



Spectrum



RI District 3291

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PRESIDENT □ KUSUM CHAMARIA

SECRETARY □ DR CHITRA RAY

EDITOR □ DR OM TANTIA

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The Rotary International theme for 2024–2025 is "The Magic of Rotary". Rotary International President-elect Stephanie Urchick announced the theme at the International Assembly.

Urchick says that members create magic with every project, donation, and new member.

She also chose the colors orange and sky blue as her theme colors, with orange representing change and blue representing knowledge.

RI president-elect announces 2024-25 presidential theme

By Etelka Lehoczky



Rotary International President-elect Stephanie Urchick announced that the 2024-25 presidential theme is *The Magic of Rotary* and called on members to recognize and amplify the organization's power to save lives.



Rotary International President-elect Stephanie A. Urchick, right, and Joanne Huey Jiuan Kam, a member of the Rotary club of Suntec City, Singapore, participate with other attendees in the cultural exchange at the International Assembly in Orlando, Florida, USA. 10 January 2024.

“Don’t misunderstand me – we are not going to end polio or bring peace to the world by waving a wand and saying some funny words,” Urchick told incoming district governors at the Rotary International Assembly on 8 January. “It’s up to you. You create the magic with every project completed, every dollar donated, and every new member.”

Urchick, a member of the Rotary Club of McMurray, Pennsylvania, USA, said she saw the magic of Rotary on display when she was helping install water filters in the Dominican Republic. Two boys were watching as dirty water entered the filter, then ran out clean at the other end.

“One of the boys grabbed my sleeve and said, ‘Show me the magic again,’” she said. “Obviously, the water filter wasn’t magic. We worked hard to transport those filters, install them, and work with community leaders in the area to maintain them. But those boys knew that easy access to clean water would change their lives. Knowing that I played a small part in that certainly changed my life.”

Prioritizing peace

Urchick urged members to champion Rotary’s Action Plan, find a balance between continuity and change, and work for peace. She plans to host a presidential peace conference in 2025 with the theme “Healing in a Divided World.”

Rotary has a long history of promoting peace through its network of peace centers, Urchick noted. Located at top universities around the globe, the centers have trained nearly 1,800 peace fellows who are now working in more than 140 countries. The newest center, located at Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul, Turkey, will welcome its first class of fellows in early 2025.

“The Rotary Peace Fellowship began more than 20 years ago to equip peace and development professionals from communities around the world to become effective catalysts for ending and preventing conflict,” Urchick said. “This conference will focus on Rotary’s peace efforts and provide opportunities to learn together.”

In addition to emphasizing peacebuilding, Urchick reiterated Rotary’s commitment to eradicating polio. She urged the incoming governors to join or initiate PolioPlus Societies in their districts and do all they can to help end the disease.

“Contact elected officials and other government leaders. Remind them that polio is still a threat. Push them to support polio eradication,” she said. “Polio remains our top priority and requires our fullest commitment, but there is so much important work to do.”

Balancing continuity and change

Urchick also underscored the necessity of balancing continuity and change, both of which animate Rotary’s Action Plan.

We meet calendar months’ 2nd & 4th Saturdays at GPT Group, JC 25, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700098 at 6.00 PM

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“The plan is all about building on our best ideas, not abandoning them,” she said. “We face a tough balancing act. We must change ourselves and stay true to who we are.” She asked the governors to do whatever is needed to make the club experience irresistible to members. “That might mean changing how things are done in your district,” she said. “If your district has been doing things one way for 50 years, it’s probably time to reassess. If a club in your district isn’t active or is losing members, maybe it’s time to start a new club that fits better with the community. Just because a club or district hasn’t changed in a while doesn’t mean no one is hungry for change.”



Past District Governor Amanda Wendt of District 9800 (Australia) talks about The Four-Way Test at the International Assembly in Orlando, Florida, USA. She explained how the test, created by Herbert Taylor in 1932, should be used not to judge others but to guide a leader’s own performance and help them become more visionary. 9 January 2024.

One way to make positive change, she said, is to embrace the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion within clubs.

“I hope you’ll join me in opening your arms to future people of action, even if – and in some cases, especially if – they don’t look or act like the typical member of your local club,” she said. “With DEI, it is easier to be united in a common purpose. It’s in those moments when we are committed and focused that we are the most effective and relevant.”

Since the 2024 Rotary International Assembly in early January, participants at Rotary’s annual learning event for incoming leaders have been talking a lot about making our Rotary clubs “simply irresistible.” This term was used as the title of a 1988 song and a 1999 movie. In terms of Rotary, it was first used by Past District Governor Louisa Horn and recently championed by Stephanie Urchick, 2024-25 Rotary International president.

Rotary History and Anecdotes

Rotary is a global network of 1.4 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – *across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.*

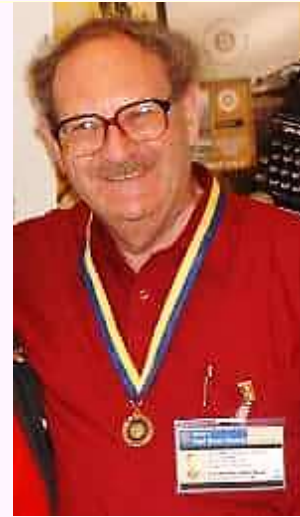
Rotary International is a global service organization whose stated human rights purpose is to bring together business and professional leaders in order to *provide humanitarian services, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and to advance goodwill and peace around the world.*

Over last 118 years, Rotary, like other surviving institutions, has changed itself to remain inclusive and contemporary *without compromising its dynamism and relevance.*

In this section, the editorial team of Spectrum, so far, has touched upon and shared the different anecdotes of Rotary each week during the current Rotary year:

Rotary Historians and their remarkable roles

Basil Lewis



Senior Historian, ‘The Rotary Global History Fellowship’ (RGHF) History Researcher RGHF Ambassador, **Basil Lewis**: Education Adviser (retired and currently working for BBC Radio); RC of Humberside D1270; District PRO 1993-1998, RIBI Communications Committee 1996-7. Sometime columnist RIBI magazine ‘Rotary’; International Genealogy and Heraldry Fellowship of Rotarians (IGHFR) RIBI Branch Secretary and Newsletter Editor 1995-2001, International President IGHFR 2002 – 2005.

www.1905society.org 2007. Elected a Life Member in 2009.

Author of ‘**Paul Harris in Britain**’ available at a now discounted price 10 dollars for US. 5 pounds for UK and equivalent elsewhere.

Basil has been a contributor to the Rotary Global History Project since 2002. Lewis became a contributor to this archive in 2005.



Joe Kagle, Joseph L. Kagle, Jr.



Joe Kagle, Joseph L. Kagle, Jr., 2007/2010 Chair/President, RGHF AMBASSADOR, Past History Chairman and RGHF “Peace History” subcommittee coordinator, 2006-2007, Peace Historian for the “Joseph L. Kagle, Jr.

Member: Rotary eClub of the Southwest, USA. Arts Management (art museum director for over 40 years), 50 years as Art and Art History Professor, Fulbright Scholar and Senior Specialist (four Fulbright grants- 1966 to 2004).

He was awarded the Dartmouth College Class of 1955 Award for Outstanding Achievement and Service in 2006. Appointed to the board in 2006, serving as Vice President in 2007. Honors: Who's Who in American Art, 1965- , Who's Who in America, 1980- , Who's Who in International Art, 1990- , The Arc Volunteer of the Year for USA, 1992, Who's Who in American Business and Finance, 2003-, and Who's Who in the World, 2004- .

Joe Kagle, born May 2, 1932, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, artist, educator, collector, arts/museum consultant, writer and grants specialist. Wife: Anne, married January 19, 1957, retired registered nurse. Children: Samantha, 37, and Christopher Yung Wook, 35. Grandchildren: Erin 8; Matthew 4.

"As a Rotarian for over 36 years (the last 20 with perfect attendance), a little less than half my age, you would think after years of personal and professional travel on World Campus Afloat, Fulbright grants to Taiwan, Republic of Georgia (2) and Mongolia, and academic jobs abroad, your point of view would have been fixed long ago. Not true! In 2006, I joined Rotary eClub of the Southwest, USA (with members all over the world but I was the first Texan, although now there are four from this state) and Rotary Global History (with membership from 31 regions in the world). With both these influences, my view has expanded and contracted all in the same instance. I now realize that the world has no borders for ideas, philosophy, history and pursuits for peace. This insight expands my vision of the world to a flat world point of view for information, communications, images and stories. At the same time, from a satellite point of view, it has contracted my vision to viewing the world as a village where one must think of neighbors and their needs as well as my (and my family's) own. In these two views, our home, the earth, is an ocean of knowledge and personalities and ideas and we fish who love to swim in it view it as one place, one globe and one people. Rotary Global History adds greatly to this ocean of knowledge. It is truly "service above self" and "without borders". Learning to be a Rotarian never seems to end."

Abbas Lavingia



Membership committee co-chair 07/08, RGHF Ambassador, **Abbas Lavingia**, President RC Karachi Karsaz RID 3270 Classification Graphic Designing

An active member of the Club and Paul Harris Fellow, participating and providing support towards numerous projects, as a member and co-chair on various committees, especially in the field of Education and Health which were also recognized at club and district level.

Born on 19th November 1956 and raised in Karachi, Pakistan. A graduate from Karachi University and attended various post graduate professional courses of Art and Graphics. Excelled in extra-curricular activities at School, College and University. A Business Executive running own business. Married to Farida and blessed with a daughter. Also a globe trotter.

"The most precious gift Rotary has given me is the friendship of decent human beings who have a place in their hearts for the

less fortunate, who practice and promote love, tolerance and serve the needy without any fanfare or self-promotion.

Main object to join this forum is to give the maximum history of our district to all fellow Rotarians, and membership development for RGHF in our district." Additional information here

- Rotary Club of Lahore, First club of Pakistan
- First Rotaract Club for the blind
- D3270 Conference Promotion

Rotary History and Anecdotes to be continued...

Distribution of aids for physically challenged persons



Program for distribution of tricycle and wheelchair and other items for physically handicapped at Chuadanga Netaji Sangha, Chakdah on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 on the occasion of birthday of Netaji Subhash Chandra Basu.



The initiative of enabling physically handicapped persons live a dignified life by RCC Nabankur Sangha Chakda, Nadia was supported and held in presence of Mr Abir Ranjan Biswas honorable member, Rajya Sava

MATRIRAKSHA, an initiative of screening and treatment of Anemia in women



Dr Aruna Tantia of RCSLMK being felicitated at the District Conference for her Keynote speech on Matriraksha Upcoming Matriraksha Camps

- On January 28, 2024 at Goursail Free Primary School in association with RCC Nabankur Sangha, Chakdah, Nadia
- On February 11, 2024 at Spandan in association with RCC Manab Seba Samiti, Nadia
- On February 18, 2024 at and with support of Ramkrishna Mission Ashram, Nimpith, 24 Parganas (S)



PP Uma Shankar Agarwal on January 9, 2024
VP Indrakumar Bagri on January 10, 2024
Treasurer Ashok Kumar Surana on January 10, 2024
PP Dr Aruna Tantia on January 19, 2024
Dr Bimalendu Sen on February 6, 2024



Spouse Deepayan & Rtn Amrita Chatterjee on Jan 16, 2024
Spouse Sushila & Rtn Ashok K Surana on January 19, 2024
Spouse Dr Nandita & PP Dr Ankush Bansal on Jan 28, 2024
Spouse Rahul & Rtn Meenal Chaudhary on Jan 29, 2024
Spouse Dr Suranjan & Dr Saktirupa Chakraborty on Feb 5, 2024
Spouse Krishna & Prez Kusum Chamaria on Feb 24, 2024
Spouse Rani & PP BL Ajitsaria on February 28, 2024

January is Vocational Service Month
February is Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month.

TAILPIECE

Celebrating the 2023 Achievements of Rotary Fellowships

Posted on January 22, 2024 by Gianna Consalvo, Rotary Service and Engagement staff



Getachew Yitelele is a microbiologist with a passion for urban gardening and beekeeping. He is a member of Rotary Club of Addis Ababa Central Mella, Ethiopia, and serves as president of the Rotary Urban Gardening Fellowship. 22 September 2023.

Do you know there is a Rotary Fellowship for surfing, wine appreciation, LGBT+, photographers, and Italian culture? Rotary Fellowships are internationally organized affinity groups that unite Rotary members and friends around a shared

hobby, identity, vocation, or culture. Rotary's 100+ Fellowships offer our members and their friends meaningful experiences by providing fun and diverse ways of participating in Rotary and offering them opportunities for connection with like-minded individuals through in-person and online experiences.

Rotary Fellowships exemplify Rotary's inclusivity by welcoming any interested individual regardless of their Rotary affiliation and showcasing the many vocations, cultures, identities, and interests represented by the Rotary family.



Vincenzo Carollo and Giuseppe Laudieina, members of the World Fellowship of Rotarian Gourmets, prepare food during a meeting in Rome, Italy. Over the course of two days, they participated in informational cooking presentations, a pesto-making competition, and wine tastings. 23 April 2023.

Last year, 107 Rotary Fellowships engaged more than 57,000 people across 150 countries in building communities around shared passions and identities. Of the 57,000 reported participants, 82 % were Rotarians, 4% were Rotaractors, and 14 % were non-Rotary members. Fellowships also offer leadership opportunities to our members and participants. Last year, Fellowships engaged 2,954 individuals in leadership roles. Among those, 1,113 were women.

Over the past year, Rotary Fellowships continued to offer its members various opportunities for meaningful connections. 68% of Fellowships organized recreational activities, 40% offered professional development opportunities, and 31 % offered opportunities for service activities. Here are example activities shared by different groups:

- *The Bird Watching Fellowship* hosted a Bird Walk in Melbourne after the 2023 Rotary International Convention.
- *The Magna Graecia Fellowship* hosted visits to museums, monuments, and archaeological excavations.
- *The Jazz Fellowship* participated in charity concerts.
- *The Urban Gardening Fellowship* planted trees, exchanged seeds, and participated in a beekeeping project.