The Australia Rotary District Governors have formed a committee which will decide where the funds are to be distributed. We would typically utilize local Rotary Clubs on the ground in affected areas to identify those families, individuals and small businesses in most need...
### TABLE OF CONTENTS

#### FEATURING ARTICLES

- **ON THE COVER** ........................................................................ 3
- **FEBRUARY GOVERNORS MESSAGE** ....................................... 6
  - By MC Maureen Fritz-Roberts
- **NALANI FLINN** .................................................................... 16
  - By Scott Martin
- **ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT’S REPRESENTATIVES** ... 18
  - Dr. Fozia Alvi
- **FELLOWSHIP, PARTNERSHIP & PEACE** .................................... 20
  - By Marnee Obendorf
- **SAVING SMILES, CHANGING LIVES, ONE DAY AT A TIME** .......... 94
  - By Marnee Obendorf
- **WHAT IS FORGOTTEN AND CERTAINLY NOT DISCUSSED** ....... 110
  - By District 5750 Governor Michael Buckeridge
- **WELCOME TO ROTARY DISTRICT 5020 TRAINING CONFERENCE** 15
  - By Mark Maloney
- **INCOMING RI PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES 2020-21 PRESIDENTIAL THEME** 28
  - By Ryan Hyland
- **2019-2020 PRESIDENTIAL SPOTLIGHT: BUDDY STEVENS** ........ 30
  - By Jamie Gregory
- **WHY ROTARY SHOULD CONTINUE TO PROMOTE STUDENT EXCHANGE EXPERIENCES** 32
  - By Jamie Gregory
- **A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR 2019 TRAINING AND CONFERENCE SPONSORS!** 130

#### DISTRICT 5020 CLUB NEWS

- **$25 GIVES A CHILD A YEAR OF BOOKS - IMAGINATION LIBRARY** ... 36
  - By Natalie Johnson (Daily Chronicle)
- **ROTARY CLUB OF YELM COUNTS SUCCESSES, PLANS FUTURE DURING FIRST MEETING OF 2020** 38
  - By Eric Rosane (Nisqually Valley News)
- **COFIA DEMONSTRATION FARM IN UGANDA** ........................... 40
  - By Michael McGavock
- **SEQUIM NOON CLUB MEMBER ATTENDS ROTARY 2020 WORLD PEACE CONFERENCE** 50
  - By Dick Hughes
- **ROTARY CLUBS’ ANNUAL MARCH FOR CHILDREN** ................ 52
  - By Dick Hughes
- **THE TASTE OF GIG HARBOR** ........................................... 54
  - By Jeff Harris
- **FIRST ANNUAL HEALTH CAREERS FAIR AT EMERALD RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL** 56
  - By Suzanne Johnston
- **MAGIC HAPPENS WHEN ROTARY TEAMS WITH OTHER COMMUNITY GROUPS** 58
  - By Kathy Holmes
- **DISASTER AID CANADA RECEIVES $60,000.00 IN DONATIONS FOR AUSTRALIAN BUSHFIRE RELIEF** 60
  - By Gerry Beltgens
- **ROTARIANS READ EVENT, A SUCCESS!** ............................... 66
  - By Robin Havelaar
- **ROTARY CLUB PLACES OVER 50 AUTOMATED ELECTRONIC DEFIBRILLATORS (AED)** 68
  - By Jack Sutherland
  - By Kevin Hilgers
- **HONOURING MEMBERS** .................................................. 69
  - By Clay Ching
- **...COMES AROUND** ....................................................... 70
  - By Cheryl Jenkins & David Hall
- **ROTARY CLUB OF LANTZVILLE HELPS ‘SECURE’ A COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND!** 78
  - By Barry Sparks
- **WOMEN IN ROTARY** ....................................................... 82
  - By David Hall
- **THE ROTARY CLUB OF TACOMA #8 HONORS JIM HARRIS** ....... 86
  - By Chris Serface
- **REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF UKRAINIAN FLIGHT PS752** .... 88
  - By Erin Davis
- **LOGISTICALLY EMPOWERING ADVANCED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM** 90
  - By Karissa Thompson
- **PORT ORCHARD CARES** .................................................. 92
  - By Leslie Reynolds-Taylor
- **PARKLAND SPANAWAY “SURRENDER THE BOOTY BASH”** .......... 94
  - By Kevin Glem
- **DISTRICT AND CLUB EVENTS** ......................................... 122

#### DISTRICT/INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- **HONOURING MEMBERS** .................................................. 69
  - By Clay Ching
- **...COMES AROUND** ....................................................... 70
  - By Cheryl Jenkins & David Hall
- **ROTARY CLUB PLACES OVER 50 AUTOMATED ELECTRONIC DEFIBRILLATORS** 72
  - By Jack Sutherland
- **JOINT ROTARY CLUB MEETING** .......................................... 74
  - By Cheryl Jenkins & David Hall
- **ROTARY CLUB OF LANTZVILLE HELPS ‘SECURE’ A COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND!** 78
  - By Barry Sparks
- **WOMEN IN ROTARY** ....................................................... 82
  - By David Hall
- **THE ROTARY CLUB OF TACOMA #8 HONORS JIM HARRIS** ....... 86
  - By Chris Serface
- **REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF UKRAINIAN FLIGHT PS752** .... 88
  - By Erin Davis
- **LOGISTICALLY EMPOWERING ADVANCED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM** 90
  - By Karissa Thompson
- **PORT ORCHARD CARES** .................................................. 92
  - By Leslie Reynolds-Taylor
- **PARKLAND SPANAWAY “SURRENDER THE BOOTY BASH”** .......... 94
  - By Kevin Glem
- **DISTRICT AND CLUB EVENTS** ......................................... 122
World Peace

“The best antidote for international fear is international understanding”, Paul Harris 1928

I had the life changing experience of attending the Rotary World Peace Conference in Ontario, California in January and I feel that I must share it with you.

Even though Rotary has held Peace as a focus of the organization since 1921, it isn’t a subject that arises at a lot of Rotary meetings. We have funds to raise, fellowship to enjoy and programs to deliver.

When I saw the Rotary World Peace Conference advertised, I thought, “I don’t have time to take a weekend and attend. I need to stay home for once and do some laundry.” But it nagged at me until I couldn’t stand it and so, yes, I registered.

I had previously attended the Rotary Peace Conference in Vancouver, so I knew there would be incredible speakers. The shock came when I realized I had a choice of 13 tracks with over 150 presenters covering everything from Peace in the workplace to working with Peace through media. Each of these tracks covered two full days devoted to building Peace in those specific areas.

There were also general sessions with talks throughout the peace spectrum. The stories were incredible but one really touched my heart. Dr. Fozia Alvi’s description of her experience as a volunteer physician in the Rohingya refugee camps was overwhelming.

She is petite and soft spoken but has a passion and energy that fills the room. She describes herself as a working mother who grew up in Pakistan, trained in the United States and moved to Canada in 2007. In truth she is a brave and determined woman who helps the Rohingya refugees who are stranded in Bangladesh. Her parents fear for her safety and never want her to travel back home to Pakistan alone. Dr. Alvi is a woman who is creating peace quietly, in a remote corner of the world.

Dr. Alvi shared the stage with several other peace warriors. Like her, they were thoughtful and determined to help make our world a more peaceful place.

Azim Khamisa shared the heartbreaking story of the murder of his son and his path to forgiveness. Eva Haller spoke of her time in a Nazi concentration camp and not letting that experience define how she viewed the rest of her life. Marilyn Tam, former CEO of Aveda, told us about being the unwanted daughter in a Chinese family. Her story was of a physically and verbally abused little girl who turned “I am worthless” into “I can do anything”.

The underlying message in so many of these presentations was that forgiveness allows us to heal and move on. It doesn’t mean putting yourself in danger or letting crimes go unpunished. It is about each of us understanding we have the power to create personal peace. Dr. Frederic Luskin, Director of the Stanford University’s Forgiveness Projects, helped us to understand how to forgive, so we can let go of the negative thoughts that hold us back.

Rotarians are Peace Builders. What you do in your community, to make it a safer place, is creating peace. The time and dollars you put into literacy creates peace. When you educate children, you increase their self confidence and improve their chances of a better life. Dr. Alvi told us she is not allowed to educate the Rohingya children in the refugee camp in Bangladesh. It is much easier to control illiterate people.
You create peace when you provide clean water and health care and microcredit. You improve the health of the planet when you work on peace. PDG Jiro Kawatsuma from Hiroshima, Japan described the destruction caused by nuclear weapons and why he works tirelessly to advocate for peace. He plants peace trees around the world.

As Rotarians we are serious about Peace. The money you donate to the Rotary Foundation supports Peace Centers around the world where students earn a master’s degree or professional development certificates. Since 2002 over 1200 Peace Fellows have graduated from these Peace Centers and are working in more than 116 countries.

One of the truly inspiring and entertaining speakers was Rotary Peace Fellow, Scott Martin. You will have the opportunity to meet Scott at the District Training and Conference in Victoria this May. He graduated as a Rotary Peace Scholar in 2017 and is a founding member of Mediators Beyond Borders.

I look forward to seeing you at the District Training and Conference. We have the opportunity to work together to create safer, healthier and more peaceful communities and a better world.

“...THE BEST ANTIDOTE FOR INTERNATIONAL FEAR IS INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING...”

PAUL HARRIS 1928
This event is a wonderful opportunity to see how Rotary Connects the World, helping us come together and share thoughts on how to make Rotary service more impactful and our member experience more engaging.

Mark Daniel Maloney
President, Rotary International 2019-2020
Dear fellow Rotarians, Rotaractors, members of the Family of Rotary, and friends,

Gay and I are delighted to welcome you to your 2019-2020 district conference. This event is a wonderful opportunity to see how Rotary Connects the World, helping us come together and share thoughts on how to make Rotary service more impactful and our member experience more engaging.

This year’s conference comes at an especially auspicious moment for our organization. In 2019-2020, we are rolling out our new strategic plan. The plan is an Action Plan for Rotary’s future. It was designed, with your input, to allow Rotary to better serve our rapidly-changing world.

The plan features four strategic priorities: to increase our impact; expand our reach; enhance participant engagement; and increase our ability to adapt. But to me, the central message of the plan is clear – we need to grow Rotary. Growing Rotary is all about taking the connections that make our organization unique in the world and strengthening and multiplying them. How do we do that? Part of the answer is in how our clubs connect with prospective members. Part of it is in opening our doors to new types of clubs and memberships, making all potential Rotarians feel welcome.

But a big part of it is in how you personally connect with Rotary. It is exciting that you will be adding your ideas and your energy to your district conference. We hope this conference will help you to create your Action Plan for your Rotary future.

Kindest regards,

Mark Daniel Maloney
President, Rotary International 2019-2020
NALANI FLINN
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT’S REPRESENTATIVES

MARK MALONEY, ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT, HAS PERSONALLY CHOSEN NALANI FLINN TO BE HIS REPRESENTATIVE TO ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE IN THE DISTRICT 5020 CONFERENCE; IT IS AN HONOR TO WELCOME NALANI!

Nalani Flinn is a retired credit union executive, who renewed her commitment to service above self in April 1996, when she joined the Waianae Coast Rotary Club. During a 40-year career in the credit union industry, she played an increasingly significant role in improving her community through helping families secure loans to buy cars, start businesses, improve homes and pay for their children’s education.

Since her retirement in July 2007, she has been approaching with a sense of urgency a passion to promote the importance of literacy in her community as a volunteer with the nonprofit organization Reading is Fundamental, which enlisted her help to read regularly to elementary-school students in Waianae. In addition, she is a dedicated assistant pastor at the Gospel of Salvation Church, where she has a leadership role in efforts to strengthen families and deepen their spiritual faith.

As a member of the Waianae Coast Rotary Club, she served two, one-year terms as president in 1999 and again in 2003. She has also been an Assistant District Governor for five years, starting in 2004. Among key achievements for the district was her lead role in humanitarian efforts to help promote world peace in January 2013, when an estimated 900 people gathered in Honolulu to spread the global message of peace through service.

Her hobbies include reading, traveling, and early-morning walks with friends at Ko Olina in West Oahu. Born and raised in Kalihi, she lives in Waianae.
Dr. Fozia Alvi grew up in Pakistan. She is an American trained physician who’s working in Calgary, Alberta, for the past 13 years. Her and her husband Tahir Alvi were always passionate humanitarians and had organized several health and education-related projects in developing nations, including opening a charity-based maternity hospital in rural Pakistan. She went in for a medical mission to the Bangladesh refugees’ camps in 2017 and was moved by the plight of Rohingya and has since been an advocate for them. She spoke at various international levels about this genocide and is also involved in advocacy for the Uyghurs of China and putting a stop to illegal organ harvesting. She currently runs her foundation Humanity Auxilium and organizes medical relief missions.
My Rotary journey has been one of tremendous learning and unlearning. Growing up in the States, I believed the American Dream was a solo journey of the rugged individual—able to overcome obstacles and seize opportunities with their own God-given might and charisma. However, as many of you readers can attest, this belief can make for a tough, lonely journey. Becoming a part of Rotary, however, has successfully unraveled that myth for me.

Recently, while researching the values of Indigenous cultures, I came across a phrase which I believe summarizes why we, as Rotarians, value fellowship and partnership:

"...to see a world...where every entity is valued for its intrinsically insufficient and indispensable role within a dynamic whole..."  
(“Towards Braiding” by Elwood Jimmy & Vanessa Andreotti, 2013)

The words insufficient and indispensable struck a particular chord within me. I used to believe firmly that true freedom meant achieving self-sufficiency; to not have to depend on others and achieve success through my own volition. This individualistic belief I carried stubbornly and painfully while studying architecture in Japan for my undergraduate. I heard the oft-retold phrase, “the nail which sticks out, gets the hammer”, as a cruel threat to ensure...
conformity. I remember scoffing when a Japanese classmate insisted that individualism was a weakness and someone with true strength could follow the group. Embarrassingly, my youthful self dismissed these lessons as the tales of an unenlightened island culture lacking invention. It would take me another dozen years before I saw their wisdom.

A carpenter hammers back in a wayward nail not out of cruelty but because the nail by itself is weak and insufficient. A nail’s true strength is realized only in concert with the others. Said differently, the nail is individually insufficient and indispensable because each one is required to hold the structure together.

Not surprisingly, this value is codified in the fabric of Rotary through the Four Way Test and in the mantra of “service above self.” Is it the truth? Are the boards and nails we are working with straight? Is it fair to all concerned? Does it contribute to the good of the whole? Will it build goodwill and better friendships, and will it be beneficial to all concerned? Are we working together to amplify our strength towards a common goal?

In this way, “service above self” can be seen as shorthand for the Four Way Test and a humble acknowledgement that our true strength comes from working together because as individuals we are insufficient and collectively indispensable.

Fellowship

My Rotary adoption papers into the Rotary Family came in late October, 2016 when I received an email notifying me that I had been invited to be part of Class 22 at the Rotary Peace Center in Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand.

At the time, I was running a successful Landscape Architecture firm in Southern California. Shortly after receiving the award, however, I decided that after 20 years, the work no longer fed my soul and my true calling was in connecting humanity and peacebuilding. I informed my staff that we would not be taking on new clients and we would be closing the office. Though I didn’t realize it at the time, I was also letting go of going it alone and choosing to be part of a much larger community.

On the first day of class at Chula, I nearly walked immediately back out. How did I belong in a class of so many talented leaders from around the world? We were a class 24 Fellows from 17 different countries chosen for our diversity of perspectives and various contributions to peace. Turns out, there are no experts when it comes to peace, only those who have passion to continue to work together to strive for it. It is this passion which guarantees you a seat at the table.

Each week, another visiting professor would share their experiences and more often than not, their lessons were learned the hard way. Not one would propose to have the solution to world peace because even ‘successful’ peace processes were fraught with setbacks and inequities. However, each guest held a valuable lesson and a piece of the whole—however insufficient, they were no less indispensable.

A couple key learnings I took away from my time at Chula greatly inform my work today. The first was an expanded definition of peace. How I previously understood as peace was really just the absence of conflict or what is termed negative peace. In contrast, positive peace describes the active engagement of a community to build connection and resiliency. The Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) measures eight contributing factors in the Positive Peace Index.

The next learning came from understanding the shift in global conflict from between countries (as in the World Wars) to within countries. Conflict stemming between communities and within communities were now the predominant cause of violence. These are communities in which Rotary is already in.

When my fellowship was complete, I left Bangkok and returned to my home District determined to do something about my newfound awareness and renewed conviction.

Partnership

In 2007, I joined Mediators Beyond Borders International (MBBI) as a founding member, but at the time, mediation was just my volunteer hobby and my architecture practice took me to live and work in Dubai. I later returned to California and in 2010 had the opportunity to co-lead a team in Rwanda delivering trainings in trauma-informed, transformative mediation for...
mediators in the rural, Ihumure Peace Center. I also served for many years as the Chair of the Regional Group, MBB-LA, where many of our members were also Rotarians. It was here I was introduced to the Rotary Family, so it was a natural fit to begin my post-Fellowship work in earnest.

The Peace Committee Chair at the time was PDG Vicki Radel, so she and I worked together to create what would later be known as the Peace Conversation Facilitation Program (PCF). The vision was two-fold. The first was to give Rotarians tools to indirectly surface conflict in their clubs safely through dialogue. The second, larger vision was to empower each club to take up difficult subjects effecting their respective communities and practice being able to constructively discuss amongst themselves in small, facilitated conversations. If we could successfully discuss these topics amongst ourselves, then we could become hubs for our communities to discuss difficult topics. Who better than Rotary, who is inherently apolitical and a-religious, to convene the community, build positive peace and avert potential conflict? Now imagine a world where 44,000 Rotary and Rotaract Clubs are engaging their communities in similar dialogues and the impact we can make together.

In 2017, MBBI, along with IEP, became official Rotary Service Partners increasing the opportunities to expand the PCF program and others like it to other Districts around the world. It is only through partnership we able to build on our collective strengths.

I look forward to sharing more and expanding on this work at your District Conference in May. The event will include an adapted, pre-conference PCF training for local Rotarians and an experiential Peace Conversation—because when it comes to engaging in global positive peace, we are each an inherently insufficient and indispensable part of a dynamic whole.

Martin is a 2017 Rotary International Peace Fellow, a Mediator and Lead Trainer with Mediators Beyond Borders International, IEP Global Ambassador and a Charter Member of Rotary E-Club of Social Innovators.
JOIN US!
Knaack is encouraging Rotarians to seize the many opportunities Rotary offers to enrich their lives and the communities they serve.

Knaack, a member of the Rotary Club of Herzogtum Lauenburg-Mölln, Germany, revealed the 2020-21 presidential theme, Rotary Opens Opportunities, to incoming district governors at the Rotary International Assembly in San Diego, California, USA, on 20 January.

Rotary isn’t just a club for people to join, but rather “an invitation to endless opportunities,” said Knaack, who becomes president on 1 July. 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.

Changing for the future

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 wants clubs to focus on keeping current members engaged and adding new members who are the right fit for their club.

“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.”
2019-2020 PRESIDENTIAL SPOTLIGHT: BUDDY STEVENS

“I am the account manager for Elite Cleaning of Washington. We are a local residential/commercial cleaning company based out of Olympia Washington. We have been voted Best of South Sound for 5 plus years, been in business for 8 years! Little known fact, I am second generation Hawks Prairie Rotarian, now second generation HP Rotary Club President

Joined February 14th 2014

(Though I've been involved in one way or another for much longer)

Rotary is important to me for several reasons, first and foremost is my ability to make a positive difference in the community and world on a much larger scale than if I would attempt to do so by myself! Second, are my fellow Rotarian’s. They have celebrated life with me, cried with me and struggled with me through my life's challenges. My fellow Hawks Prairie Rotarian’s are truly my tribe, my second family! I love these people! And will be a Rotarian for life!
WHY ROTARY SHOULD CONTINUE TO PROMOTE STUDENT EXCHANGE EXPERIENCES

BY JAMIE GREGORY

THE EXPERIENCE OF A YOUNG GERMAN EXCHANGE STUDENT.

In 1954 when the German high school student Johann Duenhoelter boarded a ship headed to the United States with 200 other European Students, his expectation - only nine years after World War II was over - was to experience this country with an open mind and to learn about a working democracy.

Landing in New Jersey just a few weeks after his 17th birthday, Johann was placed with his host family, the Reverend Weymeth McGrew, who was the minister of the First Christian Church in Puyallup and an active Rotarian.

Pastor McGrew took young Johann to an occasional Rotary meeting. Once, the club invited the young German to talk about his home country and his experience as an exchange student. Johann also participated in the club’s community service projects and fundraising activities, which may have included Puyallup’s famous Crab and Oyster
Stew Feed now in 65th year.

Johann attended Puyallup High School and graduated with the “Class of ’55,” making some life-long friends.

Before returning to his home in Bad Salzuflen, Germany, Johann wrote a letter to the Rotary Club thanking the members for a significant financial gift (“the biggest amount of money I have ever possessed”) and their kindness.

At home in Germany, Johann showed a movie about Puyallup, which had been given to him by the Puyallup Rotarians, to his friends, classmates, and others. The movie made the USA come alive and helped demonstrate the large differences between a country that recently lost a war after falling prey to a violent dictator and the democratic country that had led to its defeat. Johann’s biggest lesson was that he never felt animosity toward him, who was the son of a former German soldier fallen on the Eastern (Russian) front at the very end of the war.

After finishing his schooling in Germany and studying medicine, Johann became a resident at Providence Hospital in Seattle. He reacquainted himself again the Pacific Northwest and Mount Rainier before being accepted as a resident in obstetrics and gynecology at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas, the biggest teaching hospital of the University of Texas, where he subsequently spent eight years as a Professor in his subspecialty of High-Risk Obstetrics.

Mount Rainier and Puyallup were calling, however, and Johann opened his practice in Puyallup in 1979, where during the next eighteen years, he delivered thousands of babies.

In 1979, while his wife was filling out a form to rent an apartment in Puyallup, the owner, Ray Dally, who reviewed the application, noticed the name Johann Duenhoelter. He remembered Johann from their senior year in Puyallup High School and approved his application unhesitatingly. Later they became close friends, and Johann invested in one of Ray’s apartment ventures.

Ray also invited Puyallup’s newest OB/Gyn to join Rotary, where he has been a member until his retirement and a Paul Harris Fellow.

Johann summed up the impact of the student exchange program in the last paragraph of his letter to the Rotary Club of Puyallup some 66 years ago.

Johann Duenhoelter advocates for student exchange and Rotary. He is a living example of the value of both.

I have learned so many things in the past year, but the most important thing I did was, I think, making friends with you Americans. I am sure with the help you gave me I can give many of my friends at home a better knowledge of the United States and its people so that our friendship becomes better and better so that any future wars might be avoided.
$25 GIVES A CHILD A YEAR OF BOOKS - IMAGINATION LIBRARY

BY NATALIE JOHNSON (DAILY CHRONICLE)

In some of the most vivid memories of my toddlerhood, I’m snuggled up in my jammies before bedtime reading “Clifford the Big Red Dog,” “Little Critter” (Is he a hamster? The world may never know) and the “Berenstain Bears” for the 457th time with my mom. I’m sure she got bored, but she never let on.

Both of my parents read to me and taught me to read. My dad, a fan of the classics, introduced me to Winnie the Pooh and Dr. Seuss with the same books his parents read to him in the early 1960s — “The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins” among the favorites. I remember struggling though “Green Eggs and Ham” while sitting on my dad’s lap at 5 years old or so, thinking I’d never get the hang of it. But we kept at it, and I did.

My family struggled financially as many others do, but our house was always full of books. I didn’t realize until much later in life how unusual that was. Inspired by research and statistics on the importance of early childhood education and reading skills in reducing poverty, homelessness and even crime, three area Rotary Clubs (Twin Cities, Centralia and Chehalis) and the United Way of Lewis County have combined forces to launch a local branch of Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library.

The program delivers a brand new book each month to participating children from birth to five years old, at no cost to the family. Each book is personalized with the child’s name and mailed directly to their home. The first book each child receives is “The Little Engine That Could.”

“This fits really well into what we were doing in lifting kids out of poverty,” United Way of Lewis County Executive Director Debbie Campbell told The Chronicle’s editorial board recently, adding that local educators have reported children are increasingly not ready for kindergarten when they arrive. “This gets to the root cause of the early education piece.”

The program costs the Rotary clubs and United Way $25 per child enrolled annually. Hundreds of children have been signed up, and Rotary members have already committed $20,000 toward the program. More fundraisers are planned, and the groups believe it will cost $60,000 to $70,000 a year to sustain the program in the future.

This afternoon, partners from the Rotary clubs and United Way will be at Centralia and Chehalis Timberland Library locations from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. to sign up families.

If you’re a parent of a child or children from birth to 5 years old, this is a no-brainer. It’s free, it’s easy, and it will give them a leg up on reading skills before they head to school.

But perhaps more importantly, if you’re in a position to sponsor a child, or two, or more, please consider doing so. Name another $25 annual donation that could do more for a family.

Our libraries already do a great job of creating programming for children and families, but there’s something to be said for a child having a shelf of their very own books that they can keep for as long as they want — and maybe even share with their own children a generation from now.
Rotary Club of Yelm counts successes, plans future during first meeting of 2020

BY ERIC ROSANE (NISQUALLY VALLET NEWS)

Rotary Club of Yelm members met last Thursday evening during a regular meeting to look back on what they accomplished in 2019 and look forward to even larger efforts in the year to come.

Throughout 2019, the “small but mighty” club facilitated about a dozen community activities, fundraisers, support programs and events. The club will also be celebrating its 10-year anniversary this year. No date has been set, but members discussed a potential celebration in March.

The club’s Executive Secretary and Director Sandi Hanson said two of the biggest events this year for the Rotary Club of Yelm were the 10 Weeks of Summer Lunch program, which raised about $24,000 for around 2,300 bags of food for hungry students in the community, and the annual Prairie Stampede 5K Fundraiser.

About 210 bags were packed each week during the 10 Weeks program. Hanson said she expects an increase in student distribution next year to include students in Rainier and the Bald Hills area. Rotary has done this event for the last three summers.

“10 Weeks is a big ordeal. It’s a big undertaking. It takes a village because without the people in the club and the people who volunteer putting in hours, it wouldn’t be the success it is,” President Larry Hanson said.

Another notable effort the club undertook this last year was teacher grants. The club awarded about $4,800 to 12 Yelm Community Schools teachers with a classroom wishlist to help with resources. They focused this year on literacy materials.

Sandi Hanson said the club plans on developing a consistent fundraising event to help pay for the grants on an annual basis.

For the last six years, Yelm Rotary has also been spearheading the Student of the Month program, which is sponsored by the local businesses and presented in front of the Yelm City Council. “I’d like to see that grow this year, maybe a few more business sponsors,” Larry Hanson noted.

Yelm Mayor JW Foster chimed in and said the city is hoping to keep its relationship with the Rotary strong. Getting the youth familiar with the community efforts Rotary facilitates is also beneficial, he said.

Larry Hanson noted that as the number of events Yelm Rotary undertakes continues to add up, so too does their membership.

Bill McGregor, a Port of Olympia commissioner who is also a member, noted that the community has been the sole benefactor of the club’s increase in workload.
Growing through Partnerships

For Tacoma North Rotary, it all started with a presentation by Carolyn Othieno of the nonprofit Circle of Friends in Action. She founded COFIA to support a school in Tororo, Eastern Uganda, near the village where she grew up. When she invited me—an architect who designs schools—to join her on an April 2017 trip to study the feasibility of building a library at the school, I thought, “When will I get an invitation like that again?” My long-time friend from Perth, Australia, Paul Daly (a former Rotary youth exchange student like me) joined us without hesitation.

What we saw upon our arrival was the situation families in the rural villages experience every day: Hungry children going home at lunch to see if any food had been gathered to make up for missing breakfast or dinner the night before, women and girls walking miles to collect dirty water from a pond, weak crops with little nutrition and little to no income for anyone. The school couldn’t afford to provide meals. Traditional farming practices were not providing sufficient nutrition or income.

Soon after determining we needed to help change farming for families in that community, we met Iga Patrick, who founded FACOM (Farming Consult & Management Company) to change Ugandan farming practices. He advised us to build a demonstration farm that would 1) train people to train others on innovative farming practices, 2) change mindsets about farming and financial responsibility, 3) set goals, and build an economy as a collective of farmers. Carolyn and her mother, Margaret, who lives in the village, along with local student researchers, conducted a Community Needs Assessment. The CNA was done in accord with Rotary guidelines to confirm that farming as a vehicle for economic development would be acceptable, attainable, and sustainable for the community. This hope was overwhelmingly confirmed.

Rotary Collaboration Paves the Way

One year after the first visit, on Carolyn’s 15-acre property, we drilled two public wells. Ayear
after that, we developed the Demonstration Farm to experiment with different crops in the local climate and to show people in the area what is possible with farming. We did this work with funds from Tacoma #8, Clover Park Rotary, Willeton Rotary in Perth, Australia, and a District Community Grant. Tororo Rotary collaborated in selecting well sites. Carolyn, her mom, and her brother Godwin (also in Uganda) contributed greatly to the logistics, politics, and momentum of the work.

Funded with a District Community Grant in this Rotary year, we have started on our way to teaching women to farm, generate income, feed their families, and send their children to school. We selected 20 women, who each planted maize on an acre of land in August 2019. Now, they are preparing to harvest their first crops.

We look forward to a Rotary Global Grant to fund our progress going forward. In partnership with the host Rotary Club of Tororo, Tacoma #8, and Puyallup Rotary, our Global Grant application is under review. It will fund the next two years of farming and grow the farming collective to 160 women. At this scale, the program will expand to fund itself.

We feel very fortunate to be able to do this work with the power of Rotary and the incredible intellect, energy, and courage of our Ugandan partners.
“Powerful,” Cindi and Henry Jones declared in unison! Rotary Club of Sequim member Henry and wife Cindi are attending the Rotary 2020 World Peace Conference on January 17 and 18 in Ontario, CA. Henry reported, “Rotarians from around the world are here. We are looking forward to two days packed with meetings, eating, and looking for ways forward to World Peace”.

Conference Governor Rudy Westervelt announced in pre-conference publicity, “The mission of the Rotary 2020 World Peace Conference is to bring together experts with solutions to major issues that are occurring in our personal lives, homes, schools, businesses, and communities, not just in Southern California, but around the world…”

There will be 100-panel sessions and five plenary sessions with speakers from around the world. They will speak on more than 13 different tracks of training in conflict prevention and resolution.

The General Session started with a program of drummers from around the world playing on stage. Rotary International President Mark Maloney then opened the conference. “We were sitting with a group of Rotarians from Australia and Burma,” Jones related.

Azim Khamisa spoke on “Forgiveness.” His young son, Tariq, a college student and pizza deliveryman, were senselessly gunned down in a gang initiation by Ples Felix’s 14-year-old grandson. To understand this “defining moment” in their lives, Khamisa reported, he and Felix came together to mediate on the mindless act. “At these defining moments,” Khamisa concluded, “if we are able to make the right choice, we literally manifest a miracle...”. Azim Khamisa’s story is available on YouTube for those interested.

Christine Ahn then told her story of mobilizing 30 international women peacemakers in 2015 to walk across De-Militarization Zone (DMZ) in North Korea, calling for an end to the Korean War. The women peacemakers were joined by 10,000 Korean women on both sides of the DMZ. Ahn’s global campaign, “Korea Peace Now! Women Mobilizing to End the War” was formed in 2019. So, the impressive World Peace Conference continued.

Sequim Rotarian Henry Jones, a former Israel, and Dead Sea Scrolls Tour Leader reported that he particularly enjoyed meeting with groups working on the Middle East conflict in two of his breakout sessions.

The day ended with an awards dinner to honor non-Rotarians for outstanding “Service Above Self.” Walking back to their hotel, Henry and his wife Cindi talked about how proud they were to be even a small part of the amazing work of Rotary International and the Rotary International Foundation.
The Rotary Club of Campbell River and the Campbell River Daybreak Rotary Club have annually conducted a joint fundraiser known as the March for Children. All proceeds from this initiative are used to benefit children’s health equipment and programming, and more particularly, the purchase of specialized equipment to be used at the Campbell River hospital.

When the March began in Campbell River in 1954, all of the funds went to the B.C. Children’s Hospital in Vancouver. In 1994, local Rotarians decided the money should stay in the community, and since then, the March for Children has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars and purchased over 30 pieces of equipment for the hospital.

At this year’s fundraiser, Rotarians from both Campbell River clubs were positioned strategically at street corners around the City, collecting money from drivers heading to and from downtown.

This year’s fundraiser took place on December 21, 2019, and raised over $18,000 in just six hours. The funds from this year’s event will be used in part to purchase a respiratory analyzer, which will assist children in respiratory therapy, and towards the purchase of two resuscitation carts for the maternity department.
THE TASTE OF GIG HARBOR

BY JEFF HARRIS

The Rotary Club of Gig Harbor, as is true for all District 5020 clubs, is blessed to be located in the magnificent Northwest. We like all clubs and all Rotarians love our environment, communities and especially our food! Moreover, each of us conducts one or more fund raisers each year to support projects that serve both our communities and those in the developing world.

Our major fundraiser in 2020, The Taste of Gig Harbor will be held in March 14, 2020 at the Gig Harbor Antique Airplane Museum located at the Tacoma Narrows Airport.

This is our 29th year of this signature event.

The “Taste” highlights the culinary specialties of 10 local restaurants who volunteer their time, talents and specialties. This year, as last the Taste will be held at the Tacoma Narrows Antique Airplane Museum. The Museum should be on your “Must Visit” list if you are at all interested in seeing the great airplanes which are a part of our heritage. You can visit this incredible museum from 10 to 4, Tuesday thru Friday. Admission is $10.00 per person.

Admission to the “Taste” is $75 per person until March 14, then $85 per person. The Taste begins at 5:30 PM. You will be able to bid on a fantastic array of silent auction items and a very select number of live auction items including trips, dinners and other great items.

Tickets can be purchased at: http://bit.ly/2OpJU2S

We hope that your fundraisers are successful. Come join us and help make ours a success and enjoy a fantastic evening. The Taste website www.tasteofgigharbor.com will be periodically updated as we get closer to March 14, 2020.
FIRST ANNUAL HEALTH CAREERS FAIR AT EMERALD RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

BY SUZANNE JOHNSTON

South Hill Puyallup Rotary Club helped organize the first annual Health Careers Fair at Emerald Ridge High school on Saturday morning, January 11, 2020. About 100 students and parents from Emerald Ridge, Rogers and Puyallup high schools attended.

Professionals from the community set up information tables to talk individually with the students. Others led breakout sessions to offer small group conversations. The keynote speaker was Dr. Katie Haerling from the University of Washington - Tacoma who talked about the wide variety of fields included under “healthcare” such as dentistry, veterinary medicine, nursing, pharmacy, home health, and more. Several colleges were present to talk to students about their program opportunities and entrance requirements.

Pictured are Dr. Hopke, an orthodontist, telling a student how he fell in love with his career after spending years doing research. Also pictured is Julie Long, Executive Director of Pierce County Nurses Association, talking with a group of students about career opportunities in the field of nursing.

Other Rotary clubs interested in participating next year are invited to contact either Patti McMullen or Suzanne
MAGIC HAPPENS WHEN ROTARY TEAMS WITH OTHER COMMUNITY GROUPS

BY KATHY HOLMES

Eight Not-for-Profit groups have teamed up to help make that Magic Happen. The 5 Cowichan Valley Rotary Clubs, The Ladysmith Camera Club, Cowichan Valley Camera Club, and the Ladysmith Waterfront Gallery have created a powerhouse team to raise funds for Cowichan Hospice and the Rotary Gardens through a Charity Art Auction.

The Magic happens Saturday, February 29th, from 6 to 8:30 pm at 444 Parkhill Terrace in Ladysmith. Original photography and art will be auctioned off in a live and silent action, plus there are 50 amazing $20 art bargains. All profits go to Cowichan Hospice Rotary Gardens, with a goal of $10,000 that evening.

"The Ladysmith Rotary Club is a big supporter of the Hospice House and the Gardens. None of us are getting younger, and from a purely selfish perspective, we can all appreciate the need," said Rotarian Gerry Beltgens. "For me personally, it also has a lot to do with my own personal experience. My father passed away in a hospital in a basement room with no windows. Our family was with him, but the setting was awful. We were lucky that they agreed to clear out some space for us, but it was essentially a storage area. There were no hospice rooms available. Having a Hospice House and beautiful Gardens will make life and death much better for all Cowichan Valley residents."

Tickets can be purchased for $35.00 from any Rotarian in the Cowichan Valley, the Hospice Society, Camera Club members, Salamander books, the Ladysmith Waterfront Gallery, and online at Eventbrite, Artists for Hospice.
Disaster Aid Canada (DAC) has received close to $60,000.00 Canadian in donations from across Canada for Australian Bushfire Relief. Most of the money is now in the bank and we are working with experienced Rotarians to find matching grants through Rotary International and the Government of Canada. Once that is clarified we will make a donation to a special fund set up by Rotary Australia World Community Services. Hopefully the matching grants will double or more the impact of the original donations.

Rotary Clubs in the affected areas will be able to apply for rebuilding funds for local projects.

"Several projects have already been established for specific bushfire areas around Australia. The Australia Rotary District Governors have formed a committee which will decide where the funds are to be distributed. We would typically utilize local Rotary Clubs on the ground in affected areas to identify those families, Individuals and small businesses in most need," said John Stockbridge, National Communications Manager for Rotary Australia World Community Services Ltd (RAWCS)
DAC has received donations from all across Canada and some were very special. The Grade 4 Girls at Ecole Puntledge Park Elementary School in Courtenay, BC raised $106.05 for the Australian Bushfire relief. We love when young people are encouraged to help out in the world.

Staff at Crosslinx Transit Solutions teamed up to send us a donation of $1,200.00 and added the note. "From your mates at Crosslinx Transit Solutions-Construction, in Toronto." We suspect there are some people from the Land Down Under working there so “Good on ya Mates!”

Some people shared their own experiences with Bushfires; “I used to belong to the Colac West Rotary club in Australia. In the early 1980s our club physically helped with the cleanup of fire damaged areas in the Western District of the State of Victoria. The experience was life changing - we couldn’t even remove burnt trucks from sheds as the axles were welded together...”

Many people sent prayers along with their donations, some people sent donations in memory of loved ones and several people thanked the Australian Firefighters for coming to help in Canada when we have had our Fire Seasons.

Disaster Aid will continue to keep the appeal open for as long as it is needed and will send donations each month to the Australian Fund. “Working with Rotarians on the ground in the affected areas ensures the best use of donated money,” said Frank Elsom, President of Disaster Aid Canada.”

Much of the money has come from Rotarians and Rotary Clubs but most of the money has been donated anonymously through “Canada Helps” a charity pay portal that collects the donations and provides the donor with tax receipts from DAC. Disaster Aid Canada is a registered Canadian Charity as well as an official “Collaborative Organization of Rotary Organization.”

“Working with Rotary partners is an important criteria of our decision to support communities impacted by natural and other disasters,” said Elsom. “We are a relatively small organization and do not have the resources compared to the Red Cross or United Way. Our strength is the ability to mobilize Rotarians.”

We are not first responders, when an earthquake strikes or a volcano erupts as did recently in...
Puerto Rico and the Philippines, we first make contact with a Rotary Club in the area. This way we find out what the actual situation is, which is often quite different from the events portrayed on the news. We are presently in contact with the President of the Rotary Club of San Juan in Puerto Rico and the Governor for District 3830 in the Philippines. Once we know what is needed and who will be in charge we can raise the funds to either send materials such as tents and emergency kits or we may decide to send money if there is access to materials locally, whichever works better.

As the new Executive Director for Disaster Aid Canada I learned a lot from our relief project in the Bahamas after Hurricane Dorian struck. Our contacts with Rotary Clubs in Nassau and Freeport made all the difference. Not only did we only send materials that were asked for and needed, we knew that we had reliable partners on the ground who were able to oversee the distribution and set up. Our relationship with Disaster Aid USA paid huge dividends because of their experience in the area and skill with logistics. Our support from UPS with the shipping of the materials was invaluable and they did it for no charge through their own charitable program. Our work in the Bahamas confirmed my commitment to only send materials that were needed, only work with trusted partners and then to follow up and make sure the relief we had sent had worked out.

Disaster Aid Canada has managed more than $2,000,000.00 in donations since its incorporation in 2010. Disaster Aid Canada is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ladysmith. The Charity began operation 2004 and as Disaster Aid Canada in 2010. Some past projects have included:

- Bahamas - Hurricane Dorian relief, 101 tents, bedpacks, hygiene products
- Malawi - Hospital and orphanage - Water filtration kits, bedpacks, hygiene products
- Iraq - Water filtrations systems
- BC - Container and trailers of supplies for BC Fire evacuees
- Caribbean - Hurricane Irma - Relief kits and tents
- Fort McMurray - Container and trailers of supplies for Alberta Fire evacuees

In 2020 Disaster Aid Canada is moving its operation to Ladysmith to be in a more central location and closer to our Sponsoring Club.

Rent costs at our present location in Victoria are expensive and we wish to reduce those costs. We have found a building in Ladysmith that meets our criteria. We are partnering with Ladysmith Search and Rescue (LSAR) on a proposal to take over the building and jointly renovate a section for offices and a training facility. Our goal is to set up an Emergency Preparedness Hub. The partnership of LSAR and DAC is bound to be beneficial if the town experiences a serious emergency.

DisasterAid Canada is already involved in Emergency Preparedness with several communities, a Condo Strata Council and private individuals. The Rotary Club of Sooke has purchased 10 Community emergency relief kits including tents, toolkits, cooking kits and much more. They are working with the Emergency Services Societies in their areas to determine where the kits will be located. The Rotary Club of Ladysmith has applied for a grant to donate 4 Community emergency relief kits to the town of Ladysmith and the Ladysmith Senior Secondary Interact Club has committed to raise funds for another one.

A major Condominium Strata Council has purchased 4 kits to be distributed along with other emergency preparedness equipment on their site in Victoria and several individuals have purchased complete kits for themselves.

The goal of Disaster Aid Canada is to be to most effective organization in our field, to be a learning organization, always striving to be better, and to be a collaborative organization, using the skills of our other Disaster Aid International partners, local Rotarians and the resources available to us through Rotary International.

...WORKING WITH ROTARY PARTNERS IS AN IMPORTANT CRITERIA OF OUR DECISION TO SUPPORT COMMUNITIES IMPACTED BY NATURAL AND OTHER DISASTERS...
Rotary Exchange Student, Maria Winkler of Austria, reads to a local Kindergarten class as part of the Daybreak Rotary Club’s “Rotarians Read” event, which forms part of Literacy Week in Campbell River. During this annual event, Rotarians from both Rotary Clubs in Campbell River read to children in local schools, then donate the books to school libraries. This year, Rotarians read in 89 classes, the highest number ever for this event.

**ROTARIANS READ EVENT, A SUCCESS!**

*BY ROBIN HAVELAAR*
Rotarian Linden Brown wanted to resign from the club, he felt he was getting to the point where making it to the meetings was a bit of a challenge. The Board decided after many years of service - we can't just say good bye quite yet. President Peter Baillie along with Assistant Governor Murray Tough presented him with something special. Details are in Peters' words below.

Linden Brown (Lindy) has been serving communities through Rotary since he joined the Rotary Club of Woodstock Ontario in the spring of 1972. Lindy, along with his club, rolled up their collective sleeves and took on many projects and fundraising efforts. He had many roles in his almost two decades at the club, including president.

When he and his wife Pat moved to Victoria in 1991, it was Harboursider Dan Kelly who met and convinced Lindy to join our club. Tom Martin is also listed as his official sponsor. For many years as a Harboursider Lindy continued to get involved until he had to take time away to care for Pat who had grown ill. And while he has had many accomplishments with Rotary, I’m sure he would say his over 50 years together with Pat tops them all.

Once he was able to return to Rotary again, Lindy was encouraged to help start a new club on the growing west shore. Lindy became a charter member of Rotary Club WestShore and stayed with them for six years to make sure they were on solid ground - they were and continue to be today.

After the West Shore, Lindy joined the Royal Oak Club for a period of time and then (he would say it was because gas prices were going up) decided it was time to come home to Harbourside - and we’re glad he has.

In his time in Rotary Lindy has filled many official roles, but it’s his unofficial role as mentor and friend that will probably have the most impact on those of us in the club.

And today Lindy, we’d like to name you an honorary member of Victoria Harbourside.
The saying goes, “what goes around, comes around.” Merriam Webster defines this idiom as

informal —used to say that if someone treats other people badly, he or she will eventually be treated badly by someone else.

In our case, the opposite is true. In 1961, Jim Halmo was a senior at Clover Park High School in Lakewood, Washington. He was in need of help to pay for his higher education at the University of Washington. In stepped Rotary, specifically the Rotary Club of Lakewood. They provided him with a total of USD 950 in scholarships that helped him earn degrees from the UW and Northwestern University. His education launched him on a successful career first as an Army officer and then as a career diplomat with the US State Department. Jim has never forgotten the helping hand up of those Rotarians, and today he presented a check for USD 1000 to the brand-new Rotary Club of Graham Frederickson Eatonville. Halmo’s gift is a reminder of the power and influence of Rotary, and he encourages its’ use to help provide scholarships to area students. We are humbled by his generosity. Thank you, Mr. Halmo, and to all that read this, remember, “what goes around does, certainly, come around.”
Following the incident of a member suffering full cardiac arrest at a club business luncheon, the Board of the Rotary Club of Bainbridge Island approved the purchase and placement of a public access defibrillator (AED) at the club’s weekly meeting location, the St. Barnabas Church on Wyatt Avenue.

At the time of the nearly fatal event, there was no AED on the premises. Fortunately, the immediate CPR intervention by attending member Fire Chief Hank Teran, 911 responsiveness by BIFD Paramedic/EMT team equipped with AEDs, plus an Airlift NW transport to Harborview Medical Center were ultimately successful in restoring heart rhythm. The member, Jack Sutherland, is among the extremely fortunate and rare survivors of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest.

Upon returning to active Rotary Club attendance, Jack focused upon that new AED and realized Rotary was the perfect community service organization to see many more AED’s were placed around the island. A local Rotary AED Program was envisioned.

He teamed with Fire Chief Teran to gain approval of a major Grant of $25,000.00. These funds were sourced from the annual Rotary Club of Bainbridge Island Auction and Rummage Sale. Jack negotiated with suppliers and realized a volume purchase discount price of 40% below retail, permitting the acquisition of an initial 26 AED community kits including alarmed wall cabinets.

The B.I. club then followed a community canvasing and placement scenario involving three price levels for community non-profit, multi-family residential, and business partners: a.) The Rotary dollar cost, b.) 50% Dollar Matching, or c.) a Full Rotary Grant. Revenue from the 50% and Rotary cost reimbursement sales enable the club to add more AED’s. The total number of AED’s purchased by the club to date is 53, double the number envisioned from the original major Grant. And, the club continues to offer additional AED placements.

The physical installation and associated administrative requirements are being handled by Rotary at no cost to each AED location. In addition, the Bainbridge Island Fire Department performs full no cost CPR and AED use training for AED partner personnel.

Locations include churches, schools, restaurants, condominium and apartment housing, senior living centers, B.I. Parks and Recreation locations, meeting halls, athletic fields, theaters, and store fronts. The community is now significantly better enabled to respond quickly to cardiac arrest. They do happen. Without immediate intervention, the outcome is too often fatal.

Promotion of the AED Program includes a YouTube video based upon a reenactment of the cardiac arrest incident. The video can be viewed at https://bainbridgeislandrotary.org under About Us and Videos.

Bainbridge Island Rotary is helping to potentially save lives and would be pleased to offer other Rotary Clubs in District 5020 more information about starting their own AED initiative. You may contact the club’s Co-Director of the AED Program: Jack Sutherland Email: jandcsutherland@msn.com
JOINT ROTARY CLUB MEETING

BY CHERYL JENKINS & DAVID HALL

For the second time in a year, three District 5020 Rotary Clubs gathered together for a joint meeting, which was short on ceremony and long on the fun!

Members of Clover Park, Tacoma South, and Pierce County Passport Rotary filled the banquet room at Carr’s Restaurant in Lakewood, WA, for appetizers, beverages, shared fundraising announcements, and some spirited games.

The three club presidents co-hosted in a friendly and upbeat fashion so typical of Rotarians.

There was some friendly competition to spice things up, most notably the challenge for each club to bring in the most peanut butter, for donation to Pierce County’s Emergency Food Network. Close to 100 pounds of the sticky stuff was brought to the meeting, with Clover Park Rotarians edging the sister clubs by collecting 51 one and two-pound jars.

There were other games of skill and chance as well, including a unique mix of “Tumbling Dice” and “Get To Know Your Fellow Rotarian.”

This game was followed by a new approach to an old game: “Simon Says”!

As usual, we were supported by our local District leadership. AG Jamie Gregory is always there to provide a smile; District Foundation Chair Howard Svigals gave an update on RI’s Polio Plus Campaign, announcing a renewal of the Gates Foundation’s significant partnership to once and for all eradicate polio, and soliciting membership in Rotary’s “Polio Plus Society.” Rotarians qualify for the Society by pledging to donate $100/year until the mission is accomplished!

A great time was had by all in attendance, which guarantees there will be more of these epic joint gatherings by these three outstanding Rotary Clubs!
Dr David Cotant displays some of the peanut butter the clubs donated to Pierce County Emergency Food Network.

"Simon says, Time to call your chiropractor!" (Sharp observers will notice that one person didn’t follow instructions!)
ROTARY CLUB OF LANTZVILLE HELPS ‘SECURE’ A COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND!

BY BARRY SPARKES

As well as serving as the Cambie Road (Nanaimo) Block Watch Captain, Shirley Gremyachev, is driving force behind her neighbourhood association, leading the way to develop a playground for the growing number of young people in her community. Working with the City of Nanaimo, through their Partners in Parks Program (PIP), she found local support, including donations in-kind, and moved forward with plans for the playground.

Shirley approached our Club in September 2018 for some financial help, and we were happy to make a small donation on the condition that we be given the opportunity to provide some hands-on help at an appropriate time.

A couple of weekends ago (January 11th), it all came together. Work on the park had progressed sufficiently that some good old “grunt labour” was required. Shirley had organized a few residents to help and provide mid-morning snacks. Mother Nature, despite some ugly (cold and wet) weather early in the week, provided a “window of opportunity.” Half-a-dozen members of the Rotary Club of Lantzville volunteered their time and energy (and shovels and wheel barrows) to build a cedar split-rail fence around the playground – providing some much appreciated security for the kids already using the basketball half-court and hockey net.

Under some supervision from Scott (City Parks), we had a productive morning - digging post holes through rock, gravel, and dirt, setting and securing the posts, then tying in the rails. The finished product looked pretty darn good – we thought.

Shirley seemed pleased. Her final e-mail on the project summed it up: “Wow, what a great Saturday morning. The weather was perfect, just enough volunteers showed up, six from Lantzville Rotary and five from our Block watch. Our Co-captain provided two large pots of hot coffee, neighborhood ladies provided fruit, cookies, muffins, Timbits, and deep-fried chicken. Scott Newlands from Nanaimo city parks was amazing at organizing and showing the volunteers how to assemble the fence. With such a happy, willing attitude among all who came out, the fence was up within 4 1/2 hours. A million thanks to all those that have supported this Cambie Park project since day one…”

A little bit cold and dirty, we Rotarians left with a feeling that we’d provided a good service to a small part of our community.
Rotarians at work. From left to right: unidentified community supervisor, Lee Rowley, Mark Taylor, Jamal Youssef, Dale Werezak and Barry Sparkes.
The whole work party – community residents including coffee and donut ladies, and Rotarians.
While the United States is celebrating the centennial of women being granted the right to vote in 1920, thanks to the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, it's also appropriate to recognize that it has been a scant 30 years since women were permitted to become Rotarians.

On January 15th, Clover Park’s own pioneering Rotarians, Georgene Mellom, and Judi Maier, wowed the club with a stirring presentation about these two important landmarks in the pursuit of gender equality.

Both presenters have an impressive background in business and education:

Judi Maier has been practicing law for more than 20 years. She operates a small law firm that focuses on business transactions and advises owners of small and medium businesses. She’s also a partner in a computer services firm. Previously, Maier taught first- and second-year legal writing and research at the Seattle University School of Law and served as a law clerk for retired judge Karen Seinfeld, the Washington State Court of Appeals, and the commissioners of the court.

Georgene Mellom broke through barriers when she became the first woman to be selected as a principal in the Clover Park School District in 1974. Trained as a music educator at Washington State University, Mellom taught choir and related classes for nine years, while earning a Masters Degree in Education with an emphasis in school administration from the University of Puget Sound. Although Georgene has been retired for almost two decades, she continues to be a community leader through her work with Clover Park Rotary.

Judi Maier presented a detailed history of the U.S. suffrage movement, which was led by legendary women’s rights advocates Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. One of the earliest efforts to generate this movement was the 1848...
Women’s Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, NY. Besides being denied the right to vote, married women couldn’t own property and had no legal right to any money they earned. Married or not, women were excluded by most professional schools (i.e., medicine, dentistry, law) and had to fight an uphill battle to own/manage businesses.

Despite these roadblocks, states like Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, and Idaho all approved women’s rights to vote in advance of the 19th Amendment.

While nobody in attendance was around back in 1920, Judi displayed a personal connection to the Suffragette Movement, by wearing the bodice from her grandmother’s dress, which she had worn while demonstrating in support of voting rights in 1918.

Judi and Georgene segued into detailing the four decade-long campaign to admit women as Rotarians. Early efforts included: a 1950 proposal to delete the RI charter’s restriction of membership to men only, which originated in India; The Rotary Club of Duarte, CA admitting three women in 1977, which led to the club losing its charter; several lawsuits and appellate rulings, culminating in the 1987 US Supreme Court deciding that RI could “not ban membership based on gender” (Canada’s high court followed suit in 1988); RI finally deleted the reference to “male persons only” from the charter, and women were granted membership in 1989.

Georgene described her first exposure to Rotary, when her high school band performed for the Renton, WA Rotary club in the mid-50s. She wore the same band “letter sweater” she’d worn during those performances to underscore the impact they had on her eventual membership in Clover Park Rotary, over 30 years later!

Georgene Mellom was invited to join Clover Park Rotary, the first year women became eligible. She and a Lakewood financial manager named Bonnie Kern became the club’s first women members, followed shortly by Judi Maier. Both Judi and Georgene have served as Club President, and they pointed out that women make up 51 percent of Clover Park’s current membership. Women lead at all levels of Rotary (including our own District Governor, Maureen Fritz-Roberts), and no doubt the day is coming when this will be said of a Rotary International President!

Fortunately for our organization, women like Georgene and Judi persisted in breaching those artificial barriers, and Rotary is significantly better for it!
For the second time in its 110-year history, the Rotary Club of Tacoma #8 is awarding the Rotary 8 Lifetime Achievement Award.

This award was created to recognize members based upon the following criteria:

- Commitment to the club through service activities as well as financial support
- Quality and quantity of service to the club
- Service to the local and global community

The following qualifications must be met to be considered:

- Rotarian for a minimum of twenty (20) years. (Service in other clubs will be considered as well)
- A Rotarian of Tacoma Rotary 8 in good standing.

This year, the Rotary 8 Lifetime Achievement Award is being presented to Past President and Past District Governor, Jim Harris. Jim has been a member of Rotary 8 since 1979. In that time he has: served as President (1993-1994); served on over 50 committees and special projects at the club, district, and international level, a number of them as the chair; served as the District 5020 Governor (1997-1998); and attended eight international conventions.

Jim has led a prestigious and exciting life. Born in Lead, South Dakota on April 30, 1928, Jim attended Lead High School and then the University of Wyoming and the University of Oregon, earning a Bachelor of Architecture degree.

Jim also served in the United States Navy on the USS Valley Forge (including the Round the World cruise). Jim has been married to Enid (Vondy) for the past 65 years, who has also been an active member of Rotary since February 10, 2005. Jim and Enid have two daughters, two granddaughters, and three great grandchildren. Jim has all of his children and grandchildren as Paul Harris Fellows.

In his professional life, Jim is a highly decorated architect who started his own firm and led it until his retirement. He has also served on the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and the International Association of Architects in a variety of positions.

He was the founding co-chair of the Downtown Area Revitalization Task Force which led to economic growth in the heart of Tacoma. He’s worked with a large number of community organizations including: The Pierce County Chamber of Commerce; Tacoma Public Schools; The United Way; The Point Defiance Zoo; Tacoma Art Museum, and the Pierce County Board of Appeals, just to name a few. Jim has also traveled extensively, visiting 49 of the 50 state (Sorry, South Carolina), and traveled to 65 countries. Everywhere he goes, Jim is representing the best that our community has, and always teaches the ideals of Rotary.

The overwhelming sentiment expressed in all of Jim’s nominations were that he embodies “Service Above Self”.

The Rotary Club of Tacoma #8 could not have asked for a better recipient of the Rotary 8 Lifetime Achievement Award.
Sidney Rotarian Kenny Podmore showed the true spirit of a community coming together in coordinating a memorial on BC’s Saanich Peninsula on Sunday, January 19th.

Close to 500 people joined together at a sombre event remembering the 176 victims of Ukrainian International Airlines Flight PS752, which included 57 Canadians (14 of them from BC), many of whom had ties with people in the Sidney and Victoria areas.

In his opening remarks, one-time former Sidney club president Podmore said that the vigil gave Peninsula residents a chance to stand alongside “our Iranian brothers and sisters” and to be with them during their darkest hour.

In addition to two local mayors, several members of the Iranian-Canadian community were in attendance and (by one estimation) made up at least half of the crowd at Sidney’s Shoal Centre. A few spoke during the event, which began poignantly with the playing of the Iranian national anthem and was set in a sombre, dim, candle-lit room. An array of photographs graced a display table, helping those assembled to know and remember those souls lost when their plane was shot down shortly after take-off from Tehran’s Imam Khomeini Airport on January 8th.

As in open remarks, Mr. Podmore - who is Sidney’s Town Crier - said he witnessed the effect the tragedy was having on the local community and, closer to home, he himself has an Iranian-Canadian dentist. When he broached Dr. Mitra Hashemi with the idea of holding a candlelight vigil, he received an enthusiastic response, and soon the event in memory of those lost on the doomed flight was in motion. Mr. Podmore received support from his local Rotary Club in the form of volunteers to serve refreshments at what was a teary, emotional, and truly heartfelt show of love, solidarity, and support for members of a community in grief.

Afterward, Mr. Podmore received a thank you card from the President of the Victoria Iranian-Persian Cultural Society.
After completion of our 3rd round of LEAD graduates, we have successfully lifted several youths in our community to a new level of leadership.

LEAD (Logistically Empowering Advanced Development) is a program created by two Puyallup Rotarians, current President Renne Gilliam, and Past President Karissa Thompson. This leadership program runs for eight weeks and pulls in several students from the four high schools in the Puyallup School District. The course covers topics such as ‘How to be Worth Investing In,’ ‘Emotional Growth and Intellect,’ ‘Working With Different Personalities,’ and ‘Conflict Resolution Skills.’

The program includes a day with an employment panel where five local business owners come in and share what they are looking for in an employee, what character traits are important in today’s professional world, and how to stand out amongst your peers. The program also had a civic portion where they tour the city building, meet the Senator, State Representatives, and City Council as well as the Police Department.

They leave the session understanding how their voice can be heard and what issues you take to a city verses the state and beyond. We then serve alongside these students in a community service project with the overall goal of giving these students the ability to be leaders in their community and schools. Our next crop of students will start the beginning of February 2020.

The funding for this program comes from our largest and longest-standing fundraiser of 58 years. Our Annual Rotary Crab Feed will take place on March 20th, 2020, at the Washington State Fair Ground.

We will be feeding over 800 people all you can eat oyster stew and crab along with plenty of side dishes donated by local restaurants. We would love for you to come join in on the fun! To learn more, please visit us at www.puyalluprotary.org
PORT ORCHARD CARES

BY LESLIE REYNOLDS-TAYLOR

On Dec. 21, 60 families, and a total of 160 children were given the gift of a merrier Christmas thanks to Port Orchard Cares, a program run by the Soroptimists, the Port Orchard Rotary, and the South Kitsap Rotary.

The triumvirate of good cheer worked a couple of weekends asking shoppers to donate food from Albertson’s on Olney, Albertson’s on Sedgwick, and Safeway on Lund, to provide these families with the necessary fixings for a holiday meal, as well as some supplemental groceries. Then the groups purchased cold groceries such as milk, turkeys, ham, fruit, and vegetables from the Albertson’s on Sedgwick.

On top of that, those 160 children, as well as some seniors in the community, were given gifts provided by the Rotarians and Soroptimists, based on a list of three wants and three needs.

“We have families that have had bad luck this year,” said Leslie Reynolds-Taylor, President of Port Orchard Rotary. “In addition, we want to thank our Military families for all they do for our Country.” “It’s something we enjoy doing. Our community needs it; some of our families need it.

“These particular families would, in other cases, not be able to provide Christmas presents for their children”

On Dec. 21st, a group of 65 volunteers began working at about 9 a.m. to wrap presents and organize the food to be given to each family.

“When I first started back in 2001, we had about 30 families,” Glenn Schmitt said. “So, it’s 50 percent bigger than when we started.”

Schmitt said this was a project they did solely for the benefit of the community in which they all live.

“It’s hard to explain,” he said. “When people come in and start getting their stuff, tears start to flow, and it’s tears of gratitude. People who are receiving seem to be just genuinely grateful.

“There’s so much gratitude for this. We don’t do this for anything other than, it’s an opportunity to serve our community.”
Once again, Parkland Spanaway Rotary is holding its famous “Surrender the Booty Bash” charity auction. There will be many auction items, both silent and oral, to choose from. The food is always good, and the Rum punch was a big hit last year, so more will be available this time. Of course, we will have wine and beer, as well as sodas and water.

The cost is $50 and includes entry, entertainment, and dinner. Go to our website and get registered for this great event. Bring your mates and or your matey and dress in your pirate outfit to feel more at home and part of the atmosphere. Pirate clothes not required, though. One other highlight is that our venue is the LeMay MaryMount Event Center in Spanaway. You will enjoy this unique setting even if you are not an auto buff. So get registered, save the date, and come for a great time. If you would like to talk to someone, you can call Kevin Gleim at 253-820-0111.

We look forward to seeing you.
Saving Smiles, Changing Lives, One Day at a Time

By Marnee Obendorf

“What would you say if I said I was asked to go on a Rotaplast mission to Bangladesh as a PACU Assistant?” That’s the question I posed via text message to my husband from my hotel room in Denver at the 2019 Zone Institute. His response: “Safety. Health. Go for it.” So...here’s the rest of the story....

Rotaplast was an unknown entity to me when, as a Rotary spouse, I sat in on a presentation by a group of Rotarians at a District Conference in Victoria over 20 years ago. We learned at that session that Rotaplast was established in the mid-1990s by a Plastic Surgeon and an Attorney, both members of a Rotary club in San Francisco, to bring surgical intervention to patients in third world countries with cleft palates and cleft lips. Do you get the derivation of the name? The combination of “Rota” for Rotary and “plast” for plastic surgery since missions are typically funded by Rotarians, whether individual clubs or districts or individual Rotarians and friends.
After hearing that presentation, I said to my husband, “Someday, I want to do that.” Then, as often happens, the business of life took over that thought until about ten years later when it resurfaced and allowed me to have the incredible opportunity to actually “do that.” It was that first experience serving on a Rotaplast International mission in 2008 in Cebu City, Philippines, that gave me a true taste of what Rotaplast’s motto, “Saving Smiles, Changing Lives,” really meant. It sincerely means allowing thousands of children and adults who are born with these unfortunate defects to be able to eat, speak, smile and experience a normal life without difficulty, and quite likely without being bullied or shamed as well. Especially for those with cleft lips, shame is quite often the most painful thing to bear. Parents have even been known to abandon their children with these deformities to avoid the shameful reality.

Two years later, in 2010, I was blessed to return to Cebu City with five other Rotarians from District 5020 who were chosen to join a team to change even more lives. Sometimes patients aren’t accepted for a particular mission due to age, weight, or illness, so they return with hope the following year, which even allowed me to see familiar faces from 2008. An added gift is that the Rotarian hosts of these missions are always incredibly welcoming and gracious, feeding and entertaining us in the Rotarian spirit!

After that 2010 mission, life’s challenges (and joys) once again got in the way of getting an opportunity to participate in another mission until October 2019 – this time in Sylhet, Bangladesh.
Honestly, that was not a location that was ever going to make my bucket list of places to visit, but my belief in the work that is done by the dedicated, talented and truly wonderful team members I’ve become acquainted with on these missions led me to say “yes” when the opportunity arose. The cherry on top was when I discovered that I had the chance to work with two wonderful nurses who I had met on those two previous missions!

Make no mistake, the travel time from the West Coast of the US to Bangladesh is long and exhausting, as are the workdays, but the rewards far outweigh all of that. From the time I left our home in Olympia, Washington, until our team arrived in Sylhet, Bangladesh, the travel time was in the neighborhood of 40 hours. Most of the team gathered in the San Francisco airport for our first introductions and the painstaking process of checking in as a group with our luggage and medical supplies. A few other team members from other parts of the world met us in Dubai where we felt a bit of discomfort as we were treated to some rather disparaging looks (and maybe comments as we heard “American” frequently thrown in) since we occupied the attention of our very own customs agent.

Upon our arrival in Sylhet on Tuesday morning, with a time difference of 13 hours from home, we were greeted by our Rotarian hosts from the Rotary Club of Jalalabad in District 3282. They were glad to see us there, but not so glad that none of the 32 boxes of medical equipment and supplies arrived with us! After a pretty long wait in the airport, it was decided that more investigation needed to be done to track down the boxes, so off we went in three vans and a truck full of our luggage led by a security contingent.
with lights and sirens running full blast. It felt a little like being a celebrity, but that didn’t appear to be how we were perceived by folks on the street.

After settling into our fairly comfortable hotel rooms, we had our first team meeting, and I got my first taste of Bangladesh cuisine, replete with a lot of curry on everything—except the eggs, that is. Those come with sugar sprinkled on them!

Early the next morning, the mission officially began, with what was to become the normal lights and siren escort to the hospital. After getting set up in the space set aside for our pre-op screening clinic with the minimal supplies we were able to gather, a welcome ceremony was held by the local Rotarians and city officials. Then it was all-hands-on-deck for the entire team to play a part in screening 130 patients who were waiting to see if they would either be approved or denied for surgery during our stay. The really good news of the day came when all of our equipment arrived intact late that afternoon just in time for surgery to start the following day!

Surgery were scheduled for seven of the next eight days with a full day medical symposium sponsored by Chevron Bangladesh mixed in on Monday, which was offered for local physicians and medical students wishing to learn best practices and techniques from the talented doctors and nurses who gave of their time for this mission. All in all, 75 surgeries were successfully completed...
during the seven surgery days. Those were long days for our team, typically at least 12 hours, not counting the necessary debrief time at night back at the hotel. Despite a few setbacks with illnesses spread throughout the group necessitating some schedule switches, we powered through until the post-op day on Friday, our 11th day in Sylhet. That was the day we discharged the patients who had surgeries on Thursday, checked healing progress on those that could make it back to the hospital that day, said good-bye to the medical students and volunteers that helped with post-op ward care, interpreting and serving us lunch every day, followed by packing up all of the medical equipment that would be returning back to San Francisco with us in 17 boxes. That return trip, by the way, took 50 (yes, 50) hours for me. I could hardly say or spell “jet lag” by the time I got home and into my own bed. But, to quote my husband, “it was a good tired.”

Friday night, the Rotary Club of Jalalabad hosted us for a farewell dinner in a local restaurant, which was a fascinating study in Rotary meetings, to say the least. The Rotarians on the team were familiar with the “ceremony” of our meetings, but even we weren’t sure about some of it, especially when we were trying to understand the speeches that were delivered in a language foreign to all of us. Saturday saw some of our team members departing for home since they had real lives to return to, with the remainder of us attending a luncheon put on by Chevron Bangladesh to acknowledge the contribution of our team.

For clarification for anyone unfamiliar with the composition of Rotaplast teams, the “medical teams” are comprised of plastic surgeons, anesthesiologists, pediatricians, surgical nurses, recovery room nurses, speech therapists and often oral surgeons
or dentists, and perhaps a physical therapist if burn patients are being cared for as well. The “non-medical” team members are typically Rotarians or family members and includes the team leader, a medical records clerk, instrument sterilizer, PACU (recovery room) assistant, quartermaster (who handles the supplies) ward coordinators (entertaining and caring for the kids pre- and post-op), patient transporter and a mission historian. On this particular mission, our team of 27 was truly an international team with 22 Americans from all around the country, a physician from Egypt, another physician from Turkey, a nurse originally from India, the sterilizer from The Netherlands, and the historian from Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is a poverty-stricken, depressed, hot, and muggy area of the world that made us all feel blessed for what we have in our lives. Sylhet is a city with the population of Seattle squeezed into 10 square miles of land with a remarkably frightening traffic system. Stoplights and stop signs are non-existent, so we were very happy to have experienced drivers as well as our security escort!

A remarkable gift of long-lasting friendships comes with the reward of fulfilling our Rotary motto of Service Above Self on these medical missions. Getting to know these extraordinary professionals over an intense two week period is one of the best experiences of my life. If you have ever asked yourself, “should I?”, contact me and I’ll tell you “YES,” unequivocally YES. Believe me, you get back more than you give.

“...IF YOU HAVE EVER ASKED YOURSELF, “SHOULD I?”, CONTACT ME AND I’LL TELL YOU UNEQUIVOCALLY YES....”
District 9570, which is the centre of Australia’s beef industry, has an area of 890,000 square kilometers extending from the far west to the coast. The country within 300-400km of the coast has been suffering from the drought for the last two years, and almost all the local authorities have been “drought declared.”
In 2012 in the far western section of the district was ‘drought declared’ by then properties were having to sell cattle or in many cases shoot their cattle as they were too weak to travel which also resulted in numerous suicides prompting Rotarian Ron Poulsen to commence a campaign to help prevent any more deaths by assisting the graziers.

Many towns in our District are now preparing for the day they will completely run out of water. Some towns have already declared they have no water and they are trucking in water, and several are digging deep wells, searching for underground water sources.

The major centre of the far west is Longreach. However, there are many other small towns and communities which rely on the graziers for work or to supply these families with the essentials of life. There was a campaign that supplied large consignments of fodder, but as the drought progressed fodder became too difficult to obtain, now there has been no stock in the far west for several years. Over the last few years, the Rotary Club of Longreach has been traveling each weekend to all the small remote communities in the far west holding a BBQ and movie night, which has assisted greatly in preventing the mental health problems previously experienced.

The club also has a tradition of distributing Christmas hams to all attendees unfortunate due to lack of funds we were unable to do this, in 2019.

The country nearer the coast is also a major producer of cattle as well as sugar cane and a large variety of fruits, these graziers now have no grass, dams on properties have dried, and underground water supply is declining, farmers with irrigation are no longer able to irrigate crops. For instance, the Bundaberg area is a large sugar cane producer, but most of the cane is of very poor quality and has little sugar content. Government-owned dams and rivers are extremely low, and some small towns now have to transport in water for their community.

Many graziers in this area have sold off their cattle and are feeding their breeders with whatever hay they can source or afford as the cost of a bale of hay has gone from $40 to $180. An added concern for graziers is that most of their breeders have recently dropped calves, and they are now hand feeding with powdered milk.

There is currently a proposal to bring in hay from Thailand or Indonesia, but most graziers will not be able to afford the hay as they have used all their available funds trying to keep the
Many farmers are feeling the pressure of the drought; mental health has been a major focus of Rotary for the far west. By implementing our program, in the west, we have reduced suicides, but we now have to start a similar program in the coastal area to ensure no suicides occur.

What We Have Done So Far – Drought

- In January 2012 and 13 the Rotary Club of Rockhampton North committed $25,000 in debit cards each year for families and graziers around the town of Winton (in D9550) to get their children back to school
- To date since 2012, Rotary D9570 has distributed $3.6 million to drought-affected areas in the far west of our District ($1.6 million from Rotary, $500,000 from Channel 9 TV appeal and 1 million from the Federal Government)
- Provided 4800 x 1.2m round bales of hay.
- Supported the Longreach School of Long-Distance Education to assist student fees, uniforms, and books.
- Supported the Longreach School of Distance Education assisting in the by-annual school concert
- Provided funding to the Longreach School of Dance
- Provided pre-loaded cards with money to farmers and graziers from the RABS Drought Project, supporting seven drought declared shires in the west of D9570. We must thank the Western Queensland Drought Committee for their efforts in arranging Westpac debit cards for the Chanel 9 and the Federal Gov donations and forwarding funds onto 561 grazers.
- The drought committee received a $5,000.00 donation from a Rotarian. These funds have been forwarded on to grazers in the Longreach area.
- In December 2019, The Rotary Club of North Rockhampton donated $20,000.00 in debit cards to assist grazier families in the Rockhampton Area.

An unpresented fire occurred on 10 November 2019 in the area of Yeppoon and the Capricorn Coast, with 15 homes lost 42 sheds and 60 farmers being devastated with the loss of crops ready to be picked. Crops such as mango, lychee, custard apple, pineapple as well as cattle and free range chicken were destroyed.
In D9570, these fires have extended along the eastern seaboard in areas of Yeppoon, Rockhampton, Gladstone and Bundaberg and D9570 has appointed a Special Projects Officer (Alan Titman) to coordinate efforts in supporting projects in the face of this disaster and to support the Drought Committee.

The district received some funds immediately after the Yeppoon fires from Rotary Clubs of Aya $9,000, $5,000 from Port Curtis in Gladstone and $1,000 from Rotarians. But these donations have ceased since the fires in NSW and Victoria, we are currently asking for funds from clubs that will assist the efforts of Rotarians in providing projects to help individuals and communities that have experienced the fires and to purchase hay and water for those in drought.

What We Have Done So Far – Fires

- Following the Capricorn Coast fires, clubs in the Group 2 area have been helping orchard owners to cut back their trees in the hope of the trees recovering
- Reinstalled water mains on farms to get water to the house from the bore
- Wash down roofs to remove the contaminants of soot and debris from the fires so the tanks will fill with clean when it does rain
- Working with the council, assisting victims to complete applications for help
- We have purchased hay for one grazier who lost 24 head and all his grassland in the fire.
- A 71-year-old couple who lived in Norpine Road lost their uninsured home and shed in the fire and have been living with others since the fire
- Considerable funds have been raised to help those affected by the fires throughout Australia; Rotary has received no funds from these appeals.
- D9570 is now going to concentrate on assisting those graziers in the coastal areas with hay, water, and debit cards for living costs; this will extend to any farmers in desperate need of help.

What is forgotten and certainly not discussed in the media is the long-term prospects of these graziers and farmers, if graziers can afford the cost of breeders, it will take up to eight (8) years for them to produce stock for sale. Farmers and orchard owners will have approximately five (5) years before they get another crop if they were to plant new trees immediately after the existing burned orchard is cleared, plus they will have to
purchase irrigation and lost machinery.

Normally such things take time and are strategic. We need to accelerate the assistance to communities given the pressure (economic, social, practical) being felt by individuals’ in our District. Is it possible for your club or district to assist D9570 with funds so that we may again be able to assist these people in need?

Please indicate the name of the club donating.

Thank you
Governor Michael Buckeridge
2019-2020 District 9570

For more information please contact:
Rod Medew: romed22@iinet.net.au
Ron Poulsen: rpoulsen@outlook.com
Alan Titman: alan.titman@bigpond.com.au

MONEY CAN BE SENT TO:
Account Name: Rotary Club of Pioneer Valley
Bank Name: Sarina Community Bendigo Bank
Bank Address: 37 Broad Street, Sarina, 4737, Qld Australia

BSB: 633-108
Account Number: 154790984
Account address: PO Box 46 (41 Mary Street), Mirani, 4754, QLD Australia
SWIFT Code: BENDAU3B
MEMBERSHIP & PUBLIC IMAGE TRAINING

QUALICUM BEACH: JANUARY 11TH
9AM-1PM - MEMBERSHIP & PUBLIC IMAGE
1PM-3PM - HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR CLUB’S WEBSITE

TACOMA: MARCH 14TH
9AM-1PM - MEMBERSHIP & PUBLIC IMAGE
1PM-3PM - HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR CLUB’S WEBSITE

REGISTER WITH KATIECARDROTARY@GMAIL.COM
Heart of Gold Gala Dinner and Auction

Saturday, February 22nd

At Ramada Duncan
Cocktails at 5:30 and dinner at 7:00
Great silent and live auction items!
This is a fundraising event which will help our club support our many local and global community projects.
Thank you for your support!

Tickets $100 and can be purchased from Rotary Club members

---

ARTISTS FOR HOSPICE
This is a Fund Raiser - Cash, Cheque, Cards

Feb 29th 2020
6PM To 8:30PM

CHARITY ART Auction
To benefit Rotary Gardens at Cowichan Hospice House

Various pieces of original art for purchase
Live and Silent Auction + $20 surprise art
Hors D’oeuvres, Mocktail Refreshments

Ladysmith Waterfront Gallery
444 Parkhill Terrace
Ladysmith, BC

Tickets $35.00
at Salamander Books, Waterfront Gallery, Ladysmith, Rotary members, Hospice Society, Camera Club members
On Line Eventbrite

Rotary Chronicle Ladysmith Camera Club Ladysmith Royal Bank
Come out on the town and support the Good Works of the Port Townsend Rotary at our Annual Rotary Dinner & Auction “Flannel After 5” Saturday, March 28, 2020 5:30 PM at the Fort Worden Commons

$80/Person - $890 for a table of 8
Seating is Limited

To purchase tickets, go to: www.PTRCDINNERAUCTION.com
or call 360-821-2610 (Cindy Madsen, Old Consulate Inn)

Our Fund-A-Cause this year is the Imagination Library.
Research shows that early reading experiences, opportunities to build vocabularies and literacy rich environments, are the most effective ways to support the development of pre-reading and cognitive skills that ensure that children are prepared for success in school and throughout life.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”
-Nelson Mandela

The Imagination Library has become a favorite program of Rotary nationally, and the carefully curated books reflect Rotary’s tenets of fairness, strength through peace, and personal responsibility.

Please join us as we support the children, and future of Jefferson County.

Come out on the town and support the Good Works of the Port Townsend Rotary at our Annual Rotary Dinner & Auction “Flannel After 5” Saturday, March 28, 2020 5:30 PM at the Fort Worden Commons

$80/Person - $890 for a table of 8
Seating is Limited

To purchase tickets, go to: www.PTRCDINNERAUCTION.com
or call 360-821-2610 (Cindy Madsen, Old Consulate Inn)

Our Fund-A-Cause this year is the Imagination Library.
Research shows that early reading experiences, opportunities to build vocabularies and literacy rich environments, are the most effective ways to support the development of pre-reading and cognitive skills that ensure that children are prepared for success in school and throughout life.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”
-Nelson Mandela

The Imagination Library has become a favorite program of Rotary nationally, and the carefully curated books reflect Rotary’s tenets of fairness, strength through peace, and personal responsibility.

Please join us as we support the children, and future of Jefferson County.
YOUR CLUB EVENTS COULD GO HERE, PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR POSTERS TODAY!
A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR 2019 TRAINING AND CONFERENCE SPONSORS!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR 2019 TRAINING AND CONFERENCE SPONSORS!

AREA 2
A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR 2019 TRAINING AND CONFERENCE SPONSORS!

**AREA 4**

District Training Assembly Conference 2019
Victoria, British Columbia

Debbie Narver - Rotary Club of Nanaimo
info@strategicmanager.com
NMC Strategic Manager
250-583-8725

Brent Baroote - Rotary Club of Nanaimo
brent@partnershipgroup.ca
Partnership Specialsit
403-617-0539

**AREA 6**

District Training Assembly Conference 2019
Victoria, British Columbia

Karen Graham, Rotary Club of Oak Bay
Karen Graham Notary Corporation
www.karengrahamnotary.ca
karen@karengrahamnotary.ca
Notary Public
356-500-2424

Jennifer A. McCaughey - Rotary Club of Victoria
Ang McCaughey Law, Victoria, BC
angmccaughheylaw@shaw.ca
Legal Services
356-881-1891
A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR 2019 TRAINING AND CONFERENCE SPONSORS!

AREA 6

District Training Assembly Conference 2019
Victoria, British Columbia

The Woodbury Apartments - Joan Pegg, Rotary Club of Oak Bay
info@the-woodbury.com
www.woodbury我不想写的东西.com
The Woodbury Apartments in James Bay
290-096-9612

ComForCare - Jason & Rowena Ku, Rotary Club of Oak Bay
vancouverseminar@conference.ca
www.confconference.com/homecare
Home Care Services
1-866-5330

Suresh Ramesh, Rotary Club of Oak Bay
sure@sureworkstation.com
sureworkstation.com
Home Care Services
150-503-3208

Yas Bouse, Rotary Club of Nanaimo,
www.heartpharmacy.com
Heart Pharmacy
738-543-2200

Rotary
District 5020

Area 7

District Training Assembly Conference 2019
Victoria, British Columbia

Serenity Home Care
Murray and Kathy Tough - Rotary Club of Victoria-Harbourside
info@serenityhomecare.ca
www.serenityhomecarea.ca
Home Care
250-390-8908

Reid James - Rotary Club of Victoria-Harbourside
rjames@hotelgrandpacific.com
www.hotelgrandpacific.com
Hotel
250-388-6450; 1-800-666-7150

Rotary
District 5020
A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR 2019 TRAINING AND CONFERENCE SPONSORS!

AREA 8

District Training Assembly Conference 2019
Victoria, British Columbia

Area 8

Caleb Summerfelt - Rotary Club of East Jefferson County
caleb@nsbdesignworks.com
nsbdesignworks.com
Design
1-853-672-9675

Rotary
District 5020

AREA 9

District Training Assembly Conference 2019
Victoria, British Columbia

Area 9

Patti Shannon - Rotary Club of Bainbridge Island
pattishannon@windermere.com
windermereREALTOR.com
5-Star Realtor Serving Buyers & Sellers on Beautiful Bainbridge Island & North Kitsap County
206-725-5139

Rotary
District 5020
A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR 2019 TRAINING AND CONFERENCE SPONSORS!

AREA 11.5

District Training Assembly Conference 2019
Victoria, British Columbia

Mark R. Anderson - Rotary Club of Tacoma No. 8
Legal Services Meeting the 4-Way Test
markr@vhb.org
www.vhb.org
+1 253-357-1750 (office)
+1 253-671-2880 (mobile)

Kelly Lane - Rotary Club of Tacoma No. 8
Director of Operations/Nonprofit Administrator
Artistic Plastic Surgery Center
Kash A. Dehghan MD, PhD, FACS
www.artisticplasticsurgery.com
253-774-0125

Jennifer Durham - Rotary Passport Club of Pierce County
Event Planning
hostess@planning@gmail.com
253-861-8987

AREA 12

District Training Assembly Conference 2019
Victoria, British Columbia

Natasha Gunia - Rotary Club of Sumner
customerservice@advanceservices.com
www.advanceservices.com

Advanced SEPTIC & CONSTRUCTION
Services
253-447-0033

Rotary District 5020
A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR 2019 TRAINING AND CONFERENCE SPONSORS!

AREA 13

District Training Assembly Conference 2019
Victoria, British Columbia

Grace Kendall - Rotary Club of Gateway
322@fastsigns.com
www.fastsigns.com/322
Custom Signs, Banners & More
360-438-380

FASTSIGNS®
More than fast. More than signs.

Rotary District 5020

AREA 14

District Training Assembly Conference 2019
Victoria, British Columbia

Randy Walker - Rotary E-Club District 5020 International
randy@kr-consultants.com
www.walkerinsuranceadvantage.com
All Lines Insurance / Commercial & Personal
360-200-5287

Rotary District 5020