Vocation and Fellowship in Rotary

Teaching the Teachers

Jump off Mt Everest For Polio
ROTI is about the first Object of Rotary: the development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service.

ROTI members are in a special position to develop acquaintances. With members from around 100 countries, friendship and acquaintance has taken on a whole new meaning and concept. ROTI members are in a position to further world understanding in a way none have ever experienced before.

The mission of ROTI is to apply modern information technology to enhance Rotary service, fellowship and knowledge, and to use Internet communications to further world understanding and peace.

Rotary International recommends that every District to have a web site to improve communications between clubs, DGs, DG staff and Rotary International. ROTI members worldwide have contributed to this over the past 10 years.

At the start of the 21st century, ROTI is conscious of our responsibility to ensure that new technologies are used effectively to help our organization. At the same time, we need to remember the old adage "If it isn’t broken, don’t fix it".

ROTI members have led the way (see history) in showing the rest of Rotary how Internet communication has increased the speed and efficiency of our all our programs.

Come join us at ROTI and be a part of this new adventure!

The BREADBASKET is a monthly publication of the Rotarians On The Internet. Please send articles and high resolution photos (maximum of 5) to giomckay@gmail.com on or before the 3rd of each month

Giovanna McKay, Editor
RC Attadale, D9465, Western Australia
Dear ROTI Friends

Greetings! Friends, we have had some devastating natural calamities in various parts of the world with special mention of Kerala state in India, Hawaii and California in the US and BC, Canada with bush fires. In Kerala, India the devastating floods left many hundreds dead and hundred thousands homeless, and for need of relief from 250 Rotary clubs in Kerala District and neighbouring state of Tamil Nadu’s poured in, along with help from all over the country in large numbers. Rotarian volunteers and Rotary Districts from other parts of the world helped, proving that we are an inspiration to all, as desired by our RIP Barry.

I thank all the Rotarians of 250 clubs in Kerala and all the other Rotarians of India and abroad who helped and are continuing to help wholeheartedly. The restoration would be a herculean task and will take lot of time.

I urge our friends to register for RI Convention in Hamburg in large numbers. We have a great hotel where we could stay together — details of which are shared in this issue of Breadbasket. We also have a ROTI dinner planned for Sunday, June 2, 2019, close to the Convention centre (details coming soon).

I wish our members the very best at all times and look forward to be a Inspiration to all in our community

Yours in ROTI
Madhu Bishnu, Chair 2017-19

Message from the chair

Madhumita Bishnu, ROTI Chair
E-club of Melbourne, D9800

Many of us remember Kevin Purcell of RC Torrington, Connecticut USA, a frequent contributor to ROTI for many years. He will be missed.

From the funeral home's obituary:
Kevin M. Purcell, 76, passed away Tuesday, August 28, 2018 at Wolcott Hall, Torrington. He was the beloved husband of 55 years of Lucille (Romani) Purcell.

Kevin was born in Belmont, MA on June 28, 1942, son of the late Harry B. and Pearl E. (Luce) Purcell, and had been an area resident for most of his life. He was a retired Administrative Supervisor with the State of Connecticut Department of Developmental Services, retiring with 35 years of service. Kevin was a member and a past president of the Rotary Club of the Torrington and Winsted Areas, and was a Paul Harris Fellow. Kevin participated in many Rotary functions, including annual golf tournaments and the Winsted Pet Parade. He was a member of the Torrington Lodge of Elks, the Germania Singing Society, and in his early years was a Drum Major for the Torrington Vagabonds. Kevin was the Vice President of the Board of Managers, and Chairman of the Child Care Committee at Brooker Memorial. He was a former board member of the Warner Theater and was a former Executive Director of FISH. Kevin enjoyed photography and traveling. He will be remembered by family and friends for his quick wit and humor, and his lifelong advocacy for people with developmental disabilities.

- PDG Todd Lindley, D6060 (USA)
Help improve your community or support a Rotary cause by volunteering or donating to a service project. Inspiring the next generation— that’s what people of action do. Learn more at Rotary.org.
Members of RC Rawalpindi took part in Street Cleaning activity aimed at spreading awareness about cleanliness and sensitization about Polio at Habib Colony, Rawalpindi, Punjab, Pakistan. The area was facing a lot of refusals to polio vaccination. Rotarians were able to change the mindset of parents and community leaders through their service for community and the community were convinced to allow polio drops administration to children under the age of five.

By Nosherwan Khalil Khan
Member
› Pakistan National Polio Plus Committee
› District Community Service Chair
› District Polio Plus Co-Chair
› RC Rawalpindi, District 3272, Pakistan
A recent visit to Adelaide, South Australia showcased how professional vocations and fellowship in Rotary often go together. I travelled in June upon the invitation of the Philippine Ambassador to Australia Minda Calaguian Cruz to participate in the Independence Day activities in Canberra and Sydney. Since the Rotary Club Adelaide and Rotary Club Prospect in Adelaide were long term advocates of House of Hope as well as partners of Rotary Club Waling-Waling Davao and our mother club East Davao, I planned to take a brief detour to South Australia. RC Adelaide Past President Ian D’Arcy Walsh (D’Arcy) promised in earlier conversations during their visit to Davao that he would bring me to see hospitals and Ronald McDonald House. These were of great interest to me as a pediatric oncologist and I promised to make the visit in some future time. So this visit was promise kept.

I was met at the airport by D’Arcy who drove us for a quick but fun dinner with Past President Frank O’Neill and spouse Margaret. I was barely able to keep my eyes open but the vivacious and witty conversations kept me agog and dinner lasted longer than we planned. We had an early appointment the following day but we made it with time to spare. Dr James Muecke is a very prominent ophthalmologist who heads the Adelaide Eye and Retina Center as well as Sight for All Charity. He was introduced to me by email through Ambassador Mindy Cruz and when I realized he comes from Adelaide, we arranged a meeting. He was leaving for a trip overseas but he accommodated us anyway. Serendipitously, Dr Muecke was Carol Walsh’s doctor so it was a poignant meeting for D’Arcy. We walked about for a tour of Dr Muecke’s clinic before sitting down to discuss about potential projects. Sight for All sends teams of doctors to limited resource countries to train ophthalmologists in the diagnosis and treatment of eye cancer. There was so much excitement of happy coincidences and hopes of working together that D’Arcy and I thought Carol must have an unwitting hand to all the proposed plans.

It was early for our next meeting so we stopped briefly at the monument of Colonel William Light at Montefiore Hill, a centrepiece of the balustrade garden lookout overlooking the Adelaide Oval where the Rotary Club Adelaide meets every Wednesday. I had dozens of questions about Adelaide, how it was built and how clever the city planner must have been, dividing the city into squares for ease of reference. Apparently Colonel Light was a British, army and naval officer and first Surveyor General of the Colony of South Australia. He also planned Penang, another beautiful city in Malaysia.

Gavin Dallow from the Rotary Club Prospect was patiently waiting for us outside Ronald McDonald House, a one storey facility that houses children undergoing treatment at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. The main Ronald McDonald House includes a family entertainment room, activity area and common dining area and kitchen. It also holds the offices and staff rooms. Across the road is a multi-storey facility where families get rooms similar to hotel accommodations. It was inspiring.

A quick tour of the Women’s and Children’s Hospital gave me many ideas on how to not only situate but also name hospital areas. The prayer room was called “Sacred Place” which invokes respect not only to Christian, non Christian but also aboriginal beliefs. There was a “Variety Adolescent Ward” that admits acute and chronic conditions. I visited the Rice Hematology and Oncology Institute but I was most intrigued with the Robotics and Innovation Center where I got to try the computer and robotics programs for physical rehabilitation. It was awesome.
We proceeded to the new Royal Adelaide Hospital where another Rotary Club Prospect member Suren Krishnan proceeded to give us a tour of its facilities. The 2.4 billion AUD Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH) is the most expensive health facility built in Australia. Sitting in 10 hectares of Adelaide Park Lands on the north side of North Terrace, it boasts of single suite rooms for all patients and 40 operating theatres run by about 6,000 staff. We walked into a very spacious lobby akin to a mall and had quick refreshments in one of the many food places dotting the RAH. There were pocket gardens one sees from the elevator waiting areas to complement its progressive efforts to full automation. Since there was a vast space to be travelled for logistics, one sees automated robotic vehicles (ARVs) traversing the many corridors bringing food, supplies and medicines to various places in the gargantuan health facility. Dr Suren Krishnan is the Head of the Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery of RAH. One can see the helipad from one of the clinical department windows. It serves to airlift patients from all over South Australia to receive tertiary care at RAH. Rotarian Suren participates in the AUSAID funded Pacific Islands Project with works in Fiji and neighboring Pacific Islands as well as the Rotary Reaching Overseas Medical Aid for Children. He is a very learned and engaging conversationalist that kept me occupied with topics on public health, access to care and financing. He brought D’Arcy, Gavin and me across to the South Australian Health and Medical Institute (SAHMRI) where we learned about current researches on cancer and aboriginal health. The SAHMRI in itself is an interesting piece of architecture fondly referred by local Australians as the “cheesegrater” building which was self-explanatory when one sees SAHMRI.

These two amazingly built facilities are at the forefront of healthcare in Australia hoping to serve its 1.7 million populations, 75% of which are living in Adelaide. RAH began operations in 2017 with completely new equipment and facilities. Contents of the old RAH were donated to the Rotary Donation in Kind Center South Australia, some of which were sent to Davao to help underprivileged communities as part of the Global Grant No. 1640035 partnership of RC Adelaide, RC Prospect, RC East Davao and RC Waling-Waling Davao.

D’Arcy proudly announced he walked all of 9 kms just that morning as recorded on his fitbit. We certainly deserved the hearty lunch of pasta and pizza at Lucía’s, one of the best Italian eating places in the Adelaide Central Market. I walked around ogling at all the cheeses, nuts, fruits, mushrooms and many other interesting fares arranged in a tidy manner around the market. Food arrived and I settled to a quiet lunch with D’Arcy, Gavin and his wife Lisa.

I had a few hours to catch a quick nap and regain my energy. D’Arcy and I had planned to drop by Mary Potter, a palliative care facility but we totally forgot about it in all the excitement. Dinner was one of the best I had in many years – for the food, the fellowship, scintillating conversations and more. I got to meet the RC Adelaide and RC Prospect members who visited Davao a few years back. It was held at the very exclusive Naval and AirForce Club South Australia, a home called “Landunna” which was built in 1959 in Hutt Street, Adelaide by John Rounsevell. I was shown the Board Meeting room on the second floor by RC Adelaide President Robert Falconer, knowing my curiosity and fascination of old homes and architecture.

RC Adelaide was represented by Ian D’Arcy Walsh, Frank and Margaret O’Neill, David and Chris Egan, Trevor and Barbara King, Geoff Millar, Zing Hai Tan, Rob Falconer, Reg Hutchinson and Rob Thomas. David Egan and Rob Falconer are currently District Governor and RC Adelaide President respectively. Gavin Dallow, Ildi Middlemiss and Suren Krishnan came for RC Prospect. We had
drinks, great conversations and a sumptuous dinner where I savored the famous King George whiting fillet with white wine. They gave me a few minutes to talk about House of Hope and my work. I also turned over bannerettes to both clubs in behalf of RCWWD.

It was a day certainly well spent!

My final full day in Adelaide was supposed to be for sightseeing. Nevertheless, D’Arcy and I squeezed a walkabout at the Mary Potter Hospice Facility before heading off to meet Frank and Margaret O’Neill. We drove to Strathalbyn, a town founded 60 kms southeast of Adelaide that sits on the bank of River Angas. We had a quick stop at Longview vineyard for some wine tasting and passed through a lovely German town of Hahndorf. Frank and D’Arcy squeezed in a bit of work by dropping at the venue for the District Convention while Margaret and I wandered through the streets and quaint shops of Hahndorf.

Strathalbyn was a lovely quiet town with a population of 6,500 people. They showed me the Children’s Bridge where once a year, Rotarians float yellow rubber ducks to raise funds. We had lunch at Bremerton where again, serendipitously we met a leadership staff of Mary Potter Hospice who answered many of my questions and connected me to Calvary Hospital that runs the hospice.

Pizza, fine wine, quiet afternoon, hillside scenery and fellowship with new Rotarian friends made the day perfect.

I went to Sunday church with District Governor David and spouse Chris Egan. I had a glimpse of Adelaide community and admired the altar of the Catholic Church which included a boy playing with a football in the background. For ten years, Chris has been driving two elderly gentlemen to church- such compassion and commitment totally moved me. I was introduced to the priests and the other people in their community who were not only very friendly but welcoming as well.

My flight to Canberra was in the afternoon, but after church I was fetched by Reg Hutchinson and Kay Dowling who accompanied me to meet one of the pediatric oncology nurses I trained now living in Glenelg. It is a place next to the beach and we drove up and down the coast, ate ice cream and dropped by Reg’s home to meet his wife Kay. We also went to visit the very old tree commemorating the day South Australia became a British colony on December 28, 1857.

Adelaide is a charming city. It has an old world vibe that complements the modernization efforts. Its unique colonial origins as a freely settled, planned British province have enriched its culture as evidenced by the wide variety of choices in food and entertainment, most of which are European. I would love to go back.
School children in Timor-Leste now have shelter thanks to the efforts of the Rotary Club of North Devonport.

A group of Rotarians travelled to Maliana, Timor Leste to build a day shelter for children connected to a convent run by the Canossain Sisters.

Club member Leigh Titmus said former president Esley Dunham had seen the need for a shelter after going on other trips.

“Generous support from the local Devonport community has been received and approximately $30,000 was raised to pay for the building materials, hire vehicles and equipment and to pay some local labourers who helped the Rotary team construct the building,” Mr Titmus said.

He said they facilitated the sponsorship and met 40 students, delivered knitted bandages to the Leprosy Mission on Behalf of the Wesley Vale Community Church and discussed further sponsorship opportunities with the East Timor Development Agency.

Mr Dunham and Mr Titmus were joined by John Phillips, Peter Chalk, Leigh Murphy and James Roberts-Thompson to build the school.

“It was a great effort by the team to erect the building in just four days, but this is due mainly to the focussed forward planning done primarily by Leigh Murphy to ensure the team had all materials and tools required.

“This was a wonderful project to be involved in and gave all members of the team a real feeling of euphoria to be able to help our close neighbours in Timor Leste who have been so persecuted over time and desperately require our help.”

By Lucy Slade
Source: The Advocate
Realizing that getting children into schools isn't enough to solve illiteracy, Rotary shifts to mentoring and coaching teachers

By Arnold Grahl

Photos by Nepal Teacher Training Innovations

On Carolyn Johnson’s second visit to the central highlands of Guatemala, she met a first-grade teacher who made a shocking confession. Before taking part in the Guatemala Literacy Project, the teacher was convinced that her students could not learn to read.

“She said 'We were willing to go through the program because it was a day out of class and you gave us books and you provided us with a nice lunch, but we knew that you were crazy,'” says Johnson, a Rotarian who helped design the curriculum for the project and now serves as a technical adviser for the Guatemala Literacy Project.

That teacher and more than a hundred of her colleagues each received several in-classroom coaching sessions over eight months. They learned how to replace rote memorization drills and repetition of words on a blackboard with exercises that engage their students in critical thinking.

“She went on to tell me excitedly how 45 of her 50 students were moving on to second grade because they had learned to read,” Johnson says. “The program has made believers out of 90 percent of the teachers we have worked with. They are excited about being teachers again, and they go into their classrooms believing they can make a difference.”

After decades of investing in literacy projects, experts have realized that simply getting children into the classroom — either by removing attendance barriers or providing supplies — is not enough. Before students can succeed, the quality of the teaching in that classroom needs to improve.
Rotary projects like the Guatemala Literacy Project and Nepal Teacher Training Innovations (NTTI) in Nepal are leading the effort to advance childhood reading by empowering teachers to teach better.

Rotary, the United Nations, USAID, and other organizations are shifting their focus to helping teachers plan lessons that ensure students will actually learn. The entire effort is part of a larger goal to reduce extreme poverty, because knowing how to read and write increases a person’s earning potential and ability to build a better life.

Quentin Wodon, a lead economist at the World Bank, has studied education projects both from a professional standpoint and as a member of the Rotary Club of Capitol Hill (Washington, DC), U.S.A. Wodon agrees that teachers are critical to any attempt to improve learning.

“The best way to enable children to learn is to think broadly about teacher policies,” says Wodon. Training is one of eight key goals set by the World Bank, along with setting clear expectations for teachers, attracting the best candidates, matching teacher skills with student needs, having strong principals to lead teachers, monitoring, providing ongoing support, and motivating teachers to perform.

Wodon’s club is working with the Rotary Club of Kathmandu, Nepal, to support NTTI and the nongovernmental organization PHASE in transforming classrooms where students are silent, passive learners into centers of active learning.

“Improving teaching methods is not an easy task, but programs like this are making inroads,” says Wodon.

For example, before taking part in the NTTI program, one teacher relied heavily on memorization, having her students copy words off the blackboard. After training, the teacher made her lesson on animate and inanimate objects more interactive, says Ashley Hager, NTTI’s director. The teacher asked children to point to objects and describe how they were different. She then listed the differences on the board and paired students up to discuss them. As a final exercise, the class went outside to find examples in nature.

One student approached the teacher with a live ant in her hand and inquired, “This is an animate object, yes?” The teacher agreed. The child then squashed the ant and asked, “Is it still an animate object now?” Caught by surprise, the teacher asked the rest of the students what they thought, and a lively conversation followed.

Other teachers agree that the training taught them the value of interactive teaching.

“It’s transformed my way of teaching and given me brilliant ideas to employ the best teaching practices I have learned,” says Goma Khada, who teaches fourth grade at Shrijana Higher Secondary School in Thumpakhar.

A model project
Another project that’s succeeding is Johnson’s Guatemala Literacy Project. The program began 20 years ago, setting up computer labs and supplying textbooks for middle school students in the western and central highlands. It has evolved to center on teacher mentoring.

Johnson, a member of the Rotary Club of Yarmouth, Maine, U.S.A., visited the region in 2006, seeking a literacy project for her district. She ended up leaving her job as a primary school principal after seeing the potential to address a deeper problem — the students’ poor reading skills.

Learning outcomes over enrollment
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“The primary school teacher in me realized you don’t start reading in the seventh grade. You have to start in the first grade,” Johnson says.

Over the next year, she returned to Guatemala several times, meeting with nonprofits, teachers, community members, and school administrators. She developed a curriculum based on the Concentrated Language Encounter method used widely in other parts of the world. A partnership was formed with the nonprofit Cooperative for Education (CoEd), which has a strong presence in Guatemala.

Five trainers hired by CoEd, with the help of local Rotary members, lead three two-day training sessions, usually in January, April, and July, for about 150 primary school teachers. Between those sessions, each teacher receives in-class coaching.

The Guatemala Literacy Project still supplies textbooks and equips two computer centers where students get hands-on experience using standard business software like Windows, Word, and Excel for an hour a week. Fees collected by school administrators and managed by CoEd are used to replace books and equipment when they wear out.

Each year, a new global grant from The Rotary Foundation extends the effort to another 40 or so primary schools and a dozen middle schools selected after meetings with community leaders, parents, teachers, and administrators. More than 480 clubs in Guatemala, the United States, Canada, Cayman Islands, England, and Japan have provided financial support. Every year, about 50 Rotary volunteers take part by delivering materials and visiting classrooms.

After completing the training, most of the teachers continue to use what they’ve learned to enhance education in their communities.

“Does it always happen? No. But more often than not teachers continue to use the approach to learning, if not the specific model,” Johnson says.

The need to take action

USAID, a United States government agency that helps other countries, has long promoted reading in the early grades. Its programs emphasize adequate professional development and ongoing classroom support for teachers.

“All our early-grade reading projects include explicit teacher training, with an initial training followed by refresher trainings during the year,” says Evelyn Rodriguez-Perez, director of USAID’s Office of Education.

In Kenya, for instance, USAID partnered with the government on a national initiative that includes teaching guides, teacher coaching, and short-term professional development programs. The initiative reaches 1.1 million children a year.
The consequences of doing nothing are great. The International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity was formed to bring together world leaders, policy makers, and researchers to lobby for increased investment in education. The commission projects that if nothing changes, 264 million children from low-income countries will be failing to learn basic primary level skills by 2030. Only three in 10 will achieve minimum reading levels.

"Education, learning, and skill development will be increasingly important in the future," says Justin Van Fleet, commission director and Chief of Staff to the UN Special Envoy for Global Education. "By 2050, the population of Africa will double, and billions of people will move to cities from rural areas as technology and automation replace up to half of today's jobs."

To counter these trends, the commission released a report to the UN in September that called for increasing global investment in education, from $1.3 trillion to $3 trillion by 2030.

Meanwhile, agencies working to improve learning outcomes are getting good results from peer coaching and mentoring. Perez says most of USAID's early grade reading programs implement a "cascade model" of teacher training, where more skilled teachers receive training, and they in turn train other teachers.

This is a model that NTTI also employs. Teacher Khika Bahaur Bhandari was selected to serve as a mentor for NTTI after rising to the top of his district in Thumpakhar. Bhandari is convinced of the benefits of peer interaction.

The best thing about the program is that teachers know they will be observed, so they feel pressure to do a good job," Bhandari says. "Once students know their teacher is capable of teaching them in an engaging way, they get upset when the teacher tries to return to traditional lecture methods. So even teachers who are not committed continue to make lesson plans and use the methodology."

Johnson says getting into classrooms once a month can be a challenge and increases costs, "but it is the piece that really makes it work."

"A teacher can go to training and take it back to their classroom. But maybe it doesn't work because you left a piece out, or maybe the teacher tries it and decides it doesn't work so they aren't going to do it again," she adds. "You need somebody there to coach and model and give you feedback. To say 'You're doing great, but let's look at this little corner and shape it differently.'"

America is a continent full of initiative in the Rotary world. Futuract is one of them, originally created in 1975 in Uruguay, the oldest still active Futuract is the Maldonado-Este club.

Known by different names; Interact cadets, Rotaritos, Earlyact — they went evolving till they became the presently known Futuract. Its logo in green represents hope, because the children are the hope of our world.

Futuract is a club with similar characteristic as to those of Interact, youngster between the ages of 6 to 14, being pre-Interact. Not officially recognized by Rotary International, but with activity in Uruguay, Argentina, Mexico, Guatemala, Ecuador, Brazil and Venezuela.

The objective of Futuract is making the children aware of the necessities within the community, in solidarity with those in need, and teach them the philosophy of Rotary. The Futuract help the Interact and Rotaract in their projects.

Because of the age of the Futuractianos, they carry out simple projects: accompany elderly people in old age homes; tree plantations (Club Futuract Celaya, Mexico); collect and hand out clothes (Club Futuract Itcheme, Venezuela); deliver toys to children in hospitals (Club Futuract Cancun Bicentenaries, Mexico); raise awareness regarding traffic accidents (Club Futuract Salto, Uruguay).

In September 2016, the president of Rotary International, John Germ visited Guatemala. Amongst other events, he carried out the traditional "Cambio de la Rosa de la Paz", an official act which is carried out monthly in the National Hall of Culture celebrating national peace. During the act, John Germ was accompanied by the President of Guatemala, Jimmy Morales, the Minister of Sports and the Minister of Local Development, as well as Rotarians, Rotaracts, Interacts and Futuracts.

The Club Futuract San Cristobal, in the Galapagos, Ecuador, amongst their projects, carry out the cleaning of the beaches where thousands of turtles lay their eggs, looking after the environment and nature. The Club Futuract Machala Moderno (Ecuador), helped the Interact, Rotaract, and Rotary club collect food for those affected by the earthquake in Peru.

Futuract is a non-official programme in which the parents and the children have an active role, in creating a friendly relationship with Rotary, which coincide with the policy of a healthy growth without any hesitation.

Will Futuract be an official Rotary programme?
Throughout grade school and high school, I was fortunate to participate in quality music programs. Our high school had a top Illinois state jazz band; I also participated in symphonic band, which gave me a greater appreciation for classical music. It wasn’t enough to just read music. You would need to sight read, meaning you are given a difficult composition to play cold, without any prior practice. Sight reading would quickly reveal how fine-tuned playing “chops” really were. In college I continued in a jazz band and also took a music theory class. The experience gave me the ability to visualize music (If you play by ear only, you will never have that same depth of understanding music construct.)

Both jazz and classical art forms require not only music literacy, but for the musician to be at the top of their game in technical proficiency, tonal quality and creativity in the case of the jazz idiom. Jazz masters like John Coltrane would practice six to nine hours a day, often cutting his practice only because his inner lower lip would be bleeding from the friction caused by his mouth piece against his gums and teeth. His ability to compose and create new styles and directions for jazz was legendary. With few exceptions such as Wes Montgomery or Chet Baker, if you couldn’t read music, you couldn’t play jazz. In the case of classical music, if you can’t read music you can’t play in an orchestra or symphonic band. Over the last 20 years, musical foundations like reading and composing music are disappearing with the percentage of people that can read music notation proficiently down to 11 percent, according to some surveys.

Two primary sources for learning to read music are school programs and at home piano lessons. Public school music programs have been in decline since the 1980’s, often with school administrations blaming budget cuts or needing to spend money on competing extracurricular programs. Prior to the 1980’s, it was common for homes to have a piano with children taking piano lessons. Even home architecture incorporated what was referred to as a “piano window” in the living room which was positioned above an upright piano to help illuminate the music. Stores dedicated to selling pianos are dwindling across the country as fewer people take up the instrument. In 1909, piano sales were at their peak when more than 364,500 were sold, but sales have plunged to between 30,000 and 40,000 annually in the US. Demand for youth sports competes with music studies, but also, fewer parents are requiring youngsters to take lessons as part of their upbringing.

Besides the decline of music literacy and participation, there has also been a decline in the quality of music which has been proven scientifically by Joan Serra, a postdoctoral scholar at the Artificial Intelligence Research Institute of the Spanish National Research Council in Barcelona. Joan and his colleagues looked at 500,000 pieces of music between 1955-2010, running songs through a complex set of algorithms examining three aspects of those songs:

1. Timbre- sound color, texture and tone quality
2. Pitch- harmonic content of the piece, including its chords, melody, and tonal arrangements
3. Loudness- volume variance adding richness and depth
The results of the study revealed that timbral variety went down over time, meaning songs are becoming more homogeneous. Translation: most pop music now sounds the same. Timbral quality peaked in the 60’s and has since dropped steadily with less diversity of instruments and recording techniques. Today’s pop music is largely the same with a combination of keyboard, drum machine and computer software greatly diminishing the creativity and originality. Pitch has also decreased, with the number of chords and different melodies declining. Pitch content has also decreased, with the number of chords and different melodies declining as musicians today are less adventurous in moving from one chord or note to another, opting for well-trod paths by their predecessors. Loudness was found to have increased by about one decibel every eight years. Music loudness has been manipulated by the use of compression. Compression boosts the volume of the quietest parts of the song so they match the loudest parts, reducing dynamic range. With everything now loud, it gives music a muddled sound, as everything has less punch and vibrancy due to compression.

In an interview, Billy Joel was asked what has made him a standout. He responded his ability to read and compose music made him unique in the music industry, which as he explained, was troubling for the industry when being musically literate makes you stand out. An astonishing amount of today's popular music is written by two people: Lukasz Gottwald of the United States and Max Martin from Sweden, who are both responsible for dozens of songs in the top 100 charts. You can credit Max and Dr. Luke for most the hits of these stars:

- Katy Perry
- Britney Spears
- Kelly Clarkson
- Taylor Swift
- Jessie J
- KESHA
- Miley Cyrus
- Avril Lavigne
- Maroon 5
- Taio Cruz
- Ellie Goulding
- NSYNC
- Backstreet Boys
- Ariana Grande
- Justin Timberlake
- Nick Minaj
- Celine Dion
- Bon Jovi
- Usher
- Adam Lambert
- Justin Bieber
- Domino
- Pink
- Pitbull
- One Direction
- Flo Rida
- Paris Hilton
- The Veronicas
- R. Kelly
- Zebrahead

With only two people writing much of what we hear, is it any wonder music sounds the same, using the same hooks, riffs and electric drum effects?

Lyric Intelligence was also studied by Joan Serra over the last 10 years using several metrics such as “Flesch Kincaid Readability Index,” which reflects how difficult a piece of text is to understand and the quality of the writing. Results showed lyric intelligence has dropped by a full grade with the number of chords and different melodies declining as musicians today are less adventurous in moving from one chord or note to another, opting for well-trod paths by their predecessors. Loudness was found to have increased by about one decibel every eight years. Music loudness has been manipulated by the use of compression. Compression boosts the volume of the quietest parts of the song so they match the loudest parts, reducing dynamic range. With everything now loud, it gives music a muddled sound, as everything has less punch and vibrancy due to compression.

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Music electronics are another aspect of musical decline as the many untalented people we hear on the radio can’t live without autotune. Autotune artificially stretches or slurs sounds in order to get it closer to center pitch. Many of today’s pop musicians and rappers could not survive without autotune, which has become a sort of musical training wheels. But unlike a five-year-old riding a bike, they never take the training wheels off to mature into a better musician. Dare I even bring up the subject of U2s guitarist “The Edge” who has popularized rhythmic digital delays synchronized to the tempo of the music? You could easily argue he’s more an accomplished sound engineer than a talented guitarist.

Today’s music is designed to sell, not inspire. Today’s artist is often more concerned with producing something familiar to mass audience, increasing the likelihood of commercial success (this is encouraged by music industry execs, who are notoriously risk-averse).

In the mid-1970’s, most American high schools had a choir, orchestra, symphonic band, jazz band, and music appreciation classes. Many of today’s schools limit you to a music appreciation class because it is the cheapest option.

D.A. Russell wrote in the Huffington Post in an article titled, “Cancelling High School Elective, Arts and Music—So Many Reasons—So Many Lies” that music, arts and electives teachers have to face the constant threat of eliminating their courses entirely. The worst part is knowing that cancellation is almost always based on two deliberate falsehoods peddled by school administrators: 1) Cancellation is a funding issue (the big lie); 2) music and the arts are too expensive (the little lie).

The truth: Elective class periods have been usurped by standardized test prep. Administrators focus primarily on protecting their positions and the school’s status by concentrating curricula on passing the tests, rather than by helping teachers be freed up from micromanaging mandates so those same teachers can teach again in their classrooms, making test prep classes unnecessary. What can be done? First, musical literacy should be taught in our nation’s school systems. In addition, parents should encourage their children to play an instrument because it has been proven to help in brain synapse connections, learning discipline, work ethic, and working within a team. While contact sports like football are proven brain damagers, music participation is a brain enhancer.

* Jon Henschen is president of Henschen & Associates, a Twin Cities-based firm that matches financial advisors to independent broker dealers.

He has more than 25 years of experience in the financial services industry and has worked as a registered financial advisor in both the independent and wirehouse channels.

Jon has been featured in numerous financial publications, including the Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg News, Reuters, and the New York Post.
Timing will be everything in this dangerous ‘world’s first’ attempt to launch a paraglider on Mt Everest.

“Calm weather and a safe and high launch site are all needed,” stated the Rotary Club of Berry’s Ken Hutt.

In April 2019, Ken will lead a contingent of around twenty Rotarians and friends to Mt Everest Base Camp (and there’s still time for you to join in). The focus of the trek is to raise awareness and funding for the eradication of Polio. (If Mt Everest is on your bucket list, then be sure to read to the end of this article.)

Each of Ken’s trekking supporters will aim to raise at least $2000. So, with the 2 to 1 matching grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, this will create a nice donation.

“Thank you for coming up with a unique way to raise funds for our PolioPlus programme. I admire your willingness to jump from Everest in order to support the eradication of Polio.

The Rotary world greatly appreciates what you are doing and the children of the world appreciate what you are doing. We wish you well with this initiative. Thank you for your dedication to our organization and its programmes.”

Barry Rassin, Rotary International President
Ken’s background is in Police Search and Rescue. So, he’s used to assessing dangers – and there are many dangers, but this is also not Ken’s first rodeo. He previously launched a paraglider from Mt Cho Oyo, the world’s sixth highest mountain at 7,200 meters (23,600 ft). This Tibetan effort raised over $100,000 for Polio eradication.

![Paraglider Launch from Mt Cho Oyo](image-url)

The summit of Mt Everest is 8,848 meters (29,028 ft) above sea level and the altitude at Base Camp is 5,380 m (17,600 ft). This is more than twice the height of Mt Kosciuszko (2,228 m).

Above 2,500 m, oxygen deprivation is one of the dangers, Ken and the team must prepare for. After landing at Kathmandu, supporters will trek to the Mt Everest Base Camp for acclimatisation. Experienced local guides and porters will help carry the necessary gear for everyone’s comfort and safety.

Rotary Fitness has created a unique polo shirt for the Rotary Club of Berry to use for fundraising. It features a Paraglider on the front and a group of three support trekkers on the back. If you’d like to get one of these unique shirts; add your name to the Rotary Fitness email list and we’ll let you know when shirts are available. Sales of these shirts will support PolioPlus.

So far Ken has been fortunate to have a manufacturer donate a paraglider, valued at over $6,000. He is now looking for a major sponsor to get involved in this unique world record attempt.

If you’d like to join the expedition, or you’d like to assist, please contact Ken here.

Ken’s Rotary Life
Ken’s father was a Past President of the Rotary Club of Cronulla. Ken joined the Rotary Club of Berry in 2008. He has served as Foundation & International Director as well as Community Service Director. At District level, Ken has been the Polio Director.

The Rotary Club of Berry is an active club with many projects. They hold Small Farm field days in September, a Celtic Festival in May and a Christmas Street Parade. They also do fireworks on New Year’s Eve and assist at the Berry Show. Each month they also fundraise at a local community market.
The Cochin airport is reopening today. That the seventh busiest airport in India had to be shut down for 14 days, gives an idea of the extent of damage that the floods have wrecked in Kerala.

Some 1.5 million people were in relief camps. The floods have brought unimaginable misery to at least 300,000 people.

Confederation of Indian Industry has estimated loss to trade, commerce and industry alone to be ₹ 300,000 million. Loss to agriculture is anybody’s guess. As almost the whole State was under water; no crop was spared from devastation. Repairs of roads and infrastructure will take years. E Sridharan, well known technocrat from Kerala, estimated that it may take minimum 8 years to rebuild this land.

Rotary Clubs did very well during rescue and relief stages. There are about 250 Rotary Clubs in Kerala. All of them sprang into action real fast. Rotary became the most trusted relief goods distribution network.

Rotary Clubs from all parts of India generously helped with food, clothes and relief material. Rotary Clubs in Tamil Nadu went beyond the call of duty to help. Thousands of trucks of food and materials came from Tamil Nadu to help their neighbours in distress.

Kerala’s fishermen and the nation’s defence services made heroic rescue efforts, but for which death tolls would have been much higher than 500. State and Panchayat bureaucracy led from the front during the days of crisis. The people of Kerala rallied together as one group. Round the clock efforts of Rotarians did not go unnoticed by the community.

Rehabilitation stage is proving to be trying. Volunteers are tired after two weeks in the field. The mess that flood left is mountainous. Hard toil for weeks is needed to cleanse homes and wells.

Cleaning materials are needed in tonnes. Soap, detergents, bleach powder, cleaning chemicals, water jet pumps, buckets, showels, dust-panes, mops, brooms, brushes are all needed in huge quantities. Electricians, plumbers, technicians are needed in thousands.

Schools are reopening on 1 September. Notebooks, pens and pencils are required in tens of thousands.

RI Director Basker is giving leadership for building 3000 low cost houses at a cost of ₹1000 million.

Swift, transparent and efficient rebuilding efforts are required. We have to take lessons from our previous disaster management efforts during tsunami in south India and earthquake in Gujarat. We need to be faster and better in our response.

Local requirements are varied and urgent. Rotary clubs are responding with several initiatives. Some clubs have taken a ₹ 10 million challenge for local projects. Funds are being mobilised from members, friends and relatives to meet this challenge of meeting innumerable local needs which cannot wait.

It is defining time for Kerala - and Rotarians. History will not pardon us if we do not come up with large, bold and fast initiatives.
In 2009, Salvador Rico stood in the waters of the Russian River in Northern California with other members of the Rotary Club of South Ukiah. They were there for a river cleanup, during which they removed toilets, refrigerators, car parts, and garbage. That event led to an ambitious initiative called Cleaning the Rivers of the World.

After participating in the Russian River cleanup, Rico’s thoughts turned to the Ameca River, which flows past his father’s farm in western Mexico. That was where, he believed, his oldest sister contracted the poliovirus that killed her in the 1960s.

“My older siblings would play in the river,” he says, “and that particular river carried sewage from the city of Tala.”

Rico also thought of another river, the Lerma, which runs near his old elementary school. His teachers would let children play in a pristine tributary that flowed from a canyon but not in the main channel of the Lerma, which carried trash and toxic waste from Guadalajara.

So when Rico’s district governor, Helaine Campbell, asked clubs to carry out a signature water-related project in 2013-14, Rico proposed a cleanup of the Ameca River.

With the help of Vicente Paredes of the Rotary Club of San Pedro de Tlaquepaque, Mexico, who connected people and worked on logistics, the Rotary clubs of Ameca, Mexico, and of Rohnert Park-Cotati and South Ukiah, California, carried out the first Ameca River cleanup day in April 2014. They have since organized more cleanups of the river.

That project eventually expanded to become Cleaning the Rivers of the World, which has challenged Rotary clubs across the globe to clean up a river. The initiative has been adopted by the Water & Sanitation Rotarian Action Group as part of the Annual World Water Day Challenge, as well as by the Environmental Sustainability Rotarian Action Group. Rotarians have organized cleanup projects in Colombia, India, Nigeria, Peru, Turkey, and Venezuela, as well as in other parts of Mexico and the United States.

In 2018, Rico joined his fellow Rotarians in a project on the Lerma River. “As a kid, I always hoped that someday I could go home and do something to turn all the sewage into pristine waters,” he says. “Now I can say, with a clear conscience, that I did everything I could to leave a better world for our kids.”

– by Frank Bures
The Rotarian, September 2018
WONDERFUL ENGLISH FROM AROUND THE WORLD

- Cocktail Lounge, Norway: Ladies are requested not to have children in the bar.
- Doctor’s Office, Rome: Specialist in women and other diseases.
- Dry Cleaners, Bangkok: Drop your trousers here for the best results.
- A Nairobi Restaurant: Customers, who find our waitresses rude, ought to see the manager.
- On the main road to Mombasa, leaving Nairobi: Take Notice: When this sign is under water, this road is impassable.
- On a poster at Kencom: Are you an adult that cannot read? If so, we can help.
- In a city restaurant: Open seen days a week and weekends.
- In a cemetery: Persons are prohibited from picking flowers from any but their own graves.
- Tokyo hotel’s rules and regulations: Guests are requested not to smoke, or do other disgusting behaviours, in bed.
- On the menu of a Swiss Restaurant: Our wines leave you nothing to hope for.
- In a Tokyo Bar: Special cocktails for the ladies with nuts.
- Hotel, Yugoslavia: The flattening of underwear with pleasure is the job of the chambermaid.
- Hotel, Japan: Yu are invited to take advantage of the chambermaid.
- In the lobby of a Moscow Hotel, across from a Russian Orthodox Monastery: You are welcome to visit the cemetery, where famous Russian and Soviet composers, artists, and writers are buried daily, except Thursday.
- A sign posted in Germany’s Black Forest: It is strictly forbidden on our Black Forest Camping Site, that people of different sex, for instance, men and women, live together in one tent, unless they are married with each other for this purpose.
- Hotel, Zurich: Because of the impropriety of entertaining guests of the opposite sex in the bedroom, it is suggested that the lobby be used for this purpose.
- Airline ticket office, Copenhagen: We take your bags and send them in all directions.
- A Laundry in Rome: Ladies, leave your clothes here and then spend the afternoon having a good time.
- And finally, the all-time classic, Seen in an Abu Dhabi Souk shop window: If the front door is closed, please enter through my backside.
GROANERS

1. The meaning of opaque is unclear.
2. I wasn't going to get a brain transplant but then I changed my mind.
3. Have you ever tried to eat a clock? It's very time consuming.
4. A man tried to assault me with milk, cream and butter. How dairy!
5. I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I can't put it down.
6. If there was someone selling marijuana in our neighbourhood, weed know about it.
7. It's a lengthy article about ancient Japanese sword fighters but I can Sumurais it for you.
8. It's not that the man couldn't juggle, he just didn't have the balls to do it.
9. So what if I don't know the meaning of the word "apocalypse"? It's not the end of the world.
10. Police were called to the daycare centre. A three-year old was resisting a rest.
11. The other day I held the door open for a clown. I thought it was a nice jester.
12. Need an ark to save two of every animal? I Noah guy.
13. Alternative facts are aversion of the truth.
14. I used to have a fear of hurdles, but I got over it.
15. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
16. Did you know they won't be making yardsticks any longer?
17. I used to be allergic to soap but I'm clean now.
18. The patron saint of poverty is St. Nickeless.
19. What did the man say when the bridge fell on him? The suspension is killing me.
20. Do you have weight loss mantras? Fat chants!
21. My tailor is happy to make a new pair of pants for me...Or sew it seams.
22. What is a thesaurus's favourite dessert? Synonym buns.
23. A relief map shows where the restrooms are.
24. There was a big paddle sale at the boat store. It was quite an oar deal.
25. How do they figure out the price of hammers? Per pound.

SENIOR PICKUP LINE
An elderly gentleman walks into an upscale cocktail lounge. He is in his mid-seventies, very well dressed, hair well-groomed, great-looking suit, hankie in his lapel, and smelling slightly of an expensive aftershave. He presents a very nice image.

Seated at the bar is a classy-looking lady in her mid-seventies.

The sharp old gentleman walks over and sits alongside her. He orders a drink and takes a sip.

He slowly turns to the lady and says: "So, tell me ... do I come here often?"

******

CONFUCIUS DID NOT SAY

- Man who wants pretty nurse must be patient.
- Lady who goes camping with man must beware of evil intent.
- Man who leaps off cliff jumps to conclusion.
- Man who runs in front of car gets tired, but man who runs behind car gets exhausted.
- Man who eats many prunes gets good run for money.
- Man who drives like hell is bound to get there.
- Man who stands on toilet is high on pot.
- Wise man does not keep sledge hammer and slow computer in same room.
- Man who lives in glass house should change clothes in basement.
- There are old pilots and there are bold pilots, but, there are no old bold pilots.
- And finally, Confucius did not say:
  - War does not determine who is right; it determines who is left.
How the Internet started: A revelation with an Incredibly Big Message (IBM):

Well, you might have thought that you knew how the Internet started, but here's the TRUE story. It's an Incredibly Big Message (IBM)

In ancient Israel, it came to pass that a trader by the name of Abraham Com did take unto himself a young wife by the name of Dot.

And Dot Com was a comely woman, broad of shoulder and long of leg. Indeed, she was often called Amazon Dot Com.

And she said unto Abraham, her husband: "Why dost thou travel so far from town to town with thy goods when thou canst trade without ever leaving thy tent?" And Abraham did look at her - as though she were several saddle bags short of a camel load - but simply said: "How, dear?"

And Dot replied: "I will place drums in all the towns and drums in between to send messages saying what you have for sale, and they will reply telling you who hath the best price. And the sale can be made on the drums and delivery made by Uriah's Pony Stable (UPS)."

Abraham thought long and decided he would let Dot have her way with the drums. And the drums rang out and were an immediate success. Abraham sold all the goods he had at the top price, without ever having to move from his tent.

To prevent neighboring countries from overhearing what the drums were saying, Dot devised a system that only she and the drummers knew. It was called Must Send Drum Over Sound (MSDOS), and she also developed a language to transmit ideas and pictures - Hebrew To The People (HTTP)

But this success did arouse envy. A man named Maccabia did secrete himself inside Abraham's drum and began to siphon off some of Abraham's business. But he was soon discovered, arrested and prosecuted - for insider trading.

And the young men did take to Dot Com's trading as doth the greedy horsefly take to camel dung. They were called Nomadic Ecclesiastical Rich Dominican Sybarites, or NERDS.

And lo, the land was so feverish with joy at the new riches and the deafening sound of drums that no one noticed that the real riches were going to that enterprising drum dealer, Brother William of Gates, who bought off every drum maker in the land. And indeed did insist on drums to be made that would work only with Brother Gates' drumheads and drumsticks.

And Dot did say: "Oh, Abraham, what we have started is being taken over by others." And Abraham looked out over the Bay of Ezekiel, or eBay as it came to be known. He said: "We need a name that reflects what we are." And Dot replied: "Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner Operators." "YAHOO", said Abraham. And because it was Dot's idea, they named it YAHOO Dot Com.

Abraham's cousin, Joshua, being the young Gregarious Energetic Educated Kid (GEEK) that he was, soon started using Dot's drums to locate things around the countryside. It soon became known as God's Own Official Guide to Locating Everything (GOOGLE).

So, that's how it all began. Now you know. Of course this story is true; its source is uh...the internet.

And that's my story, and I'm sticking to it.

Hope you enjoyed this bit of humor; in these times of the world's struggling economy we need a laugh now and then. My next feature will be directed towards a more serious problem. I welcome comments at jazzprof@gmail.com

Ron Nethercutt, ROTI Chair 2007-09
RC Mabalacat, D3790
Novum Hotel Alster Hamburg St. Georg. Room rates are Euro239 per room per night including breakfast and service charge and excluding city tax. City tax is dependent on net nightly cost and accommodation excluding breakfast.


› It’s a 3-star hotel, 1.3 km from Dammtor station which is close to the Convention Centre, and 8.5 km from the airport
› Booking.com, Agoda Hotels, Trip Advisor have all good ratings and reviews on the hotel.
› Ten rooms have been booked under ROTI

All booking made by our members would be CC’d to me as this not done through a travel agent.

Madu Bishnu
ROTI Chair, 2017-19
Important deadlines
27 June 2018: Last day for special promotional discount
15 December 2018: Last day for early-registration discount
31 March 2019: Last day for preregistration discount
30 April 2019: Last day to request to cancel registrations or tickets
5 June 2019: Last day for online registration

Registration fees
Register early to take advantage of discounted rates. Go to registration fees for information about rates, cancellations, and refunds, and what your registration includes.

Group registration
Groups of 25 or more Rotary members, Rotaractors, and club and district employees may register as a group. All fees must be submitted in full in a single payment using a credit card or check (drawn from a U.S. bank only), or through an international office or fiscal agent.

Review the group registration guidelines and download the group registration form. After 31 March 2019, additional group members can be added only on-site at the convention.

Cancellations and refunds
All registration cancellations are subject to a $50 service fee. Requests to cancel registrations or tickets must be received by 30 April 2019. Registrants who cancel after the deadline will not receive a refund. In cases of force majeure, refund requests will be considered on a case by case basis, and all approved funds will be less than a $50 processing fee. Registration fees and ticketed event fees will not be refunded on requests after 30 April, unless they are due to a visa. Cancellations caused by visa denial must be received by 5 June 2019.

- Cancel online (preferred method)
- Cancel by email: ri.registration@rotary.org
- Cancel by fax: +1-847-556-2194
ENCHANTING RHINE
ROTARIANS ON THE RHINE CRUISE
May 20 - 27, 2019

Enjoy a 7-night cruise from Basel to Amsterdam

AmaWaterways will donate $100 to the END POLIO NOW campaign for every cabin purchased through Travelbugs / Connoisseur Travel for the Rotarians-on-the-Rhine-Cruise May 20, 2018 aboard AmaKristina.

DAY DESTINATION ACTIVITIES
May 20 Basel EMBARKATION
May 21 Breisach Riquewihr excursion
OR Freiburg excursion
OR Breisach wine country bike tour
OR Black Forest excursion
May 22 Strasbourg “The Gem of Alsace” tour OR Strasbourg bike tour
May 23 Ludwigshafen “Romantic Heidelberg” excursion
OR Heidelberg Philosopher’s hike
OR “Secrets of Speyer” tour
Rüdesheim Siegfried’s Mechanical Music Museum
OR Rüdesheimer Coffee
May 24 Rüdesheim Gondola ride and wine tasting
OR Schloss Johannisberg bike tour
OR Vineyard hike
Rhine Gorge Castles along the Rhine scenic cruising
Lahnstein Exclusive festive celebration
May 25 Cologne “Holy City” walking tour and cathedral visit
OR Kölsch Beer tasting
OR Cologne bike tour
May 26 Amsterdam Canal cruise tour OR Jewish Heritage tour
May 27 Amsterdam DISEMBARKATION

*Itinerary subject to change

RIVER CRUISE
CATEGORY TYPE SIZE CRUISE & LAND PRICE PP

| SUITE | Twin Balcony | 350 sq. ft. | $4,552.68 |
| Cat. AA | Twin Balcony | 235 sq. ft. | $3,694.68 |
| Cat. AB | Twin Balcony | 235 sq. ft. | $3,562.68 |
| Cat. BA | Twin Balcony | 210 sq. ft. | $3,430.68 |
| Cat. BB | Twin Balcony | 210 sq. ft. | $3,298.68 |
| Cat. CA | French Balcony | 170 sq. ft. | $2,968.68 |
| Cat. CB | French Balcony | 155 sq. ft. | $2,770.68 |
| Cat. D* | Fixed Window | 160 sq. ft. | $2,572.68 |
| Cat. E* | Fixed Window | 160 sq. ft. | $2,375.34 |

Terms & Conditions: All rates are per person in USD for cruise only, based on double occupancy in the specified category staterooms above. Unless explicitly stated that single supplement is waived, solo travelers in a double occupancy stateroom must pay an additional single supplement amount before receiving any discounts. Port charges of $182, roundtrip airfare, and gratuities are additional. Other restrictions apply. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California. AmaWaterways CST#2065452-40. V17NOV28MG

INCLUDED

- Spacious accommodations in riverview stateroom or suite - most staterooms offer twin balconies or French balconies
- Fine dining, including unlimited complimentary hand-selected wines, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board
- “Sip & Sail” Daily Cocktail Hour with complimentary wine, beer, spirits and soft drinks
- Cocktail Reception and Captain’s Gala Dinner
- Complimentary Wi-Fi access on board
- Guided shore excursions in every port including Special Interest Tours
- Live entertainment, cooking demonstration and more
- Complimentary bicycles
- Services of a professional Cruise Manager

OPTIONAL

PRE-CRUISE FOR $1,560 PER PERSON: 2 nights hotel in Zurich at the Marriott Zurich (or similar), then 2 nights hotel in Lucerne at the Hotel Schweizerhof Lucerne (or similar)
- Transfer from the hotel in Zurich to Lucerne, then to the ship in Basel
- Daily breakfast
- Guided city tour
- Porterage service
World Polio Day Competition – Your Club could win $500 for its WASH Projects!

What is World Polio Day?
World Polio Day is celebrated on October 24th. World Polio Day was established by Rotary International to commemorate the birth of Jonas Salk, who led the first team to develop a vaccine against poliomyelitis. Use of this inactivated poliovirus vaccine and subsequent widespread use of the oral poliovirus vaccine, developed by Albert Sabin, led to the establishment of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

Polio is a disease caused by a virus that affects the nervous system and is mainly spread by person-to-person contact. Polio can also be spread by drinking water or other drinks or eating raw or undercooked food that are contaminated with the feces of an infected person.

$$$$$ - THE PRIZES!

$500 US for the best project
(i.e. the one with the most impact)

$500 US for the most innovative project

What must you do?
Whatever works best for your community, the choice is yours! All we ask is that the project improve the quality of water and/or level of awareness of it in YOUR community. You could, for example:

- Clean up debris along a waterway, lake, creek, pond, stream, or other water source.
- Prevent erosion by planting trees and native plants along a water source.
- Build awareness in your community - encourage students to write essays on the importance of water and what THEY can do to protect it.
- Encourage farmers in your area to use eco-friendly chemicals that will not damage fragile water systems.
- If your community's water source is safe, eliminate plastic water bottles. If they are a necessity ensure they are collected and recycled appropriately.

Use your imagination! The bottom line is to educate your community on the importance of protecting its water sources. Get them involved!
Whenever possible, please consult with your local water or conservation authority to ensure that your efforts are compatible with conditions in your area! For example, cleaning a watercourse during spawning season could have a negative impact on fish stocks.

**Share your story**

Please use your project to celebrate World Polio Day. You can promote it at your regular club meeting closest to October 24, 2018. WASRAG will share some of them in its monthly newsletter. And - why not tell your story to the Rotary world yourself? Go to the RI website and post it on Rotary Club Central and/or Rotary Showcase!

**Who will judge the entries?**

The members of WASRAG’s Membership Satisfaction Team, including Chris Etienne - USA (Chair), Salvador Rico – USA, Tom Bos - USA, Ada Cheng - Hong Kong, Rich Churchman - USA, Toro de Silva - Brazil, V.N. Singh - India, Ndukwe Chukwu - Nigeria and Rob Crabtree - New Zealand will review all applications and submit a short-list of finalists to WASRAG’s Operations Team.

**How do you enter the competition?**

Submit a brief description of your project to info@wasrag.org. Include what you are doing, the target audience and the expected impact of the project. Remember to tell us your Club name and District number and give us a contact name, email address and phone number. Some projects will be showcased on the WASRAG website.

**DEADLINE & AWARDS:**

Please submit all entries by December 1, 2018. Winners will be notified by February 1, 2019.

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**HOW IT ALL STARTED!**

Many of you will have read the fantastic story of the Rotary Club of South Ukiah (California) District 5130’s "Cleaning the Rivers of the World" program in WASRAG’s October 2017 Newsletter. Spearheaded by passionate water champion Salvador Rico, the South Ukiah club challenged Rotary clubs around the world to clean up rivers in their communities. Inspired by Salvador and his club’s efforts, WASRAG now invites you and your club to get involved in water - and maybe win some funding for your water projects!
WATER. SANITATION. HYGIENE. EDUCATION. LITERACY.

A Guide to WASH in Schools