

February 2026.

# THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOLOLO-KAMPALA NEWSLETTER





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IS HINGED ON  
OUR DIVERSITY



WORLD DAY OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY

5	<b>EDITOR'S MESSAGE</b>
6	<b>MESSAGE FROM THE ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT</b>
9	<b>MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR</b>
12	<b>MESSAGE FROM THE CLUB PRESIDENT</b>
16	<b>P-E-A-C-E: A WORD THAT CAN CHANGE THE WORLD FOR EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US.</b>
19	<b>BOOK REVIEW</b>
20	<b>MY JOURNEY AS A ROTARIAN AND THE EXPERIENCE SO FAR</b>
22	<b>PEACE BEGINS AT OUR TABLE</b>
23	<b>EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE AS A MASTER KEY FOR LEVERAGING PEACE</b>
25	<b>THE EXCITEMENT OF LEADERSHIP TRANSITION AT THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOLOLO-KAMPALA.</b>
26	<b>MOMENTS THAT MATTERED - FEBRUARY IN PICTURES</b>
27	<b>THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOLOLO-KAMPALA EMPOWERS FUTURE LEADERS AT RYLA.</b>
31	<b>AN ADVOCATE FOR PEACE:FROM THE INDIVIDUAL TO THE GLOBAL</b>

*Table of*  
**CONTENTS**





# About Our Club

The Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala meets every Tuesday, 6-7 p.m at Hotel Africana, Wampewo Avenue, Kampala.

Visit our socials to keep up to date with our activities and events:

- [www.rotarykololokampala.org](http://www.rotarykololokampala.org)
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## The Gentle Art of Preventing Chaos: Our February Challenge

### DEAR READER,

Welcome to February! By now, we have all survived January, which, let's be honest, is the longest month in the history of the calendar. The festive season glow has faded, the school fees have been paid, and we are all firmly back in the grind. But as we turn the calendar page, we step into a month that carries a beautiful duality: it is the month of love, and in the Rotary world, it is the month dedicated to **Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention**.

At first glance, these two themes seem to go together. Love brings people together, and peace keeps them from driving each other crazy. But when you dig a little deeper, you realize that peacebuilding isn't just about signing treaties or resolving international disputes. It is about the micro-moments of our daily lives here in Kampala.

We live in a city that tests our patience every single day. Conflict is literally lurking around every corner. Consider your average Tuesday: You leave home with good intentions. You are listening to a nice sermon or a podcast. You are at peace. Then you hit the Kampala roads. Suddenly, a taxi driver, who has apparently woken up with the sole mission of testing your character, cuts you off without signaling. Your blood pressure spikes. Your peaceful morning is shattered.

Or perhaps you walk into a local supermarket to grab a quick bite. You are minding your own business, navigating the narrow aisles, when someone's trolley becomes an offensive weapon, blocking your path while they debate the merits of two different brands of maize flour for ten minutes. Do you speak up? Do you seethe silently? This, my friends, is the frontline of conflict prevention.

And then, of course, there is the ultimate modern battlefield, the Family WhatsApp Group. It starts with a cheerful "Good morning, family!" and a scripture verse. By midday, someone has shared a news link. By 2 PM, Cousin Sarah has called Uncle Peter a "prophet of doom." By evening, someone is threatening to leave the group. If that isn't a conflict zone, I don't know what is.

As Rotarians, we are called to be peacemakers. But we don't necessarily need to fly to Geneva to do it. We can start right here in Kololo-Kampala, in our neighborhoods, and in our Club.

Peacebuilding, in its simplest form, is choosing connection over confrontation. It is giving that boda boda rider the benefit of the doubt when he weaves through traffic. It is taking a deep breath when a fellow Rotarian shares an opinion at a meeting that you find completely absurd, and instead of rolling your eyes, you ask a curious question: "That's an interesting perspective, tell me more."

Think about the projects we do. When we provide clean water to a community, we prevent the conflict that arises when people fight over a dirty stream. When we support education, we give young people skills and hope, steering them away from the desperation that leads to violence. When we mentor young professionals, we teach them how to disagree without being disagreeable. Every Rotary project is, at its heart, a peace project. I challenge each of you to become a "micro-peacebuilder" in your home, office, on the road and in our Club.

As we end this month of love, let's remember that love is not just a feeling; it is an action. It is the effort we make to understand someone else. It is the work we do to build a community where everyone feels safe and valued.

So, the next time you feel that familiar surge of Kampala rage rising in your chest, whether it's at a taxi driver, a slow walker on the pavement, or that relative who posts politics in the family group, pause. Smile. And remember: you are a Rotarian. You are a builder of peace.

Let's make this year less about conflict and more about connection. Less about being right, and more about being kind.





# Message from the Rotary International President

**A**t last month's International Assembly, President-elect Olayinka "Yinka" Hakeem Babalola called on members of the Rotary world to live out our presidential message for the 2026-27 Rotary Year: *Create Lasting Impact*.

This February, as we observe Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month, we have an opportunity to channel Yinka's call to action into real change.

Peace is not simply the absence of war. A life free from conflict but marked by hunger, instability, or the inability to care for one's family is not true peace. Peace requires liberty, opportunity, and respect for human dignity. Yet fear often blocks that path — fear of change, of cultural loss, of people we don't understand.

Fear isn't defeated through avoidance or aggression. Knowledge is the first step toward peace. Rotary embraces this idea. Our Rotary Peace Centers and their peace fellows, along with other peace education initiatives, demonstrate how knowledge builds trust and helps communities find solutions to conflict.

In Colombia, decades of conflict have left deep wounds. The 2025 Rotary Foundation Programs of Scale awardee, Pathways to Peace and Prosperity, partners with the United Nations World Food Programme to expand opportunity, improve conflict resolution, and connect people with social services. Its goal is to break cycles of violence, poverty, and food insecurity so peace can take root.

In Maharashtra, India, People of Action honoree Swati Herkal built peace through prosperity. Her project confronted farmers' declining soil health, rising debt, and illness caused by chemical fertilizers. She and her Rotary partners launched a regenerative agriculture program that revitalized the land, lowered costs, and restored stability. More than 1,100 farmers now participate and over 50 villages have adopted the model.

Rotary also advances peace by restoring dignity. In Chad, Rotary Peace Fellow Domino Frank discovered that more than 1,500 women who fought in a rebellion had been erased from reintegration programs. His advocacy led to Chad's first Rotary Foundation global grant and the creation of Corridors of Peace. More than 100 women — triple the goal — completed literacy and vocational training and formed a cooperative to support their families.

From Colombia to India to Chad, the lesson is clear: Peace is not a dream. It is the result of sustained action with a focus on true, lasting impact. To replicate these successes, Rotary clubs can take three steps: Learn from peace fellows and other peace experts in our organization, apply a peacebuilding lens to community assessments, and prioritize impact over ceremony.

Let integrity guide you. Let The Four-Way Test light your path. And let the young people in California and the multitudes worldwide who need job skills remind you why vocational service matters.

In a world filled with fear, Rotary cannot be satisfied with half-measures and empty words. If we are truly people of action, then action must define us. Together, we can Create Lasting Impact — across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

**Francesco Arezzo**

**President, Rotary International, 2025-26**



# ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

**TAIPEI, TAIWAN | 13-17 JUNE 2026**

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# Message from the District Governor.



## When There Is Peace, Our Communities Thrive

Uganda, like many nations, has known both the pain of conflict and the promise of peace. Our history reminds us that conflict leaves scars, not only on land and infrastructure, but on opportunity, and human dignity. Yet our story also shows something remarkable: **the resilience of people and the power of reconciliation as we have seen in Northern Uganda.**

Peace is often misunderstood as the absence of war. But true peace is much more than silence after guns fall quiet. Peace is **justice, inclusion, dialogue, and opportunity.** Peace is when young people see a future worth building. Peace is when differences, of tribe, religion, politics, or opinion; are managed not with violence, but with respect. Peace is when one gender respects the other to end Gender based violence.

Disagreement is natural. What turns disagreement or conflict destructive is how we handle it. When dialogue fails, when inequality grows, when fear replaces understanding, conflict becomes dangerous. That is **why conflict resolution is not a reaction; it is a skill and a commitment.** And this skill has to be passed on to our communities.

In Uganda, **Rotarians have been quietly and consistently shaping peace where it matters most at community level.** Our impact is found in changes in lives, tensions reduced, and futures restored. Across communities, Rotary clubs have brought together people of different tribes, faiths, professions, and political views. By creating neutral spaces for conversation through Rotary Community Corps, vocational meetings, and service projects, Rotarians help transform mistrust into understanding. Dialogue is often the first step away from conflict, and Rotary has made that step possible.

In our communities, many conflicts are fueled by poverty, unemployment, and limited access to basic services. Rotary projects in clean water, sanitation, health, education, and economic empowerment have reduced competition over scarce resources. When communities have water, livelihoods, and hope, conflict loses its fuel.

Through Interact and Rotaract clubs, leadership training, mentorship, and community service, Rotary equips young people with values of tolerance, service, and responsible leadership. Youth who feel included and empowered are far less likely to be drawn into violence and far more likely to become peacebuilders in their communities.

In post-conflict and vulnerable communities like Northern Uganda, Rotary-supported initiatives in health, education have helped restore dignity and rebuild trust. Healing is a critical but often overlooked part of conflict resolution. I was impressed by Rotary Club of Gulu City that supports young ladies that were affected by years of conflict in Northern Uganda. Rotary understands that peace must reach the heart as well as the mind.

Our strength as Rotarians lies in partnership. We work with local leaders, civil society, faith institutions, government agencies, and international Rotary networks. The **Makerere University Peace and Conflict Studies Centre (often called the Makerere Peace Center)** has been helpful in several **practical, long-term ways** to Uganda and the wider region especially in strengthening peacebuilding, conflict resolution, and evidence-based policy.

The Makerere Peace Center has contributed to **healing and rebuilding efforts**, especially in post-conflict communities. By engaging with local leaders, traditional institutions, and civil society, these partnerships multiply impact and ensure that peace efforts are locally owned and sustainable.

I thank Rotarians for leading by example. The way we conduct our meetings, resolve disagreements, and treat one another demonstrates that conflict can be managed respectfully and constructively. The Rotary Four Way Test remains a powerful guide for peaceful engagement in both public and private life.

As Rotarians, we are uniquely positioned to be peacebuilders. Let us also remember that **peace is not someone else's responsibility.** Governments, institutions, and international bodies matter but lasting peace is sustained by citizens, by families, by community leaders like us Rotarians.

For now, the next generation is watching us and learning how to disagree by watching how we disagree. They are learning how to lead by watching how we lead. Let us therefore show them that strength is not found in domination, but in dialogue, not in revenge, but in reconciliation.

Let us commit, through our clubs, our projects, and our personal conduct to be **ambassadors of peace.** Let us resolve conflicts with wisdom, build bridges where walls once stood, and leave behind communities that are more united than we found them.

Because when Rotary works for peace, peace works for everyone.

**#RotaryEyamba**

**Geoffrey Martin Kitakule**  
**Rotary District Governor, District 9213**

# DISCON 101 THEME NIGHTS



**ROTARACT**  
*Day*

**16TH** APRIL 2026  
THURSDAY NIGHT

DRESSCODE:  
ELEGANT ISLAND CHIC

**17TH** APRIL 2026  
FRIDAY

DRESSCODE:  
MONOCHROME  
BLACK

**ROTARACT**  
*Night*

**17TH** APRIL 2026  
FRIDAY NIGHT

DRESSCODE:  
AFRO-MODERN  
ELEGANCE

**DG'S**  
*Banquet*

**18TH** APRIL 2026  
SATURDAY NIGHT

DRESSCODE:  
BLACK TIE



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# Message from the President.

## Dear Rotarians, Partners, and Friends,

As we step into the month of February, I am honored to address you on a theme that lies at the very core of our Rotary mission: **Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention**.

Often, when we hear these words, our minds drift to distant lands ravaged by war, to negotiating tables flanked by world leaders, or to the tireless work of international mediators. While Rotary is indeed active on that global stage, through our UN partnerships and our Rotary Peace Centers, I am here today to remind us that peace is not a distant concept. It is a local practice. It is a daily discipline.

In a world that feels increasingly polarized, where opinions are loud and listening is rare, the need for peace has never been greater. We see it in the global headlines, certainly. But we also see it in our own communities: in the misunderstandings that fracture families, in the economic disparities that breed resentment, and in the simple failure to communicate that turns neighbors into strangers.

At the Rotary Club of Kololo Kampala, we have a responsibility to be more than just spectators to this dynamic. We are called to be active participants in the solution. Our motto, "Service Above Self," demands that we step into the gaps where conflict festers and apply the balm of understanding, development, and opportunity.

It is vital to understand that, as Rotarians, our work for peace is inextricably linked to every other avenue of service. There is no peace without clean water; communities fight and fragment when resources are scarce. There is no peace without basic education; ignorance breeds fear, and fear breeds hostility. There is no peace without economic stability; a person who cannot feed their family is a person pushed to the edge.

When we fund a health clinic, we are preventing the conflict that arises from untreated disease and suffering. When we support a literacy program, we are giving young people the tools to articulate their needs without resorting to violence. When we mentor a budding entrepreneur, we are providing an alternative to the desperation of unemployment.

This month, I encourage you to view our existing projects through this lens of peace. The medical outreach we plan, the school supplies we donate, the mentorship sessions we hold, these are not just charitable acts. They are strategic investments in a more stable and harmonious society.

Beyond our projects, we have a unique role to play as respected members of our community. Rotarians are business leaders, professionals, and elders. We occupy positions of influence. People listen to us. Therefore, we must use that influence wisely.

I challenge each of you to become a bridge builder. In your workplaces, be the voice of reason when tensions rise. In your social circles, be the person who seeks to understand the other side of the story. In your families, be the example of patience and grace. Peace begins with the individual. It begins with the choice to respond rather than react, to listen rather than to shout.

The board and I are committed to ensuring that our Club activities reflect this theme. We will be exploring partnerships that address the root causes of instability in our immediate surroundings. We will be inviting speakers who can shed light on the social dynamics affecting our city. We will be looking inward at our own Club culture to ensure that we remain a safe, respectful, and inclusive space for every member.

**“Peace is not a distant concept. It is a local practice. It is a daily discipline.”**

I also want to acknowledge that peacebuilding is often slow, unglamorous work. You rarely see a parade for the person who prevented a fight. There is no statue erected for the mediator who sat with two parties for weeks until they found common ground. But this quiet work is the foundation upon which thriving communities are built.

Fellow Rotarians, the year is upon us. Let us not waste it on trivial disputes or idle complaints. Let us dedicate ourselves to the noble task of building a more peaceful Kololo, a more peaceful Kampala, and, by extension, a more peaceful world.

Let us go out and be the peace we wish to see.

Thank you for your continued dedication and service.

**James Africa Byekwaso**  
**President, Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala**



# Call for Articles

Be a part of the Rotary club  
of Kololo-Kampala's  
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## P-E-A-C-E: A WORD THAT CAN CHANGE THE WORLD FOR EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US.



“Peace is not just the absence of war; it is the presence of justice, opportunity, and mutual respect.”

February is designated as Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month in the Rotary calendar. It is a “World Understanding Month”: that is often recognized for promoting goodwill and international understanding as the basic tenets of peace. Clubs are encouraged to focus on projects that foster peace, such as supporting peace fellowships, resolving conflicts, and improving community relations. This month serves as a crucial time for Rotary clubs to initiate projects that build sustainable peace in their local communities and worldwide. It is therefore no coincidence that February 23 marks the anniversary of the first Rotary club meeting in 1905, which is celebrated as World Understanding and Peace Day and the anniversary of rotary itself.

In a world full of conflict and in the absence of peace; The Russia-Ukraine war remains a war of attrition, Sudan: now in its third year of civil war, Israel-Palestine & Regional Tensions, Myanmar: the civil war entered its fifth year with the military junta, Venezuela: this has emerged as a major flashpoint in early 2026, the Sahel region, Haiti, DRC in our backyard, Ethiopia-Eritrea, South East Asia, et al, there is clearly an immediate need to understand and promote peace at the very center of our daily lives.

So, what is peace? In the context of Rotary’s Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month, peace is viewed not just as the absence of war (negative peace), but as the presence of justice and opportunity (positive peace). Negative Peace: This refers to the cessation of direct violence, such as a ceasefire or the end of active combat. While essential, it is often fragile if the underlying issues aren’t resolved.

Positive Peace: This is the framework used by Rotary’s partner, the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP). It identifies the attitudes, institutions, and structures that create and sustain peaceful societies. That said, our focus should always be on promoting positive peace as a more sustainable measure to end conflict.

How? To address the conflicts we discussed earlier, Rotary and the IEP focus on eight specific factors that make a country resilient:

1. Well-functioning Government: Transparent and effective leadership.
2. Sound Business Environment: Economic stability and fair trade.
3. Equitable Distribution of Resources: Reducing the gap between rich and poor.
4. Acceptance of the Rights of Others: Social inclusion and human rights.
5. Good Relations with Neighbors: Diplomatic and community-level cooperation.
6. Free Flow of Information: Access to independent media and facts.
7. High Levels of Human Capital: Quality education and health services.
8. Low Levels of Corruption: Trust in public and private institutions.

So, I invite us as Rotarians to challenge our understanding of peace on the above premise and alongside these 3 definitions below;

**1 The Visionary Definition;** Peace is not a destination, but a way of traveling. It is more than the absence of war; it is the presence of a community where every individual has the opportunity to thrive, regardless of their background.– Inspired by the Rotary Peace Centers philosophy.

**2 The Practical Definition:** In Rotary, we define peace through the Eight Pillars of Positive Peace (see above). It is the active building of sustainable structures–like clean water, education, and healthcare–that remove the triggers of conflict before they begin. – Based on the Rotary-IEP Partnership framework.



**3 The Historical Definition:** Peace is the ultimate expression of Service Above Self. As we celebrate World Understanding and Peace, we recognize that peace is built one conversation, one friendship, and one service project at a time. – Context from Rotary International’s History.

A call to action: As we redefine peace for ourselves, let us then start to promote peace from the very small centers of our lives (with our family, friends and in our workplaces, social groupings), to our communities, to our Country, to our region and eventually the world over. Let us as Rotarians become pillars of peace, promoters of peace and not the actors in promoting and perpetuating conflict. It starts with the simple acts of respect for ourselves and then for others, in the small acts of giving and supporting Peace initiatives, in the small actions of avoiding and mitigating conflict.....and through rotary this we can achieve easily. I invite you to support Rotary Peace Fellows or through all our projects, include peace at the center, so that we may builds a bridge where a wall once stood..... why? Because together, as People of Action, we can make peace possible.

**PEACE BE WITH YOU ALL!**

*(Note: some information in this article is quoted directly from the rotary resources in My Rotary and the Learning Center).*

**Bernard Mukasa**

**ROTARY  
INTERNATIONAL  
CONVENTION**

**TAIPEI, TAIWAN | 13-17 JUNE 2026**



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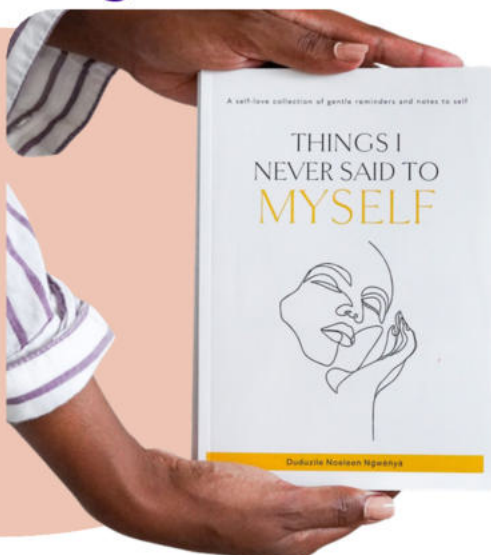
# February is Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month



Did you know?

Rotary Peace Centres —  
Through The Rotary Foundation,  
Rotary runs Rotary Peace  
Centres that train peace and  
development professionals to  
prevent conflict and promote  
lasting peace worldwide.

## Things I Never Said To Myself By Duduzile Noeleen Ngwenya



Things I Never Said to Myself is more than just a book; it is a cultural talking point that has gracefully weathered a storm of critique to emerge as a beloved beacon for those on a journey toward self-love. Published in 2022, this self-love poetry collection has resonated deeply with a wide audience while also facing valid questions about its format and substance. This review delves into the book's core messages, its unique style, and the very conversation it has ignited about what we seek in modern self-help literature.



At its heart, *Things I Never Said to Myself* is a collection of gentle reminders, affirmations, and introspective notes aimed at healing the relationship one has with oneself. The book is structured into thematic sections focusing on growth, love, healing, and personal affirmations. The guiding question is a powerful one: "If you could get a chance to meet a past version of yourself, what would you say to him/her?" .

The author, a 26-year-old digital entrepreneur and wordsmith from Hammanskraal, South Africa, wrote this book from a place of personal truth. Ngwenya has been open about her own struggles with low self-esteem in her youth and navigating difficult romantic relationships. This authenticity is the book's lifeblood. She doesn't position herself as a distant guru but as a fellow traveler sharing the affirmations she wished she'd heard during her own healing process.

The book's strength lies in its exploration of universal and deeply personal themes like self-appreciation and imperfection, confronting negative self-talk, embracing vulnerability, and setting boundaries and self-care.

*Things I Never Said to Myself* is not a traditional poetry anthology, nor is it a lengthy, step-by-step self-help guide. It is, as one reader perfectly described, "a gentle guide to self-reflection".

Things I Never Said to Myself by Noeleen Ngwenya is a testament to the power of vulnerability and the widespread hunger for gentle, affirming voices in a chaotic world. While its minimalist style has sparked a legitimate debate about format and value, its profound emotional impact on a vast number of readers is undeniable. It is a book that has found its audience by speaking not in complex verses, but in simple, heartfelt truths. Whether it serves as a first step toward healing or a pocket-sized reminder of one's worth, its core message, that you are worthy of the love and kindness you so freely give to others, is one that continues to resonate and heal.

Sharone Kirabo  
SIMBA BUDDY GROUP

## My Journey As A Rotarian And The Experience So Far

**On 15 November 2022**, on a warm evening, there was a bright tingly feeling in my stomach as my name was called out by the Membership Director. It was time to be inducted as a Rotarian of the Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala.

I had attended fellowships for 4 months straight without missing any one of them. I had actually told myself that I would not miss any fellowship for at least the next 6 months. I made an effort to be there every Tuesday.

When Dr. Sam Zaramba was placing the Rotary Membership Pin on my lapel, I felt a feeling of success, like a living conqueror. I had reached my goal of becoming a Rotarian. It was quite special because I had my brother Deo Mutebi by my side as well as Past District Governor Xavier Sentamu, who I have known for a long time.

My journey in Rotary started in 1996 when I joined the Interact Club at St. Henry's College, Kitovu. I was the Club Services Director during my Senior 2. I found Interact interesting because we had the opportunity to attend events outside school especially those organised by the Rotary Club of Masaka.

I attended my first District Conference and Assembly in 1997 in Mombasa. It was my first time to travel to Mombasa and by road. We had an interesting experience spending more than 1 day on the road to Mombasa from Masaka. At one point, the bus we were travelling in almost fell into an escarpment but I had no idea. Thank God we made it to Mombasa in one piece!

I went on to attend other DCAs in Nairobi, Mombasa and Mbarara. Each DCA has been special with interesting features and a lot to learn. I believe that the fact that I attended DCAs as a guest before becoming a Rotarian, it helped me to understand the real calling that we have as Rotarians - service above self to make an impact on humanity.

**“I felt that I was in the right place, with the right people, at the right time.”**

My first experience with the Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala was in June 2022 at the installation ceremony of MD Moses Turyatemba as President. Deo interested me into attending the installation ceremony. He had talked to me before about actually joining Rotary but I had hesitated due to the fact that I was very busy. I did not feel that I had time for fellowship every week.

I did not regret attending the Installation ceremony. It gave me a feeling of belonging. I felt that I was in the right place, with the right people, at the right time. I met Past President Simon Sagala at the installation ceremony and he was very friendly. We talked like we had known each other for a long time. I had also met Enock Mukasa and Bernard Arinaitwe earlier at some of the DCAs so I was at home.

At the installation ceremony of MD Moses Turyatemba, I joked with some Rotarians that I could become a Major Donor within 6 months. They all laughed at me hard. That is when I realised that becoming a Major Donor was a huge task. I believe that the essence of giving for the good of humanity is even more rewarding than the recognition you receive. The recognition is good as well though and puts warmth in your heart!

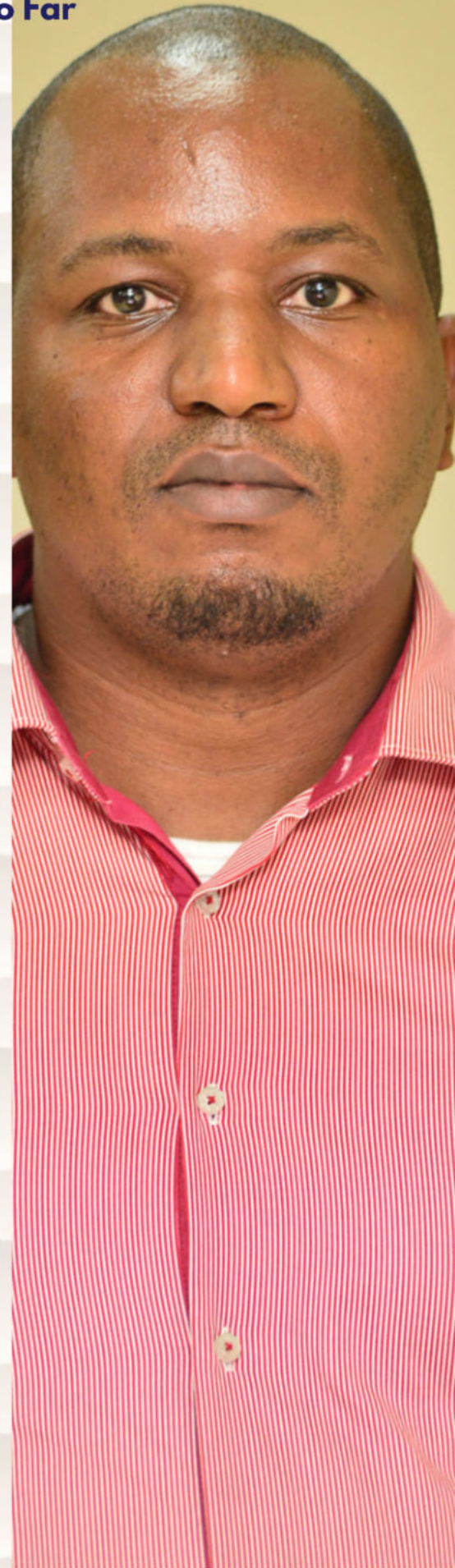
As a Rotarian, I have endeavoured to participate in Club projects, attend fellowships and try to live the values of Rotary. When you think about the Four Way Test, it gives you a real challenge to see that you act with truth, fairness, goodwill and equity at all times. It is not as easy as it sounds especially when you relate it to our life outside Rotary.

Now, I admire how MD Bonnie Nsambu can recite the Object of Rotary off head. I would like to challenge myself as well to be able to do so soon. I have attended a few swallowships especially because I have to go home early every Tuesday at the moment. However, in the next couple of years, I should be able to actively participate in swallowships as well. Rotary is fun also because of the social activities that we are involved in.

I have attended the Rotary Cancer Run, the Rotary District Dinners and other events. My time since becoming a Rotarian has been full of good tidings and warmth. Whenever Tuesday comes, I am looking forward to meeting fellow Rotarians at fellowship. I have made new friends among the older Rotarians and they keep inspiring me to be a better Rotarian. I know that in the next 10 years there shall be a lot to talk about in terms of results, outputs, outcomes and impact.

I must admit that being Treasurer is an interesting and intriguing experience. The Treasurer gets to enjoy dealing with the numbers, the experience around the numbers and the feelings around the numbers. It is exciting seeing people make consistent contributions to the Rotary Foundation in pursuit of recognition as a Major Donor!

There are just a few months left to the end of this Rotary Year. I am looking forward to transitioning back into the fray as an active member outside the Board responsibilities. To all the members of the Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala, thank you for believing in my ability and willingness to serve you.



**Rtn. Isaac Kiberu**



# February is Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month

Did you know?

Health and Stability — Rotary health and water projects reduce disease and hardship, helping communities remain resilient and less vulnerable to conflict.

# PEACE BEGINS AT OUR TABLE

## Keeping Our Rotary Club Cohesive in a Changing World



**A**s our club approaches four decades of service, it is natural to reflect on how we continue to grow together. The following piece is a personal reflection from one of our senior members on cohesion, change, and the kind of peace we cultivate within our own fellowship.

We speak often about peace. We fund it. We convene around it. Under the banner of Rotary International, we promote dialogue, conflict prevention, and community healing.

Yet sometimes the most delicate peace process is not happening in a distant community.

It is happening at our own club meetings.

Our Club was chartered in 1988. Nearly four decades later, it remains strong, something we should never take lightly. Some charter members are still active, carrying institutional memory and deep commitment. They remember when Rotary meetings were formal, structured, and predictable.

That history matters. But history must also evolve.

Today, the room looks different. Younger members — many shaped by Rotaract — bring confidence, professional strength, and fresh ideas. They are energetic, articulate, sometimes impatient. They are less attached to “how we have always done it” and more focused on results.

That energy can refresh a Club. It can also unsettle it.

Our Club also includes women of all ages who entered Rotary after global policy opened doors. While the law changed years ago, culture takes longer. Belonging is not just admission; it is ease and acceptance.

And like any long-standing organisation, we have members whose engagement rises and falls. They too are part of our reality.

This does not make us divided. It makes us diverse.

Sometime back, I was approached by members concerned about a lady’s micro-mini skirt at meetings. On another occasion, a member declined to sit next to a guest because of his rasta hair.

These moments may seem small. But they show how easily personal discomfort can influence fellowship.

The issue is rarely fabric or hairstyle. It is how we respond to change.

The world of 1988 is not the world of today. Professional culture has shifted. Dress norms have relaxed. Expression differs across generations.

Professionalism still matters. Respect still matters. But we must be careful not to confuse personal preference with principle.

If small differences in appearance disturb our unity, we risk losing sight of what truly binds us, service.

When we work together on projects, mobilize resources, and serve our community, differences tend to fade. Service equalizes us.

Our challenge is not survival. We have already achieved that.

Our challenge is balance.

Can we honour those who built the foundation without freezing the culture? Can we welcome new energy without dismissing experience? Can we ensure that every member feels equally valued?

Cohesion does not mean uniformity.

Peace does not mean the absence of disagreement. It means shared purpose strong enough to hold our differences.

If we can model that within our own meetings, our message of peace beyond those meetings carries greater credibility.

Peace, after all, begins at our own table.

**By Rtn. Anne Barabogoza Gamurowwa**

**PHF +5, Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala**



# Emotional Intelligence As A Master Key For Leveraging Peace.

The gist of leadership isn't simply followership but rather creating more leaders who can spark and ignite creativity and innovation to make the world a better place. This is possible by being able to sense, understand and effectively apply the power of emotions as a source of human energy, connection and influence. Remember, you are not a leader if you cannot influence! In Rotary, often we assume that our members' career success translates to an ideal emotional orientation. This creates a fallacy that; "Because you are successful in career, you can become a successful leader". Contrary to our expectations, many "career successful Rotarians" have disappointed our fraternity simply because they failed to balance "Ego" and service to humanity.

Cognizant of the fact that volunteers are creatures of emotion rather than logic, it takes more than mere "Rationals and objectivity" to accomplish a mission while leading volunteers. So, throughout the course of service, the battle of "Ego Vs humility & empathy" is always self-evident. Unfortunately, the former (Ego) often wins thereby brutalizing a club brand and hindering overall club performance. Therefore, if club stake holders are not earnest enough to confront the situation with 'brutal' honesty to the perpetrators who in this case are the leaders for example president among others leaders, the result is always a Recipe for Disaster!

At this point, the Club doesn't fail because of lack of vision or structures. It fails due to a delicate balance of "Ego Vs humility and empathy". Because of this reason, it is important that before any volunteer takes on leadership, self-aggrandizement in the name of 'Ego' ought to be vetted and addressed.

## Way Forward;

It is at this point that Emotional intelligence is vital for overall club performance and success!

Emotional intelligence in simple terms is; "an attempt to be understanding to your offender before you are understood!" This is important because the victim suspends judgment while seeking to understand the circumstances that could have provoked his/her offender to act otherwise contrary to the "would be ideal response". This is possible by putting yourself in the shoes of your offender but also making a self-reflection and analysis of your actions and behavior that could have provoked that response from your offender.

By doing so, you are able to predict the possible; triggers, insecurities, fears and weaknesses that provoked the individual to retaliate in defense. This understanding then sets a ground for empathy because you are aware of the Emotional state your offender is acting from. At the realization of these truths, you are able to deploy strategic action responses that make your offender feel safe, valued and appreciated thereby avoiding conflict.

Note that, absence of conflict is automatically a "fertile ground" for cultivating a relationship, and because of a healthy relationship with your members, you are able to earn their loyalty which then translates to support! So, with support of your members united in love by the ideal of service, even the impossible become possible, and an outstanding club performance is assuredly a must beyond reasonable doubt!

However, this is not to say that you will not be offended. That's the furthest thing from the truth because you will certainly meet offence somewhere but the difference is that your response won't brutalize a volunteer. So your role as a leader is to create peace and a neutral ground even in times of adversity. For example; if a club member asks you a nagging question that is purely illogical, how do you respond? Please note that illogical questions usually are a form of "bully" meant to test the depth of your philosophies, intrinsic emotional infrastructure and once in a while your audacity keep loyal to your inherent truths. This sometimes is hard to bear but asking yourself the "Why" accords you the leverage to respond commensurate to the perceived motive, sometimes either with empathy and grace, or turn a blind ear to mention but a few! However, on some instances, illogical questions are simply a product of sheer deep rooted ignorance. I think that's forgivable in such instances.



**By Rtn. Kazoora Seth**

# February is Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month



Did you know?

Peace Starts Locally — Rotary clubs apply peacebuilding approaches in communities through dialogue, inclusion and service projects that address the root causes of conflict.

## THE EXCITEMENT OF LEADERSHIP TRANSITION AT THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOLOLO-KAMPALA.



**T**here is something uniquely inspiring about a Rotary leadership transition. It is more than the ceremonial passing of the gavel or the exchange of the presidential collar, it is the renewal of vision, fellowship, and commitment to service above self. Each year, Rotary's proud tradition of rotating leadership offers members the opportunity to step forward, contribute in new ways, and strengthen the bonds that unite us in service.

This year marks the 34th leadership transition I will witness at the Rotary Club of Kololo. My Rotary journey began during the 1991 transition, when I was inducted into the Rotary club of Kololo by the late PP President Pascal Mukasa (RIP) handed over to PP Flugence Mungereza. That moment left a lasting impression on me. It was not simply a change of office bearers; it was a powerful demonstration of trust, continuity, and the enduring strength of Rotary fellowship.

Fifteen years later, in 2006, I experienced that sacred moment from a different vantage point. The Late Past President Stanley Mulumba (RIP) entrusted me with the leadership of our club. The transition was both humbling and exhilarating. To be called upon to serve as Club President was an immense honour—one that came with responsibility, expectation, and deep gratitude. The year that followed was one of growth, collaboration, and learning, as we worked together to advance our projects and strengthen our fellowship.

In 2007, I had the privilege of completing that circle of leadership by transitioning from President to Past President, handing over to President Simon Sagala. That moment reinforced for me one of Rotary's most powerful lessons: leadership is stewardship. We hold the office for a season, we give our best to it, and we pass it forward stronger than we found it.

In a few months, we shall once again stand at a significant milestone as President James Byekwaso, MD prepares to hand over to President-elect Dominic Tumwesigye, MD. Each transition carries its own character and aspirations. We celebrate the achievements and tireless coordination of President Byekwaso's year, while looking forward with excitement to the energy, ideas, and direction that President-elect Tumwiniic will bring.

Within Rotary International, the role of Club President remains one of the most rewarding and prestigious responsibilities a member can undertake. The President serves as Master of Ceremonies at meetings, coordinates service initiatives, nurtures membership growth, and ensures that the club's mission remains vibrant. It is a demanding role, often accepted by individuals who are already deeply committed in their professional and personal lives. Yet they step forward because they believe in Rotary's mission and cherish the fellowship of their fellow Rotarians.

The Rotary Club of Kololo thrives because of this culture of shared leadership. Every President builds upon the legacy of those who came before, ensuring continuity while embracing innovation. Transition, therefore, is not an ending—it is a bridge between experience and possibility, between gratitude and anticipation.

As we witness this year's handover, we do so with pride in our history and confidence in our future. Presidents may change, but the spirit of Rotary endures—strengthened with each transition and renewed by every willing heart ready to serve.

**By Sam Farouk Mukasa**

# Moments That Mattered – February in Pictures





# The Rotary Club of Kololo–Kampala Empowers Future Leaders at RYLA.

In a world that constantly demands fresh perspectives and resilient leadership, the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) remains a beacon for young professionals eager to step up. This year, the Rotaract Clubs of Kololo, UMU Nkozi and UCU made a significant mark at the prestigious seminar, thanks to the generous and visionary support of The Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala.

Under the dynamic theme "**Innovate, Adapt, and Impact**," the program challenged attendees to rethink traditional approaches to community service and leadership. The theme could not have been more fitting for a generation of leaders navigating a rapidly changing social landscape. Through a series of intensive workshops, interactive panel discussions, and high-energy team-building exercises, participants explored how to generate creative solutions to persistent problems, pivot gracefully in the face of adversity, and measure the tangible change they create in their communities.

The presence of the Rotary International President elevated the entire experience, transforming a regional gathering into a moment of global significance. For the young attendees, seeing the highest-ranking leader in the Rotary world was a powerful affirmation of their potential and a reminder that they are part of something far larger than their local clubs. His address inspired the room, emphasizing that leadership is not about titles but about action and the courage to serve others.

This transformative opportunity was made accessible through the deliberate investment of The Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala. Recognizing the importance of nurturing the baby clubs that form the backbone of the Rotary movement's future, the Club fully funded the participation of a diverse delegation. Their support ensured that financial barriers did not stand in the way of potential, allowing emerging leaders to immerse themselves fully in the RYLA experience.

The delegation, all beneficiaries of this generous sponsorship from The Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala, included a vibrant mix of talent. Representing the Rotaract Club of Kololo were Vianney Mpiima, Gerald Kazungu, Rinah Niwensiima, Andrew Lubulwa, and Patience Mukisa. They were joined by members from the Rotaract Club of UMU Nkozi: Marietta Shima, Joel Blessed Nowamani, Cuthbert Tumusiime, and Constance Ndagire. The leadership journey was further enriched by the participation of Alvis Aineomugisha and Patience Ritah Ampaire from the Rotaract Club of UCU Mukono, creating a collaborative environment where ideas could cross-pollinate and lasting friendships could form.

As the seminar concluded, the attendees returned to their Clubs not just with certificates, but with actionable plans and a renewed sense of purpose. They carried with them the tools to innovate, the resilience to adapt, and the vision to make a lasting impact.



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# February is Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month

Did you know?

Youth for Peace – Rotary invests in young leaders and peace advocates, building skills in leadership, cooperation and conflict resolution.



# An Advocate for Peace: From the Individual to the Global

## Insights and Frameworks from the Work of Rotarian Florence N. Butegwa.

### Purpose

To share my experience in the hope of inspiring you and the club to action towards peace.

### Redefining Peace

The Traditional View:  
Negative Peace

The absence of direct, physical violence.



The Silence of Guns.

The Holistic View:  
Positive Peace

The presence of social justice, equality, and structural harmony.



The Presence of Justice.

The Goal: A state where women, men, youth, and children are safe from all forms of violence, not just war.

The breakdown of peace often starts in one's soul, and behind closed doors.

### THE SHADOW PANDEMIC

Peace begins at home. If women are unsafe in their communities, the country is not at peace.

## 137 women

are killed by a family member every day.

**The Shadow Pandemic**  
Violence against women during COVID-19

WOMEN

### The Ecology of Peace

Peace is a continuum. A disruption at the individual level ripples upward.



### Individual/Family/Community Continuum

- In-family violence (children, women, men)
- Accepted Superiority of one over another
- Silence/ so-called family privacy
- Women as property & Witches

### When the Continuum Breaks

From domestic suppression to open war.

- |                                      |                              |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| The LRA War (Lord's Resistance Army) | Northern Ireland             |
| Rwanda Genocide                      | Kashmir & Sri Lanka          |
| Sierra Leone & Liberia               | Nigeria (War College/ECOWAS) |
| South Sudan                          |                              |

The Transition: Societies must move from armed conflict to healing and peacebuilding.



### What About the Children?

The Invisible Victims: Children born of conflict-related rape or born in captivity to abducted girls.

- **Legal Limbo:** Often holding no legal status or citizenship.
- **Social Death:** Facing stigma, rejection, and 'negative naming' by the community.
- **Psychological Toll:** Deep-seated self-hate and trauma.

Source: UN SG Report to the UN Security Council.

### Women's situation Room -Uganda

A women-led, non-partisan early warning and rapid response mechanism designed to prevent election-related violence before, during, and after elections.

Direct engagement with elections stakeholders at national and local levels. Situation Room during the elections for rapid response.





## Rotary's Unmistakable Commitment

Peace is a cornerstone of the Rotary mission to foster global understanding and sustainable development.

The Infrastructure of Peace:

- 11 Rotary Peace Centers worldwide.
- Dedicated Peace Scholarships for future leaders.
- February designated globally as Peace Month.



## Daring to Hope

“I am compelled to remain on this path by the many women... who have dared to hope, to challenge, and to feel comfortable in living differently. Even one of them succeeding makes it worthwhile to continue.”

– Rtn. Florence N. Butegwa

*Thank you!*

### Call For Further & Sustained Action For Peace.



- Conflict often festers within Rotary Clubs, and the communities we serve. Conflict analysis and resolution might equip clubs with the necessary skills & tools.

- Integrate peace in all stages of club service projects.
- Partner with peace organisations and programmes to build a culture of tolerance, dialogue, and peaceful resolution of conflicts.

### The Call for Sustained Action

Practical steps for Rotary Clubs and Communities.

#### Internal Reflection

Acknowledge that conflict often festers within Clubs. Use conflict analysis to resolve internal disputes.

#### Integration

Peace is not a separate project. It must be integrated into all stages of every club service project.

#### Partnership

Partner with peace organizations to build a culture of tolerance and dialogue.

## ACTION 1: DIAGNOSE BEFORE YOU TREAT

Mandate: Every Rotary service project must undergo a conflict analysis.

- Does this project promote equality?
- Does it heal divides or reinforce hierarchies?



# Opening Night

## ISLAND OF IMPACT

**DRESSCODE:**  
ELEGANT ISLAND CHIC  
(HAWAIIAN NIGHT)

**HOSTED BY:**  
RC UPPER KOLOLO



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# THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOLOLO-KAMPALA NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is a monthly publication by the Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala.