARSHIP

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

District 7620's Global Grant Scholarship Committee, chaired by Jennifer Hara, has chosen Fanny Yayi Bondje of Pasadena, Maryland to be the District's candidate for a Rotary International global grant scholarship. Fanny plans to pursue graduate studies at the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies in the fall. Ms. Bondje's scholarship application was nominated by the Rotary Club of Annapolis. District 7620 has agreed to provide \$15,000 in District Designated Funds for the scholarship, which will be matched by The Rotary Foundation if the candidate is approved in the next step of the process.

Ms. Bondje graduated in May 2021, with a B.A. degree from New York University, where she majored in Politics, Human Rights, and Development. Born in Cameroon, Ms. Bondje, who is fluent in French, participated in Rotary's Youth Exchange Program, spending the 2016-17 school year in Belgium. She also studied in Argentina from 2019-20 as a Benjamin A. Gilman International scholarship recipient.

While attending the University of London, Ms. Bondje plans to pursue a MSc degree in Humanitarianism, Aid and Conflict. Her studies will concentrate on empowering youth and peace building, with a focus on Africa.

Rotary global grant scholarships fund graduate-level studies abroad for students related to one of Rotary's seven areas of focus: 1) Peace

building and conflict prevention; 2) Disease prevention and treatment; 3) Water, sanitation, and hygiene; 4) Maternal and child health; 5) Basic education and literacy; 6) Community economic development; and 7) Environment.

Rotary global grant scholarships are extremely competitive, and recipients must demonstrate excellent leadership skills and potential; academic success; a commitment to community service; well-defined and realistic goals; and a desire to maintain a relationship with Rotary after the scholarship period. Candidates must be committed to measurable, sustainable change in their chosen field.

ROTARIANS HELP CLEAN UP DC'S MT. ZION CEMETERY

By Ginny Maycock

On Saturday, May 1, a group of Metro Bethesda Rotary Club members joined members of the Rotary Club of Washington DC for an important and moving project: a cleanup at historic Mt. Zion Cemetery. Located in Georgetown, Mt. Zion Methodist Church is the oldest Black church in Washington, and its cemetery is one of the most historic Black cemeteries in DC. In the 19th century, there were over 6000 burials there, but the cemetery long ago fell into disrepair and now only about 310 markers have been recovered and identified. To add to its history, it's highly likely that the cemetery was a key stop on the Underground Railroad. MBR and DC Rotary Club members got a two-fer: the opportunity to participate in a special service project plus an enlightening history lesson/tour. Thanks go out to Sheldon Ray (Washington DC) and Ellie Gill (Metro Bethesda) for coordinating this event, and to MBR Club President Clara Montanez, Rotary Club of Washington DC President Nancy Riker, MBR members Susan Greif, David Searby, and Maura Connell Lightfoot (and Maura's young son Oliver) along with DC Club member Donnie Shaw for their hard work at the site. We plan to continue doing regular cleanups at the Cemetery in the future.



[Above] District 7620's Global Grant Scholarship Committee, chaired by Jennifer Hara, has chosen Fanny Yayi Bondje of Pasadena, Maryland to be the District's candidate for a Rotary International global grant scholarship.

[Below] On Saturday, May 1, a group of Metro Bethesda Rotary Club members joined members of the Rotary Club of Washington DC for an important and moving project: a cleanup at historic Mt. Zion Cemetery.



JUNE IS ROTARY FELLOWSHIPS MONTH

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

ROTARY FELLOWSHIPS ARE FUN!

Rotary Fellowships are international groups of Rotarians who share a common passion for sports, hobbies, or professions. They network with like-minded Rotarians and create lasting friendships with Rotarians around the world, far outside of their club or district. This is a great way to visit new places, explore new countries, and be greeted with warmth and friendships.

Motorcycles! After a career in the US Army, lifelong DC Rotarian Bob Johnson charged into the Rotary Montreal Convention on his motorcycle with wife Beverly at his back to

join the International Fellowship of Motorcycling Rotarians (IFMR) on a 2,000-mile motorcycle tour around Canada. Beverly and Bob toured the World on their bike, meeting Rotarians along the way; the visit to the Nuremberg Rotary Club brought back special memories. There are motorcycling chapters in 27 countries, from Spain

to India, East Africa to South America. Past President of IFMR, PDG Dr. Prithvi Raval loved to go out with friends on rides in India or just alone. He traveled to the Himalayas alone on a motorcycle. Sadly, he just passed away on May 3, 2021.

Wine Appreciation Fellowship! DC Rotarian PP Jay Pugh joined the Rotary Wine Fellowship and raved about the gourmet wine dinners at every Rotary International Convention; tickets are hard to come by, but Jay told me he could get me in if I went to the Convention. No doubt that accounts for his annual tours to Paris to visit our wine-loving sister club, the Paris Academies Rotary Club, which serves wine before and with every Rotary lunch at Le Procope, the oldest restaurant in Paris. Throughout the year, there are many wine

events – At the Lisbon RI Convention, Roy Hersh, a port and sherry wine critic and editor of “For the Love of Port,” led an incredible wine tour of the Duoro Valley in Portugal – for Rotarians wanting to learn all about port.

Whisk(e)y DRAM! Whiskey Drinking Rotarians and Members -- District Bourbon Happy Hour Rotarians led by Sean, Kevin, Sue, and Chris may want to join this fellowship or start a DC chapter! Whiskey DRAM was formed in 2015-16 to provide Rotarians with a Whiskey Appreciation Fellowship. Their objective is to learn more about all the whiskies of the world, including bourbon, scotch, rye, sour mash, and moonshine. To better appreciate whiskey, the goal of the fellowship is to enjoy whiskey food pairings, and other topics, etc. Rotarians share their knowledge and experiences and learn from the many whiskey experts throughout the world. As with other Rotary Fellowships, they will also support the charitable arm of Rotary. The Whiskey DRAM Fellowship has chosen clean water initiatives as their charity of choice. A portion of the net proceeds of our Fellowship will be given, on an annual basis, to a Rotary-sanctioned campaign focused on safe drinking water.

The Cycling to Serve Fellowship turned social opportunities into a service opportunity – raising funds for Polio. **The Surf Fellowship** led a beach clean-up.

ROTARY FELLOWSHIPS: There are about 90 Fellowships to choose from. If you have an idea to form a new one, you can apply to Rotary for recognition. Anyone for fly-fishing?

Interested in visiting any of these Rotary fellowships, go to rotary.org/fellowships: Antique cars, Badminton, Bees, Beer, Bird Watching, Chess, Caravanning, Cricket, Cruising, Cultural Heritage, Cycling, Dolls, Educators, Flying, Genealogists, Gin, Golf, Hiking, Home Exchange, Horseback Riding, Jazz, LGBT, Magicians, Marathons, Metalhead, Music, Peace Fellows, Photographers, Quilters, RVs, Rotary Pins, Rowing, Scuba, Singles, Skiing, Social Networks, Surfing, Tennis, Travel, Yachting, Yoga, and MORE!

[Below] The Cycling to Serve Fellowship turned social opportunities into a service opportunity – raising funds for Polio. There are about 90 Fellowships to choose from. If you have an idea to form a new one, you can apply to Rotary for recognition.



GLEN BURNIE ROTARY VIRTUAL DUCK RACE

By Indira Rice Donegan, Rotary Club of Glen Burnie, MD

The corona virus has made a terrible impact on so many things since the beginning of 2020, it is hard to keep track of all the wreckage in its wake. Rotary clubs are not immune to the havoc it has wreaked, be it declining numbers, difficulty in gaining new members, losing venues, or losing traction in key project areas, it has been tough. During this time of dislocation, fear, and trauma, clubs are struggling mightily. The pandemic and economic collapse have constituted an existential threat. With a major drop in fundraising efforts, there's no guarantee that the public will receive a club's goodwill efforts, now or in the future, and that creates a complex environment for any active Rotary club to navigate through. Everything is uncertain. Everyone is on edge. The silver lining is that for those clubs who have survived and even thrived in the new COVID-19/Zoom environment, the desire to do good in the community is still high. That is the case for the members of the Glen Burnie Rotary Club. Where there is a will, there is always a way.

The idea of a totally virtual Rotary Duck Race came from club member Indira Rice Donegan. She had wanted to be a part of a live duck race for years, after having so many fond memories attached to the big race she grew up helping with in Eugene, Oregon on the Willamette River. "When we got together as a club online, we still managed to have fun, and we knew there was a lot we wanted to continue working on within the community, especially with literacy and STEM programs in our local district. We just needed to figure out a way

to raise money during a time when we really couldn't get out the way we normally would," Indira said. "I sort of stumbled on this idea of a virtual race as way of finally getting us into the duck race business - a popular fundraiser for Rotary clubs across the globe - where we had all the fun of a race, but none of the overhead or labor, or the massive hours it takes to do one live in an actual river." She pitched the idea to her club, and the rest was

to create a visually fun and exciting duck race, with a duck drop, epic race with rapids and high flying water adventure, and a big finish. We will sportscast the event live from our facebook page, and all ticket holders will have a chance to win the race via an automatic generator for the various prizes. Winners will be posted online during the live stream as if the winning ducks had been plucked right off the finish line. It

should be hilarious, fun, and safe for everyone to enjoy and have a few laughs at our expense!" Prizes include cash up to \$1000, and other door prizes. All the proceeds will go towards funding K-12 STEM programs and opportunities in the Glen Burnie area. "Our club has been very involved in K-12 educational programs in our area, and we have really made an effort to support STEM opportunities for years. Our club has invested a lot into improving computer labs and providing mobile devices such as upgraded tablets to several schools in our area, and we feel really good about those efforts," Indira said.

This is a great example of Rotarians doing good no matter how difficult the situation becomes. "We have an amazing club, and a really resilient mind set. We want to keep doing good wherever and however we can, and we invite all Rotarians to help us

make a difference," Indira shared. You can buy virtual duck tickets and sponsorships up through midnight on 11 June. Type in this link to your browser: [Tinyurl.com/GBRduck](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/glen-burnie-rotary-1st-annual-virtual-duck-race-tickets-148851461729), or go straight to the event link for your tickets and sponsorship purchases here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/glen-burnie-rotary-1st-annual-virtual-duck-race-tickets-148851461729>

1st Annual
Glen Burnie
ROTARY

Virtual
**Duck
Race**

Saturday
June 12th @ 2pm

**Duck Race
Tickets:**

- \$10 each
- 3 for \$20
- 8 for \$50

Prizes!

1st: \$1000
2nd: \$500
3rd: \$250

Watch the
Race
Livestreamed
On Facebook

Proceeds Go To
Glen Burnie
K-12 Educational
STEM Programs

To Buy Tickets
CLICK HERE

history in the making!

On June 12th at 2:00pm EST, the Rotary Club of Glen Burnie will host their first annual VIRTUAL Rotary Duck Race. "With the help of my club, and some super talented folks on the race committee, we came up with a way to splice together footage from multiple live races from all over the world

DISTRICT ROTARACT NEWS

By Alexander Oddo, District Rotaract Team

American University Rotaract

As the semester wound down, American University Rotaract took a study break and played "Among Us," a unique online multiplayer social deduction game set aboard a damaged spaceship! Rotaractors became a group of spacemen traveling and exploring distant quadrants of the galaxy. Together, they worked to find the vicious alien impostor that is pretending to be one of the crew and taking out key systems.

Annapolis Rotaract

A few members of Annapolis Rotaract joined other volunteers to pack grocery bags, stock shelves, and hand out food at the West Annapolis Pop-up Pantry on May 6th. Organized by Marshall Hope, this drive-up pantry provided three bags of non-perishable items, produce, milk, eggs, and chicken to families in need.

Hood College Rotaract

Rotaract was re-established at Hood College on May 13th. Aalayah Ali Bonablue has stepped up to assume the role of Club President and she has recruited a board to support the Club's day-to-day operations. The new team is excited to begin planning for prospective members next semester!

Howard University Rotaract

At their last meeting of the semester, Howard University Rotaract put their knowledge to the test as contestants on a special Rotary edition of Jeopardy! Members had to dig deep to respond to

trivia questions about the history and nature of our organization.

Washington DC Rotaract

After many a Zoom meeting, DC Rotaract held a cookout on May 15th at Rock Creek



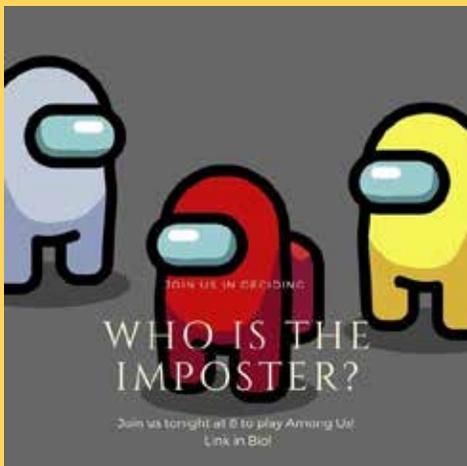
Park to reconnect with members face-to-face and to meet with prospective members. The picnic brought together non-members and members, and the group hopes that the new candidates for membership will be back for additional fellowship!

DC ROTARIAN FEATURED IN DC LINE

The DC Line features DC Club Member Lisa Cohen in the piece, "Surviving trauma: Northwest resident shares her path from foster child to world-champion boxer in hopes of helping others go the distance."

Another interesting tidbit: Lisa just completed her Master's Degree in Legal Studies and Business Law at American University. Congratulations, Lisa

<https://thedcline.org/2021/02/17/surviving-trauma-northwest-resident-shares-her-path-from-foster-child-to-world-champion-boxer-in-hopes-of-helping-others-go-the-distance/>



[Above] American University Rotaract took a study break and played "Among Us," a unique online multiplayer social deduction game set aboard a damaged spaceship!



[Above] A few members of Annapolis Rotaract joined other volunteers to pack grocery bags, stock shelves, and hand out food at the West Annapolis Pop-up Pantry on May 6th.
[Below] Howard University Rotaract.



DISTRICT INTERACT CLUB REPORTS

By Marilyn Nevy Cruz, District 7620
Interact Chair



New Interact District 7620 Sharing Platform

I am pleased to inform you that the district Interact team is now using Slack as our new sharing platform. The workspace name is Interact 7620. Below is the link to join the group.

https://join.slack.com/t/interact7620/shared_invite/zt-psup7274-kQnjt6Jbzt0i87~wJan1Q

If you have any other questions, please drop me an e-mail at mncruz10@gmail.com or text me at (562) 303-4711, and I will be glad to get back to you with an answer.

Charles County Interact

By Georgia Booney, Charles County Interact Club

Our Interact provided the main volunteer force for a large event on Saturday, May 1, at Tilghman Lake Park in Charles County, MD. I thought I would share a short write-up and some pictures, in case you might want to share.



On Saturday, May 1, at beautiful Tilghman Lake Park in Charles County, Maryland, Charles County Interactors provided a massive volunteer force for NatureFest 2021. NatureFest was a free community event presented by twelve partnering nonprofits focused on environmental education. Our Interactors helped children make vermicomposters, bee hotels, and nature-based art, including nature mandalas, chlorophyll pictures, and seed collages. Interactors also introduced families to goats, kittens, ducks, chicks, hamsters, guinea pigs, puppies, a hedgehog, and our resident tarantula. Together, our Interactors served 297 children through NatureFest.

Here are some pictures that you



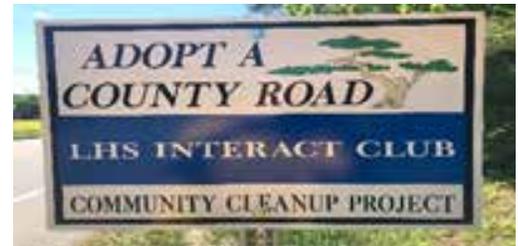
may enjoy: <https://share.icloud.com/photos/01SrRkvujFpG94KiZyWqhU17g>

Leonardtown Interact

By Chris Perlick,
Leonardtown Rotary Club

The Interact Club of Leonardtown is celebrating two milestones this May.

First, the Interact Club pursued, and was assigned Fairgrounds Road, under the Adopt-A-Road program in St. Mary's County, MD. They held their first "clean-up" on April 10th and had 5 Rotarians and 9 Interact students participate, and the Leonardtown



High Interact Advisor(Teacher) as well. A new award was created, The Most Unique Found Object (affectionately named the "UFO Award"). A Leonardtown Rotarian won the first award (a full jar of

pickles). Bottom line...it was a great outing!

Second, this year's Interact Officers are all Seniors, and graduated in May. These 4 Club Officers

are the first, initial club officers when the club was first organized. The accompanying photo shows the four after being presented with Blue and Gold Cords to wear at their graduation, along with Rotarian Interact Sponsor Chris Perlick.

The new officers were sworn in, and are eager to expand the footprint of the Leonardtown Interact Club in the community.

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH IN DISTRICT 7620: MEET THEM WHERE THEY ARE

By Governor Jimmie Gorski and Patrick Eakes

You are reading this article because you care about Rotary's growth. You know our membership number has hovered around 1.2 million people for decades. More importantly, you know we need more Rotarians to increase our impact.

As another Rotary year comes to an end, it is the time to fall into step and march out our traditional district membership growth plans. We promote a District-wide challenge to increase numbers and instruct membership chairs to "Grow Rotary." Essentially, we create sales quotas for Clubs.

The higher leaders rise in any organization, the more often we risk losing sight of what is happening on the front lines. We forget that our membership roster is broken down by Clubs, then further into individual names. Do we know these people who are serving our mission on the front lines? What are their goals? What do they want from Rotary? What do they hope to achieve? It is not about the numbers, and it should not be because it is about them.

My feeling is that there are few Rotarians who really care a great deal if Rotary membership increases from 1.2 million to 1.3 million. Also, I feel many club leaders would prefer to have a smaller group of more dedicated Rotarians than just a deeper roster with more casual members.

We know how Innovative Clubs can help them grow, but if they are not ready or it is not their goal, it may have the opposite effect we are hoping for and encounter even more resistance to change.

Innovative ideas can draw a mixed bag. A few clubs may be ready to dive right in. Others may need to dip a toe in and test the water. Still others will not even look at the water.

I hold that the leadership intent should be

to facilitate simple movement from one step to the next, but how?

First, we need to meet the clubs where they are. This means communicating with the clubs individually, understanding their goals and challenges, and then bolster them to choose their own way.

Proposed changes should always be about the needs of the individual Club. Change does not have to come at the cost of what dedicated Rotarians have come to know and love about their club.

For some clubs it may be creating multiple satellite clubs. For others it may be as simple as offering a new membership type without the cost of meals. Getting that club to offer a new membership type needs to be recognized and celebrated because the membership has taken a step outside of their comfort zone, which probably took a lot of hard work. Give them credit for success because they have done something new and innovative for themselves.

As membership advocates, we all want to see Rotary grow in members and impact with new satellite clubs or cause-based clubs. However, our priorities are not those of everyone. It is up to the clubs to determine what is best for them.

Truly to help Rotary grow, we must meet Clubs where they are.

One of the greatest joys during my year as District Governor has been seeing our district grow in membership. We have flourished under the leadership of our Membership Chair Jennifer Coppit, who will be leaving her position on June 30. Our Membership Chair beginning July 1 for the new Rotary year will be Dawn Wittfelt, and we look forward to continued growth in our clubs. Please plan to attend the Membership webinar on Saturday, June 27, presented by Jason Browne. See complete details on page 4 of this issue of the Open Forum.



One of the greatest joys during my year as District Governor has been seeing our district grow in membership. We have flourished under the leadership of our Membership Chair Jennifer Coppit [photo above], who will be leaving her position on June 30. Our Membership Chair beginning July 1 for the new Rotary year will be Dawn Wittfelt [photo below], and we look forward to continued growth in our clubs. Please plan to attend the Membership webinar on Saturday, June 27, presented by Jason Browne. See complete details on page 4 of this issue of the Open Forum. Yours in Rotary, Governor Jimmie



DISASTER AID UPDATE – YEAR-END SUMMARY

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

By all accounts, this Rotary year has been most challenging from the perspective of disaster response. The District Disaster Relief Committee in coordination with Disaster Aid USA worked through the spread of COVID-19 and devastating winter freeze in Texas and Louisiana. Our activities included: a) supplying PPE to several designated hospitals to fight COVID locally and nationally, b) participating in a multi-club global grant project to supply PPE to 28 nursing homes within district 7620, and c) sending disaster response teams to Texas and Louisiana to clean out flooded home due to the prolonged winter freeze there.

When Disaster Strikes, Disaster Aid



USA Responds. We respond within 7 days after the disaster strikes, to help and aid the survivors who are left with unprecedented losses to their homes and belongings from the wind, rain and floods. Very simply, we are the “Muckers and Gutters,” a short name for a lot of clean-up work. Water is pumped and vacuumed out of flooded homes. All water-damaged items are removed from the flooded home (furniture, clothes, appliances, etc.). Water-soaked drywall is removed 2 feet above water marks, including insulation.

To dry out the homes numerous floor fans and large 36-inch-high-velocity fans along with dehumidifiers are used to dry the house as quickly as possible.

We have one very special trailer which dries out a house within 24-48 hours. This trailer has a furnace back up that blows super-heated air through the house.

Disaster Aid USA will have a domestic disaster response training for its volunteers this summer, late August or early September, for all interested district 7620 Rotarians and other Rotary Zone 33 Rotarians. The training will be a 2-day event (Saturday/Sunday) held here in District 7620 (location to be determined). We depend on volunteers for all our disaster response. So, all able-bodied persons are encouraged to attend this training.

To sign up for this training contact Paul Mahata: pmahata@verizon.net or Dr. William Du-Boyce: billydubes@hotmail.com or Bob Grill: bob.grill@disasteraidusa.org

PROGRAMS OF SCALE

(continued from page 17)

STEP 1: Call for Concept Notes. Programs of Scale concept notes should be no longer than 10 pages and should give insight on the following questions around elements of program design:

- Scale: Why is your program ready to scale? What have you learned through past implementation and how will you apply that to scaling? How will you use this program to inform future opportunities to scale?
- Sustainability: How will you ensure the program's benefits continue beyond the initial grant funding?
- Partnership: What is the role of Rotary members

in the program? What are the roles and responsibilities of the other partners? What are the external organizations and resources that are necessary to achieve success?

- Implementation: Does the program's budget, timeline, and scope of work align with the three- to five-year implementation period for the grant? What milestones must be achieved for success?
- Impact: What is the vision of success and how will that be measured? What are the key assumptions and risks and how are they addressed in the program design?

STEP 2: Invitation for Full Proposal

. Clubs or Districts with the highest scoring concept notes will be invited to submit a more comprehensive, full proposal. Rotary members and implementing partners should prepare for an interactive review of their program, including site visits and informational sessions.

All program entries will go through a rigorous review process conducted by Rotarians (Cadre), staff, and other subject-matter experts.

The Rotary Foundation Board of Trustees will make the final award determination. Thereafter, a grant agreement will be signed, marking the start of a collaborative learning partnership with the Foundation!



WHISKEY D.R.A.M. FELLOWSHIP

By Sean McAlister, DGN

To start a new Rotary Whiskey D.R.A.M. Fellowship chapter in District 7620, DGN Sean McAlister (Capitol Hill), Kevin Freese (Capitol Hill) and Chris Zabriskie (La Plata) hosted a "Virtual" District Bourbon Happy Hour on Friday, May 21st. The event was a resounding success as 41 Rotary and

Drinking Rotarians and Members) was created to explore the whiskey world including bourbon, scotch, rye, sour mash, and moonshine. If you would like to join District 7620's new Whiskey D.R.A.M. Fellowship chapter, please send an email to either Sean McAlister (SDMRotary7620@outlook.com), Chris Zabriskie (zabriskiect@gmail.com), or Kevin Freese (kmfreese@gmail.com). We hope to schedule our next "whiskey of choice" happy hour within the next three months.



Rotaract members attended. The program also attracted members from Northern Virginia (District 7620) and Bourbon County, Kentucky (District 6740). Just like a regular happy hour, the event's only purpose was to engage in fellowship, network, and have fun.

DC CAREER FAIR

Calling all Rotarians to introduce and share your career with 8-12 graders at Columbia Heights Education Campus at our annual Career Fair on June 9. Contact Chair Donnie Shaw (202-369-7971) or Marilyn Nevy Cruz (562-303-4711) to select a time slot and volunteer.

WASHINGTON DC VACCINATIONS

Thank you to DC Rotary Club's Health and Wellness Chair Linda Solomon for proactively partnering with the D.C. Mayor's Office to "Vaccinate the Vulnerable."

The D.C. Rotary Club's Rotarians for the Equality of Black People Committee is forming a Rotary group of volunteers to support ongoing vaccination efforts of vulnerable citizens in Washington, D.C. During the next few weeks, we will circulate a new link to a portal where you can sign up to join the Rotary "Vaccinate the Vulnerable" Project Team. Details are forthcoming! ALL VOLUNTEERS WILL BE PROVIDED WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET VACCINATED!

Reach out to Rotarian of Action: Linda Keene Solomon (202) 746-6901 with any questions.



During the event, Chris Zabriskie and Kevin Freese, both official Marker's Mark Bourbon Ambassadors, discussed how American whiskey is made, and then demonstrated basic bourbon cocktail recipes. Officially sanctioned by Rotary International in 2016, the Whiskey D.R.A.M. Fellowship (or Whiskey

[Below] The Rotary International theme

OPENING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEACE: ROTARY'S INTERCOUNTRY COMMITTEES

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

RI Pre-convention Conference

June 10-11, 2021

Nobel Laureate Keynote: On June 10, the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Ms. Ouided Bouchamaoui, will speak at the special Pre-Convention day RI President Holger Knaack has dedicated to "Opening Opportunities for Peace." Biography: In 2013, Ms.



Bouchamaoui worked with the Tunisian General Labour Union to launch the National Dialogue Initiative. Together with the League of Human

Rights and Tunisian Order of Lawyers, they formed the Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet. The Nobel Peace Prize in 2015 was awarded to the Quartet for its contributions to the building of a pluralistic democracy in Tunisia in the wake of the Jasmine Revolution of 2011. Ms. Bouchamaoui was the first woman to serve as President of the Tunisian Union of Industry, Trade, and Handicrafts from 2011-2018. She is recognized as one of the most influential businesswomen in Africa. In 2017, she was elected Vice President of the European Center for Peace and Development. In 2019, Ms. Bouchamaoui joined France's Advisory Council for Gender Equality at the invitation of President Emmanuel Macron

Also join local Rotarian, Sam Hancock, of the Emerald Planet TV, from the DC Club, and US Rotarians Gail Knepper and Stan Miner from the US-Russia ICC; Dana Moldovan, the ICC Coordinator for the US; and David Fishman, Peace RAG Board member, from the Alexandria Club, as a commentator, for breakout sessions.

What are ICCs? ICCs strengthen relationships between clubs and districts in

two or more countries. These relationships enhance our global understanding of other cultures and lay the foundation for international service projects and lifelong friendships. ICCs generally started with twin club relationships in two countries that want to foster intercultural understanding and friendships. After WWII, international contacts between clubs increased in a spirit of tolerance and good will. Clubs in France and Germany were the first. Soon clubs and districts that began communicating with each other joined together under the Intercountry Committee banner and realized they could promote peace by working together on common projects, fellowship, and friendship exchanges. There are over 400 ICCs in the Rotary universe, and their primary mission is Peace.

JUNE 10 Schedule:

9-10 AM – OPENING GENERAL SESSION:
Speakers

Mr. Haresh Ramchandani - Jamaica

Mr. Holger Knaack - Germany – RI President

Mr. John Hewko – USA – RI General Secretary

Ms. Ouided Bouchamaoui – Tunisia - Keynote

Mr. Cyril Noirtin – France – ICC Executive Council Chair

11 AM – 12 Noon – Town Hall with ICC Leaders – Discuss the role ICCs play in Rotary's peace strategy and explore opportunities for international partnerships and peacebuilding activities.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

1-2 PM – Starting and Managing an ICC

3-4 PM – ICCs and RI's Areas of Focus: How ICCs support Rotary's Priorities

6-7 PM – Peace without Borders: ICCs and Local Projects – see how ICC projects can

foster peace locally, showcasing successful projects and how to replicate them.

8-9 PM – Starting and Managing an ICC – Learn about the history of ICCs, and how you can start various types of ICC relationships.

JUNE 11 Schedule:

BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

9-10 AM – Overcoming Tense Relationships through ICCs. See examples of how ICCs build peace between countries that historically have had tense relations and even armed conflict with each other.

11 AM-12 Noon – ICCs – Ambassadors of Peace – Learn how ICC activities reflect Rotary's interconnectivity and international reach to make a positive impact where they are needed most

1-2 PM – The Mediterranean Peace Initiative: Building Bridges Between Communities – ICCs bring together members from different regions to build intercultural understanding. ICCs provide a platform for dialogue in the Mediterranean region.

3-4 PM – Rotaractors and ICCs: Young Leaders in Action – Imagine how Rotaract clubs can participate in ICCs to strengthen their international service work and build partnerships with Rotary and Rotaract clubs in other countries.

4:30 – 5:30 PM Reception

6-7 PM – CLOSING GENERAL SESSION:

Mr. Haresh Ramchandani | Jamaica

Mr. Mohamed Ghammam | Tunisia

Ms. Celia Elena Cruz de Giay | Argentina

Mr. Peter Kyle | USA – RI Director

Ms. Jennifer Jones | Canada – RI-PE Nominee

Mr. Shekhar Mehta | India – RI – PE 2020-21

ANNAPOLIS ROTARY AND NAVAL ACADEMY: PARTNERS FOR 90 YEARS

By Anne Myers, Annapolis Rotary Public Relations

Annapolis was known for decades as the Sailing Capital of America, until a northern relative claimed the title. But our city still is known as a town-gown community, especially if you change the word “gown” to Navy uniforms, as Annapolis has been the proud home of the U.S. Naval Academy since October 10, 1845. And members of the Rotary Club of Annapolis heartily support the Brigade of Midshipmen and celebrate its accomplishments.

You might not know how many Rotarians are sponsors of Midshipmen each year, or how many academy graduates have been, and are, Rotary Club members. Several have served as club presidents and many have taught classes at the academy. Successful in military and corporate careers, these faculty members have taught everything from the sciences to leadership and ethics to the midshipmen. Additionally, a club committee each year judges an academy-sponsored ethics speech competition. The winners present their talks at a club meeting.

Like many Annapolitans, club members attend Navy athletic events, subscribe to the Distinguished Artists Concert Series, register for special speakers’ programs, and donate to causes such as the USNA Foundation, the Jewish Chapel, Leadership Development, and many athletic programs.

But once upon a time, there was quite a kerfuffle between the Annapolis business community and

the Naval Academy. What caused this fractious relationship between town and gown?

Susan Hickett, club publicity chairman back in 1995, provided information from Rotary history on the story behind the event.

“It was started when the Navy Post Graduate School was located in town and its several hundred officers and their families lived here,” she reported. “There was a severe housing shortage, and the school students in particular complained about high rentals. They even claimed that local merchants imposed exorbitant charges and were discourteous.” At the same time, the local merchants were affected by competition from the midshipmen’s store. Townspeople could buy, at practically wholesale prices, anything from soap to furniture if they had “friends” connected to the academy.

The community-minded Rotary Club decided action had to be taken. Club President F. Marion Lazenby came up with suggestions to attempt to smooth over the disputes. The club prevailed upon the Navy Department to limit sales at the store to Midshipmen and Navy personnel. The club then created a cordial relations committee to adjudicate differences between Navy personnel and townspeople, particularly landlord-tenant disputes. It was supported by the superintendent, Navy Adm. David F. Sellers. The club then launched “Navy Night” and invited all the top brass to join with the Rotary for a festive dinner with an outstanding speaker. More than 200 have attended annually since its

birth during Lazenby’s presidency in 1931-32.

So continues one of the most important Rotary Club events of each year. Lately the event has been held in the Bo Coppedge Room in Alumni Hall, and previously was at other sites such as the former Carvel Hall, now the Paca House and Gardens. Speakers have included Paul Patterson, President of A.S. Abel Co., publishers of the Baltimore Sunpapers; Dr. H.C. Byrd, president of the University of Maryland; Rear Adm. James L. Holloway Jr.; and Vice Adm. John S. McCain Jr. – and more than 80 more.

The Rotary Club of Annapolis remains appreciative of a comment made by Adm. Harry W. Hill, Superintendent, who in 1950 said that relations with Annapolis “will be as close as we can make them.” He declared that when he reported to his academy assignment, he was told that the Rotary Navy Night was the No. 1 thing in good relations with Annapolis. We are delighted to continue it.

The most recent Navy Night was held Feb. 13, 2020, with Vice Adm. Sean S. Buck, Superintendent, as speaker. With the COVID-19 pandemic it was not possible to hold the event this year when it would have coincided with the club’s Centennial (1921-2021). We look forward to hosting the next dinner February 10, 2022.

Article by Mary P. Felter, Annapolis Rotary Public Relations 2009-2019, with thanks to Jeff Neufeld for research assistance.

DISC CALENDAR: CELEBRATE ROTARY FELLOWSHIPS MONTH!

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

Expand Your International Horizons!

3 June – WWS13 -- WASHRAG's Virtual Water Summit: WASH in Healthcare Facilities – 7-9pm EDT -- Speakers: Joanne McGriff, MD, MPG, will describe the WASH challenges for healthcare facilities; Jodey Porter, International Committee Chair, will talk a Rotary club's journey from club grant, to District grant, to Global Grant, supporting WASH in Health Care Facilities in northern Malawi; John Oldfield, principal at Global Water 2020, a long-time friend of WASHRAG, will discuss the power of advocacy for WASH's global agenda. Register at WASH-RAG.org, Rotary Action Group for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene.

4-5 June – 3-5pm on Friday; 8am-2pm on Saturday – B.I.G. Book Sale – Books for International Goodwill. The B.I.G. warehouse is located at 451 Defense Highway in Annapolis (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 soft bound, and \$1 for pocket paperbacks. You may fill a provided grocery shopping bag for \$35. All profits go toward shipping books to underserved populations in the U.S. and abroad. All participants MUST wear masks and practice distancing. For further information and updates, see our website at www.big-books.org, or contact us via email at 4bigbooks@gmail.com.

5 June – UN World Environment Day

5 June – End Plastic Soup Action Day – Sponsored by the Rotary clubs of Amsterdam, the End Plastic Soup (EPS) team has created a colorful and fun toolkit of actions to raise awareness and teach solutions to the appalling problem of plastic pollution. The EPS 2021 World Environment Day campaign includes a flyer in 14 languages, plus coloring pages for children. You can download all the materials here, with instructions on how to add your Club logo to the flyer.

June 5, 2021 is EPS's fourth International End Plastic Soup Action Day. EndPlasticSoup is a global initiative supported by 3,500 people in 1,200 Rotary, Interact, and Rotaract Clubs from Amsterdam to Africa. The EPS vision is that by 2050 there will be no more plastic in our planet's oceans, lakes, rivers, forests, parks, or streets. Join the movement here! See exhibit in the House of Friendship at the RI convention!

8 June – UN World Oceans Day

9 June – 9:00 AM – ESRAG BioDiversity Task Force – Nils Tore Skogland, of Doughnut Economics Action Lab and Chair, Blue Ocean Norway, on "Carbon markets and sequestration." Contact ESRAG Chair Christopher.Puttock@gmail.com for registration and Zoom link.

10-11 June – ROTARY INTERCOUNTRY COMMITTEES: OPENING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEACE – Pre-Convention Program – Nobel Peace Laureate to be keynote speaker! See separate article for 2-day program.

11 June – RI Pre-Convention – ESRAG – 8:30 AM – 10 presenters! Environmental Symposium, Bumper Crop of Environmental Exhibits; and the Food Waste Challenge. Speakers: Dr. Tamara Galloway, Microplastics; Dr. Toddi Steelman, Fire Ecology; Dr. Anand Kumar; Living with Big Animals; Dr. Bruce French, World Foods; Dr. Nathan Thomas, Solar Installations; Dr. Joy Huang, Alternative energy; Brian Braginton-Smith connected Communities; Ebru Debbag, Textiles; Dr. Geetha Jayram, Plant-Rich diets; Dr. Sibyl Anwander, Net Zero Emissions.

12-16 June ROTARY INTERNATIONAL VIRTUAL CONVENTION

- House of Friendship (opens on June 10)
- Global Network
- Rotary International Hub – ask questions directly to RI staff
- Rotary Action Groups and Fellowships
- Keynote speakers!

Break-out Session – "Build larger, more effective sustainable projects and grants."

Break-out Session: "Rotary's new area of focus: protecting the environment."

12 June – WASH-RAG Virtual Annual Meeting – 11:00 am – Register at WASRAG.org.

12 June – UN World Day Against Child Labor

14 June-- 8:00-9:00 PM – Rotary Caribbean Partnership/RAP-C Monthly Meeting (2d Mondays). Contact Phil Lustig, phil.lustig3@gmail.com, for Zoom link.

20 June – UN World Refugee Day

23 June – UN Public Service Day

23 June – 12-1:30 pm – PeaceConnect – "What the creative Arts and Mediators can do in

the area of Climate Change Conflict." Attorney Panel: Charlee Gaydon, JD, Ph.D., EUCID University, France; Doulas Spoons, EEO Education/ADR Manager, US Dept of the Navy, USA, Iram Majid, Director, Indian Institute of Arbitration & Mediation, India. Register on the MediatorsBeyondBorders.org website, an RI service partner

23 June – 9:00 AM – ESRAG BioDiversity Task Force meeting Denis Vural, Polar Research Institute, Council of Turkey, on "Ecological Responses of Arctic Thaw Lakes." Contact ESRAG Chair Christopher.Puttock@gmail.com for Zoom link and details.

24 June – 9:00 PM – Rotary Russia-USA Intercountry Committee – monthly meeting. Contact Stanley Miner for Zoom link, which will be available a couple of days before the meeting, JStanleyMiner@gmail.com.

25 June – 6:30-8:00 PM – "Carbon Footprint" – D7620 Environment Committee – Planning and Implementing Environmental Resources Monthly Meeting (last Fridays). Contact Chris Puttock, D7620 Environment Chair, for Zoom link, Christopher.Puttock@gmail.com.

26 June – UN Intl Day in Support of Victims of Torture

30 June – 8:00 PM EDT – Rotary Action Group for PEACE -- Peace Dove Gala 2021; Virtual Award Ceremony & Benefit. The RAGFP's Peace Dove Gala 2021 recognizes that everyone is a peacebuilder. Through all of our collective actions, big and small, we create a lasting impact on global peace. As a participant, you will be a part of a historic celebration united with a global community dedicated to collective peace action. Who is a Peace Dove? A RAGFP Peace Dove is a person or group who has demonstrated exceptional dedication to maximizing peacebuilding impact for communities most in need. They are peacebuilders with the unique combination of creative ideas, strategic use of resources, and wholehearted compassion to make peace accessible to the most vulnerable. Peace Doves go above and beyond to accomplish positive peace by enhancing the systems, structures, and attitudes that contribute to a community's resilience to peace inequality manifested by conflict, oppression, or poverty. Peace Doves cultivate a peace mindset that transforms into peace action. The Peace Dove advances their creative ideas for peace by engaging, educating, and empowering communities worldwide to create a lasting impact for peace. The work of Peace Doves reminds us that Peace is Possible. FREE. Register at rotaryactiongroupforpeace.org.

HOW TO APPLY FOR ROTARY'S \$2M PROGRAMS OF SCALE - NEW GRANT DEADLINES

By May Yoneyama O'Brien, District International Service Committee Co-chair (from rotary.org)

The Rotary Foundation is launching the second year of the \$2M Programs of Scale initiative. Grant application key dates for Rotary Year 2021-22 follow: [These are new dates, different from last year]:

- May: Member learning sessions that advise clubs and districts on tools to support scaling
- June: Competitive grant process begins
- August: Concept Notes due
- October: Invitation to submit Full Proposal
- February 2022: Site visits (virtual and/or in-person)
- April 2022: Award decision

Rotary's Programs of Scale is a highly competitive grant program designed to invest in sustainable, evidence-based interventions that address

a community-identified need across a significant geographic area and population. Grants must align with Rotary's Areas of Focus. Only one \$2 million grant will be awarded each year.

The first grant application cycle for the 2020 Programs of Scale demonstrated the excellent work and dedication of Rotary members making an impact in our areas of focus. In March 2020, the Foundation received more than 70 proposals spanning all of our areas of focus and representing six continents. The Rotarian Cadre and staff reviewers had the difficult task of narrowing

the submissions to the top proposals, and invited six program sponsors to prepare and submit full applications. This year's awardee, finalists, and honorable mentions shared many of the following elements:

Key characteristics. The success of the programs is the result of Rotary members' ability to tap into powerful local and global networks for expertise, collaboration, and support that can be harnessed to create large-scale change around the globe. All of our applicants had unique strengths relevant to their programs. The following are key characteristics that pushed proposals and applications



forward in the review process:

- **Systems approach:** The program was in line with a local, regional, or national government effort — whichever level was best suited for the proposed program — and sustainability was integrated into program design and implementation.
- **Strong monitoring, evaluation, and learning system:** This framework would inform learning during implementation, as well as contribute to learning for Rotary members and other key program stakeholders. In some cases, the learning could also contribute to larger policy and

practitioner discussions.

- **Rotary member role:** Rotary members could participate as volunteers and program-level guides, but also use their convening, advocacy, and policy influence skills to support longer-term change.
- **Co-funding:** While not a requirement in the first round, the final set of programs all presented strong co-funding. Less important was the total dollar amount than the commitments from cofunders demonstrating their belief in the power of multi-stakeholder partnerships with Rotary.

The application process. Programs of Scale has a two-step competitive application process that lasts 9 to 11 months. If awarded a Programs of Scale grant, Rotary members should be prepared to engage with the Foundation for five to seven years to foster a learning partnership that explores and documents program successes and challenges to help inform both Rotary programming and the work of Rotary members around the world.

Applicants should expect active participation throughout different stages:

- Competitive grant process = 10 months
- Award mobilization and program commencement = 2 months
- Program implementation = 3-5 years
- Learning and sharing results = ongoing and 1-year post-implementation

(continued on page 12)

HIDDEN FIGURES OF INNOVATION

By Monica M Smith, DC Rotary Club Historian

DR. CHARLES RICHARD DREW

Frankly, I could teach a full course on this topic and not even scratch the surface of the rich history of Black contributions to American society, even if I just focused on inventors, scientists, and engineers, who are the primary focus of my professional expertise at the Smithsonian's Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation.



To hone stories, I decided to focus on Black innovators with ties to the Washington, DC, metro area. Today, I will talk in depth about one scientist about whom you may have heard but most people probably don't know much about—Dr. Charles Richard Drew.

Dr. Drew, born in Washington, DC, in 1904, was a Black surgeon, professor, and blood transfusion and blood bank pioneer. He was part of a Black middle-class family; his father was a carpet layer and his mother trained as a teacher. Drew grew up in Foggy Bottom, which was then a largely the middle-class and interracial neighborhood, and graduated from local Dunbar High School in 1922. He lettered in four sports, which helped him receive an athletic scholarship to Amherst College, where he earned a BA in 1926. Upon graduation, he taught science and athletics for two years at Morgan University (an HBCU). Earning enough money to attend medical school, Drew went to Canada, where he obtained a Doctor of Medicine and Master of Surgery degree from McGill University in 1933.

Dr. Drew's first faculty appointment was to teach pathology at Howard University from 1935 to 1936. He then joined Freedman's Hospital, a Federally-operated facility associated with Howard, as a surgery instructor and assistant surgeon. In 1938, Drew began graduate work at Columbia University thanks to a two-year Rockefeller fellowship in surgery, and wrote a doctoral thesis, "Banked Blood," based on his exhaustive study of blood preservation techniques at Columbia's Presbyterian Hospital. He earned a Doctor of Science in Medicine degree in 1940, becoming the first African American to do so. Unfortunately, racism as usual raised its ugly head. Drew died without ever being accepted

for membership in DC's chapter of the American Medical Association since they only allowed Whites to join.

Dr. Drew's important research on blood transfusions and improved techniques for blood plasma storage led to helping develop large-scale blood banks early in World War II. Drew headed a program that sent blood to Great Britain, which saved thousands of lives among the Allied forces. In 1941, Drew's professional distinction was recognized when he became the first Black surgeon selected to serve as an examiner on the American Board of Surgery. A few years later, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People honored Drew with its 1943 Spingarn

Medal for "the highest and noblest achievement" by an African American "during the preceding year or years" in recognition of his blood plasma collection and distribution efforts.

Drew became the Director of the first American Red Cross Blood Bank from 1941 to 1942, but resigned and openly criticized as "unscientific and insulting to African Americans" the ruling of the US armed forces that the blood of Blacks would be accepted but would have to be stored separately from that of Whites [a racist policy that remained in effect until 1950]. While the war still raged, Drew returned to teach at Howard University, heading up the university's department of surgery, and also became the chief surgeon at Freedmen's Hospital.

Sadly, during his professional prime at the age of 45, Drew died from car injuries while traveling for business in North Carolina. Contrary to a popular myth—repeated on an early episode of the TV series *M*A*S*H* ("Dear Dad...Three")—Drew's death was not due to being refused a blood transfusion in a North Carolina hospital because of his skin color. His injuries were too severe for a transfusion. Drew's funeral was held on April 5, 1950, at the historic Nineteenth Street Baptist Church in DC.

On a family note, Drew was married to Minnie Lenore Robbins, who had been a professor of home economics at Spelman College (another HBCU). They had three daughters and a son. His daughter Charlene Drew Jarvis served on the Council of the District of Columbia (1979 to 2000), President of Southeastern University (1996 until 2009), and was a President of the DC Chamber of Commerce.

(continued on page 19)

DC ROTARY RESPONDS TO COVID CRISIS IN INDIA

By Marilyn Nevy Cruz

The Rotary Foundation of Washington, DC recently responded to the tragic COVID pandemic that is raging in India by donating funds for relief aid. This contribution, together with other contributions from individual Rotarians and other clubs in District 7620, will assist in purchasing oxygen concentrators, respirators, body-bags, and other PPE related materials. The funds are being collected by the Howard West Rotary Club and the PPE material will be distributed through a hospital serving the area in and around Bangalore in Karnataka in the south of India. The hospital has been personally vetted by District 7620's incoming District Governor Geetha Jayaram as an appropriate vehicle for ensuring that the aid reaches the most vulnerable victims of the virus.

HIDDEN FIGURES OF INNOVATION

(continued from page 18)

In 1976, the National Park Service designated the Charles Richard Drew House [not open to the public] in Arlington County, VA, as a National Historic Landmark in response to a nomination by the Afro-American Bicentennial Corporation. Drew was also inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 2015 for US Patent 2,389,355 for a “surgical needle.”

DR. CHIEN-SHIUNG WU

I would like to highlight the life and career of Dr. Chien-Shiung Wu, who was one of the most influential physicists of the 20th century and is sadly overlooked. I've personally dubbed her “the Chinese-American Marie Curie.” This year, Dr. Chien-Shiung Wu is featured on a special US Postal Service Forever stamp, one of three issued by the USPS in 2021 to honor the achievements and culture of Asian Americans. It's especially meaningful to me to present her story today because my father, Ray Smith, who was a professor of Asian history and loved Chinese history and culture, passed away two years ago on March 31.

Born May 31, 1912, Chien-Shiung Wu was raised with her two brothers in a small town that is now part of the Shanghai metro area in China. Their father was an unusual advocate for girls' education who had founded the Mingde Women's Vocational Continuing School that she attended. Wu studied physics at National Central University in Nanjing, graduating at the top of her class in 1934. After graduation she worked in a lab for another woman physicist, Dr. Jing-Wei Gu, who encouraged her to continue her education in the United States.

So, in 1936, with financial support from her uncle, Wu emigrated by ship to San Francisco and ended up earning her PhD in nuclear fission four years later at the University of California, Berkeley, where she worked with Nobel-winning physicist Ernest Lawrence.

At Berkeley Wu met fellow Chinese physicist

Luke Chia-Liu Yuan, who she married in 1942, while World War II was raging on and neither of them could communicate with their families back in China. A grandson of the first President of the Republic of China, Yuan Shikai (1912-1916), Wu's husband Luke Yuan had his own successful career as an experimental physicist at RCA and Brookhaven National Lab. In 1947, they had one son named Vincent, who also became a nuclear scientist and works at the Los Alamos National Lab.

After earning her PhD, Dr. Wu took teaching positions first at Smith College, then Princeton University, and finally Columbia University where she joined the Manhattan Project in 1944. Famously—or infamously—Manhattan Project researchers were working towards the creation of the atomic bomb during World War II. Wu's research included improving Geiger counters for the detection of radiation and the enrichment of uranium in large quantities. Among her important contributions to physics was the first confirmation of Enrico Fermi's 1933 theory of beta decay [how radioactive atoms become more stable and less radioactive]. Her book on this topic is still a classic reference in nuclear physics.



In 1956, her colleagues Tsung-Dao Lee (also at Columbia) and Chen Ning Yang (at Princeton)—who both also happened to be born in pre-Revolutionary China—had jointly proposed a theory that would disprove a then-widely accepted law of physics called the “Parity Law.” The law of parity stated that all objects and their mirror images behave the same way, but with the left hand and right hand reversed. Drs. Yang and Lee asked Dr. Wu to create an experiment to prove the old theory wrong and theirs right. Dr. Wu agreed and worked on experiments at the National Bureau of Standards (now the National Institute of Standards and Technology) in Washington, DC. Wu's experiments proved that identical nuclear particles do not always act alike. “The achievement opens the way to a whole new set of explanations of the atom, the world and the cosmos,” the New York Herald Tribune trumpeted on January 16,

1957, comparing its significance to Einstein's discovery of the theory of relativity. “Her work, you now see it integrated into what is called the Standard Model of particle physics.”

Most famous for the “Wu Experiment,” her research also crossed over into biology and medicine, included studying the molecular changes in red blood cells that cause sickle-cell disease. Dr. Wu achieved many “firsts.” She was the first woman president of the American Physical Society; the first woman hired to the Physics faculty at Princeton and also the first woman to receive an honorary doctorate from Princeton; and the first female recipient of the National Academy of Sciences' Comstock Prize. She was also the first person, man or woman, to win the prestigious Wolf Prize in Physics in 1978. Dubbed “The First Lady of Physics,” Dr. Wu was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1958, received the National Medal of Science in 1975, and even had an asteroid named after her—2752 Wu Chien-Shiung.

However, it is a deplorable professional snub that she did not receive the Nobel Prize for her successful experiment that proved the theory of colleagues Yang and Lee, who shared the 1957 Nobel Prize in Physics for “their penetrating investigation of the so-called parity laws which has led to important discoveries regarding the elementary particles.” Many people believe Dr. Wu was overlooked simply because she was a woman.

A great quote from Dr. Wu: “It is shameful that there are so few women in science... In China, there are many, many women in physics. There is a misconception in America that women scientists are all dowdy spinsters. This is the fault of men.” —As quoted in “Queen of Physics,” Newsweek (20 May 1963).

In 1954, Wu became a U.S. citizen, and did not return to her homeland until 1973—37 years after she had arrived in America. Sadly, her uncle and a brother were killed during the Chinese Cultural Revolution, and her parents' tombs there were also destroyed. Dr. Wu passed away in New York City on February 16, 1997. Her ashes are buried with her husband's in the courtyard of her father's Mingde School in China.

IN MEMORIAM: GREIG CUMMINGS

Rotary Club of Washington DC Past
President H. Greig Cummings, Jr. July
14, 1934 - April 25, 2021



Greig joined the Rotary Club of
Washington DC April 1, 1968. He served as Club President
1977-1978. He was a Paul Harris Fellow. Greig's father,
Harold Greig Cummings was also Past President 1956-
1957. Celebration of life services Saturday July 10, 11am at
St Albans Episcopal Church, 3001 Wisconsin Avenue NW,
Washington DC with reception to follow. Email RSVP'S
with contact information to greigs.memorial.service@
gmail.com.

IN MEMORIAM: PAULA DELO

Paula DeLo June 29, 1939-May 1, 2021



Paula joined the Rotary Club of
Washington DC Oct 31, 1998. She was a
devoted Rotarian and an ardent advocate
bringing in new members. She cherished the camaraderie
and intellectual stimulation of the Club. Family requests
memorial donations be made to the Rotary Club of
Washington DC Foundation, 1135 16th Street NW,
Washington DC 20036.

“One of the most impressive examples I know of international cooperation is in those gardens where we find plants, shrubs, and trees flourishing side by side in perfect harmony and beauty. There is much wisdom to be learned in a garden, and the very beginning is a realization of the fact that all final results depend upon proper preparation of the soil. So it is with Rotary. The crop we envisage is world peace and stability, a world in which we all live together as friends and neighbors. The seed to be sown: fellowship, friendship, understanding. The soil: the minds of individual Rotarians.”

***-- Harold T. Thomas, 1959-1960 Rotary International President
Rotary Club of Auckland, New Zealand***

Rotary  People of Action

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