THE FOUNTAIN

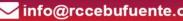
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ROZANNE TWINKLE GAMBOA **District Governor**



EDWARD VINCENT ANG District Secretary



ROSEL SUMAYO Assistant Governor Area 1D





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Adviser



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13th General Membership Meeting

Casino Español de Cebu, Cebu City | November 28, 2023 **Rotary Foundation Month**

Programme

PART 1

Call to Order	 JOSE MARIE PONCE President	
Invocation	 AUDIO VISUAL PRESENTATION	
Philippine Anthem	 AUDIO VISUAL PRESENTATIO	
The Rotary Hymn	 AUDIO VISUAL PRESENTATION	
Four Way Test and Objects of Rotary	 GLENFORD ELENDRINO Director, Public Image	
Introduction of Rotarians Spouses, Visiting Rotarians Rotaractors Guest	 FRANCIS ICAMEN Director, Club Administration	
PART 2		
Business Matters		
PART 3		
Secretary's Report	 PATRICK YARED Secretary	
Director's Report	 CLUB DIRECTORS	
President's Time	 JOSE MARIE PONCE President	
Other matters		
Adjournment	 JOSE MARIE PONCE	



Hosted by: **EMMIE TESALONA Past President**

INVOCATION

Almighty God, from whom every good prayer comes, and who pours out on all who desire it the Spirit of grace and supplication, deliver us, when we draw near to you, from soft mindedness and hardheartedness, and from all wanderings of mind, that with stable and reliable thoughts and enlightened affections we may worship you in spirit and in truth. Hear now, O God, our silent prayers. Amen

...Fellowship Continues...

Quote for the Week

"Don't count the days, make the days count." - Muhammad Ali





President

From Secretary's Desk

PATRICK L. YARED Secretary, RY 2023 - 2024

ATTENDANCE

	ROTARY ID #	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	9th 09/27	10th 10/09	11th 10/29	12th 11/13
1.	6726464	Abad	Jose Alfonso				
2.	6581939	Abarintos	Conrado	1			
3.	8794289	Abay-Abay	Emman Reyan				
4.	9330462	Amago IV	Atty. Bernardino	~			
5.	11227470	Amores	Atty. Ernesto Miguel	1	J	J	
6.	6218949	Amores	Maricel	1	✓	J	
7.		Andrino	Atty. Kristine				
8.	3362897	Barba	Richard			✓	
9.	6207695	Baring	Engr. Jesselito	1		J	
10.	10954392	Deiparine	Atty. Sydrick Jose Andrei			J	
11.	11227514	Elendrino	Glenford				
12.	2036342	Espina	Arch. Joseph Michael		~	J	
13.	5983997	Filipino	Rogelio				
14.	11614251	Gratones	Regie			✓	
15.	10411469	Icamen	Francis Edhilson	1			
16.		Honrada	Archt. Jason	~		J	
17.	8944393	Jang	Pouly			J	
18.	3516557	Karamihan	Dave John				
19.	8599266	Kaufmann	Marina				
20.	9804883	Llegunas	Kristoffer	✓	✓	✓	✓
21.	8794288	Lomanta	Atty. Lolita				
22.	10709899	Ong	Jason	1	~	V	
23.		Papellero	Engr. Lowell		1	✓	
24.	6726443	Pasion	Ma. Consolacion				
25.	10410040	Ponce	Jose Marie	J	~	✓	✓
26.	8599268	Rimaz	Ma. Dolores			✓	
27.	5476140	San Pedro	Luz Filipinas				
28.	8794286	Senerpida	Dr. Alain	J		✓	✓
29.	11103868	Spaller	Herminia				
30.	3264107	Solomon	Mary Anne	1			
31.	8543450	Sulay	Kendrick				
32.		Tan	Joshua				
33.	9330558	Tesalona	Emmanuel	1	✓	✓	
34.	5176670	Torres	Arch. Manuel, Jr.	1		~	
35.	10410033	Yared	Patrick				
			TOTAL ATTENDEES	14	8	17	3



BIRTHDAYS

November 2 Sandra Espina Marivic Barba November 22

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Glen & Haile Elendrino November 18







The road to peace

his month, Rotary takes a step toward supporting peacebuilding in the Middle East and North Africa region.

In November, Rotary and District 2420 are hosting a signing ceremony for our newest peace center in partnership with Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul.

The ceremony is the first in a series of events recognizing the new center at BAU and Rotary's work to promote peace. The 2024 Rotary International Convention in May will mark 25 years since the first Rotary Peace Centers were announced — coincidentally at the Rotary Convention in Singapore in 1999. Recruitment for the first cohort of Rotary Peace Fellows at BAU also starts in 2024, and selected candidates will begin their program in early 2025.

Since its beginning, the peace centers program has prepared more than 1,700 peace fellows working in more than 140 countries to create a more peaceful world. That is certainly worth celebrating, but Rotary Peace Fellows are more than statistics on a page. Their actions have helped Create Hope in the World and will continue to do so.

For example, Jennifer Montgomery and Gorett Komurembe — peace fellows from the program at Makerere University in Uganda — are co-founders of Magenta Girls Initiative. The international nongovernmental organization equips Ugandan girls and young women with the support and tools to overcome harmful gender norms, generational poverty, gender-based violence, trafficking, and trauma.

Ndzi Divine Njamsi, another peace fellow who studied at Makerere, has taken lessons learned about Positive Peace and is sharing them with students of his own in Cameroon. He became interested in the Rotary Positive Peace Activator training program after witnessing extremism, online hate speech, and violence in Cameroon. Since completing the program, he has brought his lessons on peace to students at the Yaoundé International Business School and other organizations in the Central Africa country.

The world needs more people like the graduates of the program at Makerere and our other peace fellows. To that end, we can all advance peace by encouraging our local peacebuilders to learn more about Rotary and apply for this impactful fellowship. Rotary members can also mentor candidates for the fellowship. Or you can work with peace fellows who have already graduated. They probably have an initiative or two that would benefit from your help.

Our peace centers in North America, Europe, Africa, Australia, and Asia depend on financial support as well. The program at BAU was made possible thanks to a generous gift of \$15.5 million to The Rotary Foundation from the Otto and Fran Walter Foundation.

This new Rotary Peace Center will offer a one-year professional development certificate in peace and development studies for fellows focusing on peacebuilding within the Middle East and North Africa region.

Peace must be waged persistently; it is the soil where hope takes root. But as with any journey, we take one step at a time. Let's take those steps together.

R. GORDON R. MCINALLY

President, Rotary International

PHOTOGRAPH: KEVIN SERNA







TRUSTEE CHAIR'S MESSAGE

The magnitude of our impact

This month, as we celebrate The Rotary Foundation, let's recognize it for what it is: one of the world's best humanitarian organizations.

Many charities, relief organizations, and nonprofits do the same type of work, and the public associates them with the causes they work on. But I wonder how many people know that Rotary supports those same causes — seven of them in fact — which we call our areas of focus.

If they want clean water, good health, and a sustainable future for our planet, they support what our Foundation does. If they envision a world where peace, full literacy, and economic opportunities for communities to support themselves exist, they also believe in Rotary's mission. And if they want to see mothers and their babies thrive, their vision aligns with the work we do.

And we have a lot of work in progress through the Foundation. Polio eradication is changing the world, one drop of vaccine at a time. Rotary Peace Centers are training peacebuilders to reduce violence and resolve conflict. And through Foundation global and district grants, we are improving lives in a real way.

The way we work also sets us apart. We have global reach, with more than 48,000 field offices in the form of Rotary and Rotaract clubs. We emphasize good

stewardship of your funds and efficient implementation of your projects. And we always aim for sustainable solutions.

During the 2022-23 Rotary year, the Foundation awarded 1,098 global grants. If you think of what a single grant can do, you begin to grasp the scale of our work and the magnitude of our impact — an impact people can see and feel in their daily lives.

Our district supported a global grant project that focused on basic education and literacy in Malawi, where we helped train 38 teachers who are responsible for 4.000 students. We also built two toilets and installed a pump, so they had water for drinking and hand washing.

I will never forget that when Esther and I visited the school, a young boy pointed to my Rotary pin, recognizing it from other volunteers who wore their pins during the project. He said, "I know you helped me. I won't be able to travel to thank the others who helped me, so please thank them for me."

So thank you, Rotary, on behalf of a child in Malawi whose future you made a little brighter, and on behalf of thousands of others you have helped by supporting The Rotary Foundation.

BARRY RASSIN

Foundation trustee chair

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GENERAL SECRETARY

John Hewko

Kyiv, Ukraine

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East Nassau, Bahamas

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Borivli, India

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Hawthorn, Australia

GENERAL SECRETARY

John Hewko

Kyiv, Ukraine











District Governor's October Message

Dear Rotary Family,

My warm greetings to each member of our esteemed Rotary District 3860 during this particular month of November. It is a time when we come together to celebrate the incredible impact of our Rotary Foundation and honor the generosity of Rotarians who have been instrumental in making a positive difference in our communities and worldwide.

November holds a distinct significance as we pay tributeto the Rotary Foundation, the heartbeat of our collective efforts to do good. It is a month dedicated to recognizing the selfless contributions of Rotarians who have worked tirelessly to address pressing needs, uplift the underserved, and promote lasting change.

Last November 18 marked a particularly significant dayin our Rotary calendar as we celebrated the Rotary Foundation. This occasion served as a moment of reflection, acknowledging our profound impact andrenewing our commitment to Rotary's core values.

It is with profound gratitude that I extend my heartfelt thanks to all Rotarians who willingly give their contributions to the Rotary Foundation without hesitation. Your voluntary contributions are not merely financial transactions; they are powerful acts of kindness that echo across the world

Your willingness to extend a helping hand without reservation exemplifies the essence of Rotary's motto — "Service Above Self".

In a world sometimes driven by self-interest, youstand as a shining example of what it means to be truly human — to recognize the needs of others and respond with open hearts. Your actions speak louder than words, creating a symphony of compassion, and It has fueled our projects, initiatives, and endeavors, creating a huge effectof positive change.

We have built schools, provided clean water, supported healthcare, and more. But the need is still great, and countless more lives await to betouched. Our actions are a testament to the belief that the true measure of wealth lies inwhat we can give, not just in material possessions but in the richness of compassionand empathy.

To all Rotarians who don't merely count the cost but willingly share their blessings, Thank You. They are a gift of hope, a promise of a better tomorrow for those who may have lost sight of it. May your generosity continue to inspire, and may your shared treasures multiply in the hearts and lives of those you touch. Thank you!

ROZANNE TWINKLE C. GAMBOA District Governor, RY 2023-2024 **Rotary International District 3860**



SERVICE ABOVE SELF

THE FOUR-WAY TEST

Of the things we think, say, or do:

- 1.) Is it the truth?
- **2.)** Is it fair to all concerned?
- **3.)** Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
- **4.)** Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

THE OBJECT OF ROTARY

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

FIRST. The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service:

SECOND. High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

THIRD. The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;

FOURTH. The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

ROTARIAN CODE OF CONDUCT

The following code of conduct has been adopted for the use of Rotarians: As a Rotarian, I will

- **1.)** Act with integrity and high ethical standards in my personal and professional life
- 2.) Deal fairly with others and treat them and their occupations with respect
- 3.) Use my professional skills through Rotary to: mentor young people, help those with special needs, and improve people's quality of life in my community and in the world
- 4.) Avoid behavior that reflects adversely on Rotary or other Rotarians
- **5.)** Help maintain a harassment-free environment in Rotary meetings, events, and activities, report any suspected harassment, and help ensure non-retaliation to those individuals that report harassment.









CREATE HOPE in the WORLD

When we nurture peace, opportunities, and one another, we help heal the world and create lasting change.

Let's create hope by:

- · Confronting stigmas, expanding access, and raising awareness about the importance of mental health
- Fostering understanding and strengthening connections through virtual exchanges
- Unlocking the power of girls and women around the world

Learn more at rotary.org/initiatives23-24









Hope Creating Theme Song

Where Hope is Planted

Lyrics by: Cathy Azanza-Dy Music by: Joel Balsamo Arrangement by: TJ Ramos Sung by: Poppert Bernadas









From RCCF Album

11-13-2023 12th RCCF GMM RY 2023 - 2024













IN BRIEF

Mário César Martins de **Camargo to be 2025-26 Rotary president**

Mário César Martins de Camargo,

a member of the Rotary Club of Santo André, Brazil, has been selected as president of Rotary International for 2025-26. He will be the fourth Brazilian to hold the office and the first since Paulo V.C. Costa in 1990-91.

De Camargo was president of the printing company Gráfica Bandeirantes and has been a consultant to the print industry in Brazil. He has also served as president and chair of several printing and graphics trade associations, including the Brazilian Association of Graphic Technology and the Brazilian Printing Industry Association.

He has served on the board of Casa da Esperança (House of Hope), a medical center in Santo André sponsored by his Rotary club that serves more than 200,000 patients every year.

De Camargo studied in the U.S. and Germany and holds degrees from São Bernardo do Campo Law School and the Getulio Vargas Foundation's São Paulo School of Business Administration. He attended a high school in Minnesota in 1974-75 through Rotary Youth Exchange, which inspired a lifelong commitment to the program.

A Rotarian since 1980, de Camargo served as his club's Youth Exchange officer in 1981, at age 24, and its president in 1992-93. He was governor of District 4420 (part of Brazil's São Paulo state) in 1999-2000, Rotary Foundation trustee



in 2015-19, and Rotary International director in 2019-21. He has also served Rotary as an RI learning facilitator, committee member and chair, and task force member.

De Camargo and his wife, Denise, also a Rotarian, are Major Donors and Benefactors of The Rotary Foundation.

- ETELKA LEHOCZKY





Rotary's Brand Center.



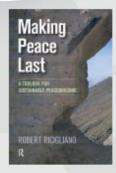




From conflict to climate change, the challenges facing our communities are daunting. How do Rotary's area of focus managers stay inspired and energized? One way is through books. For Rotary Foundation Month, we asked them to share what's on their reading list in hopes that it may inspire and inform your next big project.



Promoting peace



Making Peace Last: A Toolbox for Sustainable Peacebuilding

Robert Ricigliano

After decades of working on conflict resolution and peacebuilding in the field and in academia, Robert Ricigliano was troubled by the same question: "Why, even when what we did worked, where we had success at the negotiating table, [why] did it not work in the sense that it didn't lead to sustainable change in the societies that we were working in?" In his book, Ricigliano offers a solution to that problem by providing peacebuilding strategies that are as dynamic and adaptive as the societies they are trying to affect.

Why I recommend it: Ricigliano takes a holistic, hands-on approach to understanding the complexity of building sustainable peace. His perspective is systemic, that is, he looks at the pursuit of peace within the context and interconnectedness of the different dynamics and phenomena within a society or country - and within neighboring societies and countries. That adds up to a practical approach that can yield verifiable results. - REBECCA CRALL



The Moral Imagination: The Art and Soul of Building Peace

John Paul Lederach

Abandoning, in part, the rigorous scientific methods of his earlier books, John Paul Lederach embraces the personal, the anecdotal, and the "messiness of innovation" as he explores how best to "move from destructive violence to constructive social engagement." What that demands, he insists, is a creative exercise of our moral imagination, which he defines as "the capacity to imagine something rooted in the challenges of the real world yet capable of giving birth to that which does not yet exist."

Why I recommend it: The Moral Imagination explores the depths of peacebuilding. Writing through four distinct lenses, Lederach doesn't explain the process to us. Instead, he allows us to build an understanding for ourselves - just as he's done for himself within the pages of this book. - REBECCA CRALL

Fighting disease



The Color of Hope:

The Color of Hope: People of Color Mental Health Narratives

Vanessa Hazzard and Iresha Picot

Iresha Picot remembers begging a friend to seek professional therapy for childhood sexual trauma. "I ain't going to sit in no white person's face," the friend responded, reflecting the stigma, distrust, and lack of access that prevent many people of color from seeking help for mental health issues. In this collection of moving essays and poetry, Picot and co-editor Vanessa Hazzard hold space for people of color to share — in their own words their experience of mental illness.

Why I recommend it: By sharing these stories, this book is helping break the stigma and shame around mental health, particularly in communities of color. It takes us beyond the statistics to engage with the voices of people whose stories so often go unheard. - NYREESE CASTRO-ESPADAS

Providing clean water and sanitation

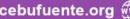


The Humanure Handbook

Joseph Jenkins

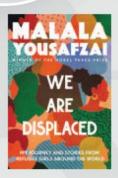
In the mid-1990s, Joe Jenkins had been living off the grid for 10 years, which meant, among other things, using a composting toilet. Wanting to understand how it worked, he began a master's program and made the toilet his thesis. He turned that manuscript into a book on "humanure," one that has sold 90,000 copies in the U.S. and been translated into more than 20 languages. With chapter titles such as "Close encounters of the turd kind" and "Bum rap," this is a book that will both inform and entertain. Why I recommend it: This book made me recognize that waste is only unappealing because of the negative connotation around the word "waste." Human waste, just like cow manure or worm castings, is an actual product that can be utilized for good. We can use it for composting and increasing soil fertility. This book opened my mind and took the ickiness out of human waste. - ERICA GWYNN







Supporting education

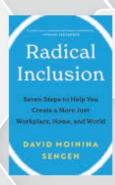


We Are Displaced: My Journey and Stories From Refugee Girls Around the World

Malala Yousafzai

"I was 11 when the Taliban started bombing girls' schools throughout the Swat Valley." So begins the second chapter of We Are Displaced, Malala Yousafzai's book about her experience as an internally displaced person in Pakistan. Many people are familiar with Yousafzai's story, but here it's paired with tales of nine other displaced girls. "When you go through that kind of experience," she writes, "... [e]ither you lose hope completely and you shatter and break into pieces, or you become so resilient that no one can break you anymore." Yousafzai and the other girls courageously chose resilience.

Why I recommend it: In her latest book, Yousafzai - who, at 17, became the youngest winner of the Nobel Peace Prize - puts a human face on the global refugee crisis. She recounts her own story as well as the poignant tales of adolescent refugee girls from Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Syria, and elsewhere as they suffer displacement, struggle to continue their education, and hang on to hope. Proceeds from the sale of the book support the Malala Fund's work to help every girl go to school. - REGINA FULLER-WHITE



Radical Inclusion: Seven Steps to Help You Create a More Just Workplace, Home, and World

David Moinina Sengeh

"It is only when we truly believe in and practice radical inclusion ... that we can begin to experience justice in the world," writes David Moinina Sengeh. Toward that end, his book provides guidelines on how to identify exclusion — something, he insists, we will all experience at some time in our lives — and how to take action to remedy it. To show how that's done, he offers an account of how he and others worked to change the policy that prohibited thousands of pregnant girls from attending school in Sierra Leone. Why I recommend it: Sengeh, the chief innovation officer and former minister



of basic education and senior secondary education in Sierra Leone, is both a theorist and a practitioner. His journey to bring inclusion into schools in his country does exactly what he hoped it would: provide the kind of insight and inspiration that will help readers create "a more just society" in their homes and communities, in their schools and workplaces, and in their countries. - REGINA FULLER-WHITE

Saving mothers and children



The Folate Story: A Vitamin Under the Microscope

Victor Hoffbrand

Lucy Wills is the only woman to have discovered one of the 13 essential vitamins. That vitamin, folate, or B9, protects women against anemia in pregnancy and can largely prevent spina bifida and some other birth defects. Yet, like other female doctors and scientists in the early 20th century, Wills faced obstacles and never received public recognition for her achievements. In The Folate Story, Victor Hoffbrand aims to correct that by giving Wills her due and documenting subsequent failures of the medical establishment to act on her achievement, including in countries that have not fortified people's diets with folic acid.

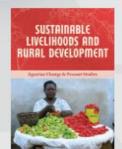
Why I recommend it: Despite the discovery of folate in the 1930s, thousands of babies today are born with birth defects that could have been easily prevented with this vitamin. This book tells the story of the pioneering female scientist who discovered folate and the shortcomings and scandals of the medical establishment that followed. - NYREESE CASTRO-ESPADAS







Growing local economies



Sustainable Livelihoods and Rural Development

Ian Scoones

Poverty today remains a largely rural phenomenon, with rural populations making up three-quarters of the world's poor people. Ian Scoones draws on decades of research on land, agricultural, and rural development issues to argue for policymakers and development professionals to put people and their livelihoods at the center of efforts to overcome rural inequality and poverty. Why I recommend it: This book highlights the multisectoral approach to poverty alleviation, which is usually overlooked. It advises practitioners and communitybased organizations to pay attention to the significance of institutions, participation, processes, power, politics, and policy dimensions, among other aspects. - BONAVENTURE FANDOHAN

THE DOUBLE X **ECONOMY** LINDA SCOTT

The Double X Economy: The Epic Potential of Women's **Empowerment**

Linda Scott

Professor Linda Scott had been doing fieldwork among the world's poor communities for years. But seeing hundreds of homeless adolescent girls fleeing forced marriages during a trip to Ghana forever changed the way she thought about her work in women's economic empowerment. From the streets of Ghana to American business schools, where women face other systemic barriers, Scott tells the story of women and their shadow economy that she calls "the double X economy." With hard data, Scott argues that removing obstacles to women's success is a win for everyone. Why I recommend it: The Double X Economy is a call to action to join the women's economic empowerment movement. It highlights how simple interventions in developing countries providing sanitary pads to encourage school attendance by adolescent girls, for instance - can make a big difference.

- BONAVENTURE FANDOHAN

Protecting the environment



Ever Green: Saving Big Forests to Save the Planet

John W. Reid and Thomas E. Lovejoy

Earth's five megaforests serve an essential role in decarbonizing the atmosphere; the North American boreal forest alone holds 1.8 trillion metric tons of carbon in its deep soils and peat layers, 190 years' worth of global emissions at 2019 levels. Saving these forests is the most immediate and affordable largescale solution to climate change, argue economist John W. Reid and celebrated biologist Thomas E. Lovejoy. The authors offer practical solutions to address the biggest challenges megaforests face, from vastly expanding protected areas, to supporting Indigenous forest stewards, to planning smarter road networks.

Why I recommend it: This is one of Lovejoy's last major publications for a general audience. He's known unofficially as the godfather of biodiversity. He and Reid teamed up for an interesting take on some of the big opportunities in conservation and what's changed over their long trajectory in the field. - KEITH MADDEN



The Comfort of Crows: A Backyard Year

Margaret Renkl

Author and essayist Margaret Renkl takes readers on a literary journey following the creatures and plants in her backyard over the course of a year, evoking the changing rhythms of humans and their lives as well. The book includes 52 original color artworks by the author's brother, Billy Renkl.

Why I recommend it: During the couple of years when COVID-19 was really intense, a lot of people started reevaluating their relationships to nature. People were sitting in their backyards more, walking around towns and cities more. Renkl's reflections on the topic come from her personal experience. Maybe there are some broader lessons we can take from the pandemic, not just about public health but about our humanity and nature. - KEITH MADDEN









Rotary Voices

Stories of service from around the world

Canadian club provides support through meals

By Peter Roaf, Rotary Club of Ladner, Delta, British Columbia, Canada



Members of the Rotary Club of Ladner serve out Christmas dinner to members of a support group for families of children with autism and other conditions.

My first son was autistic. He was on the more severe end of the spectrum. His mother and I had to take ourselves from joy over our firstborn through denial and grief. We had to accept the harsh reality of raising a child with special needs.

John was a jolly little guy with a sense of humour, but he couldn't talk, learn, or care for himself. As he was growing up, I wondered what he would be like – what we would be like – when he became an adult. How would we lead our lives when the time for his care as an adult arrived?

This was the same reality for other parents of young children with autism and other conditions in the Vancouver, Canada, suburb of Delta, British Columbia. To support themselves through this responsibility – one not understood by many other parents – they formed the Weekend Family and Peer Support Group more than 25 years ago.

As children in the group matured and the parents grew older, it became more difficult for the parents to organize the social events that are so important in overcoming the unavoidable isolation and loneliness. Cooking for the group of up to 50 young adults and parents became a real challenge for those already challenged.

Eighteen years ago, my Rotary Club of Ladner, in Delta, agreed to support the local Canadian Mental Health Association branch by cooking and serving Christmas dinner for the group.



Rotary Voices

Stories of service from around the world



Today I am one of the Rotary Club of Ladner members who, helped by family and friends, volunteer to produce the annual Christmas event. Some start by rounding up equipment, dishes, and cutlery and buying the turkeys, vegetables, desserts, and beverages.

On the day of the event, I join a team of volunteers in the kitchen of the Ladner Community Centre to peel, chop, and boil the carrots; boil and mash the potatoes; and cook the Brussels sprouts. Amid the hustle and bustle in the kitchen with fellow peelers and choppers, I look around and think about how I'm making Christmas a little happier for others less fortunate.

> Mental health is a significant part of the meaning of Rotary International President R. Gordon R. McInally's Rotary theme this year: Create Hope in the World.

That sense of fulfillment continues into the Christmas dinner evening. Faces light up and social chatter grows while we serve dinner. Entertainment with live, seasonal music keeps the evening upbeat. Santa Claus brings good cheer and gifts donated by local businesses. We all benefit from this lift to our mental health as everyone leaves with a good feeling inside (as they should at Christmas time).

On the strength of the Christmas dinner, our club launched an annual summer picnic for the support group. I join as many as 15 Rotarians, family, and friends to serve the 40 or so group members who show up for a barbecue and games. Group members always express their sincere appreciation to the club for these social events, which make a difference in their lives.

Rotarian and retired dentist Dr. Arthur Birk and his wife, Geraldine, have been leaders of the group. They arrange bingo nights, Chinese food nights, salmon barbecue dinners, and other social events with dinner and games every two months. They also collect and distribute free personal care and household cleaning items. Rotarian and businessperson Mike Storey and his wife, Kathy, have also been leaders for the larger events.

Christmas is approaching. Mental health is a significant part of the meaning of Rotary International President R. Gordon R. McInally's Rotary theme this year: Create Hope in the World. This year, our Christmas dinner will have extra meaning.

My son John did not make it past age 15. But I now have a sense, in some small way, of what his adult life might have been like and what we, his parents, might have lived with. This service above self for those in need is a valuable part of my Rotary experience. This kind of experience will be found in communities throughout our Rotary world. Share yours in the comments section.







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Rotaract:

Rotaract Corner



Rotaract Club of Cebu Fuente-University of the Visayas Chapter in collaboration with Volunteers Youth Leaders for Health-Cebu conducted a seminar for the New Born Screening Program today, November 11, 2023, at Barangay Kamagayan.



The event aimed to disseminate crucial information about newborn screening, intended to empower parents with knowledge to make informed decisions for the wellbeing of their children, aligning with the theme: "Early Detection, Lesser Impact."



Ms. Jamaica Area Seno was the guest speaker during the seminar, along with the Rotaract Club Service Director and Social Media Head Mr. Abdul Khamal Manonggiring.

Caption: Danryll S. Regudo

Photo: Arvi Caballes

Present during the seminar were Rotaract Club officers and parents together with their children who contributed to the success of the program.



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Spread the Word!

