

Midland Rotary News



Jon Lauderbach

President's Message

Happy March, Rotarians!

We didn't have much of a winter until February, but it arrived like a lion. Let's hope by the end of March, it's going out like a lamb.

As I write this, our dedicated Pancake Supper Committee has rescheduled our Pancake Supper, which was cancelled in light of Snowmageddon Version 2.0.

And while recent (and, apparently, impending) weather events might suggest otherwise, March means that spring is just around the corner. Spring training for Major League Baseball has started, and conference basketball tournaments, Selection Sunday and March Madness are just around the corner. Planting for Midland Blooms can't be that far off!

On the Rotary calendar, March is Water and Sanitation Month. When people, especially children, have access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene, they lead healthier and more successful lives. We don't just build wells and walk away. Rotary members integrate water, sanitation, and hygiene into education projects. When children learn about disease transmission and practice good hygiene, they miss less school. And they can take those lessons home to their families, expanding our impact.

Closer to home here in Midland, we have three Classification Talks – Ajay Middha, Jennifer Grace, and Missie Freier, followed by a presentation by International Flavors & Fragrances about the company's business activities in Midland. What a great month!

As always, thank you for all you do to make our Club and our community great. See you soon!

IN THIS ISSUE:

- 2...Upcoming meetings
- 3...New member
- 4....Community Needs update
- 6....Diversity, equity and inclusion essay
- 6....Pancake Supper update
- 7.... A journey of peace
- 10....Grove Park cleanup
- 11....March is Clean Water and Sanitation Prevention month

PAUL HARRIS FELLOW RECIPIENTS

Jim Bakeman
 Jeff DeHaven
 John Zimmerman (+1)
 Michael Goad
 Lee Smith (+4)
 Kristin Stehouwer (+9)



ROTARY CLUB OF MIDLAND LINKS

Facebook www.facebook.com/MidlandNoonRotaryClub/

Twitter <https://twitter.com/MidNoonRotary>

Instagram: www.instagram.com/midlandminoonrotary/

Official logos/Rotary Global Rewards:
<http://midlandrotaryclub.org>



BREAKING BREAD

Erin Patrice, founder of The Breaking Bread Village, was the program speaker at our Feb. 9 meeting. That meeting ran a bit long, and there wasn't any time for questions and answers, or for Erin to share more about her organization.

If you are interested in learning more about The Breaking Bread Village, visit <https://tbbv.org/>.

The organization has launched a GoFundMe campaign, and you can support that here: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/sow-a-seed-of-support-in-the-village-watch-it>

Donations also can be made here: <https://tbbv.org/sow-a-seed>

UPCOMING MEETINGS

March 9 Jennifer Grace Classification	March 30 Brad Blanchard Classification	April 20 Pancake Supper
March 16 Missie Freier Classification	April 6 TBD	April 27 Nicole Ford Classification
March 23 Stephen Persyn, Business speaker	April 13 Tony Stamas Classification	May 4 Spirit of Rotary
		May 11 Stacey Gannon Classification



Scholarship Applications are Open

APPLY NOW

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE:

- William Dixon Scholarship - three awards at \$1,500 each
- Herbert H. Hardy Scholarship - two awards of \$2,500 each
- C.A. Campbell Scholarship - one award of \$1,300

All applications should be "read-only", so please download a copy and save with your revisions. Applications for 2023 scholarships are currently being accepted with a deadline of March 30.

<https://www.midlandrotaryclub.org/grants-awards>

District Conference is March 25

On March 25, this year's District Conference will be held at Dow Diamond. The keynote speaker will be Nicole Lynn Lewis, author of the book *Pregnant Girl* and founder of the non-profit, *Generation Hope*.

Cost ranges between \$85-125, and the conference begins at 8:15 a.m. at Dow Diamond in Midland. The conference is a one-day event, but it will be a very full day.

The Past District Governor Dinner will take place at 5 p.m. March 24 at the H Hotel in Midland. Make reservations with Connie Deford if you're interested in attending this event.

Hotels offering special group rates include the Fairfield Inn & Suites (\$115 per night), and The H Hotel (\$155 per night).

To register, visit <http://bit.ly/3HLSekv>



GET TO KNOW THIS ROTARIAN CHUCK SHERWIN



ORIGINALLY FROM: I was born in Detroit, MI and lived in Warren, MI during my childhood and then moved to Rochester Hills once married. Then moved to Alpena, MI a few years after marriage to work at the hospital there. In 2022, I moved to Midland

SPONSOR: Sharon Mortensen

CURRENTLY READING: I am currently reading two books: *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* by Anne Fadiman and *Relentless* by Deborah Schupack

FUN FACT: I am currently enrolled in a Doctorate Program for Strategic Leadership

WHY I JOINED ROTARY: To make a difference in our world specifically related to healthcare and education. I connect with all seven of the Rotary focus areas. I enjoy the work we do around Polio and I am a Charter Member of the Polio Plus Society. To think that we can eradicate a disease around the globe through our work with Rotary really inspires me. As a nurse I am profoundly impacted by the work Rotary is involved in. I know that my contributions to Rotary International make a difference and have an international impact

WHAT I'M MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO IN ROTARY: Meeting likeminded business leaders that have a passion to make a difference in our community and the world; Supporting and engaging in volunteer efforts that help meet the clubs goals



Community Needs Committee update

By Stacey Gannon

The Midland Noon Rotary Club Community Needs committee is proud to carry on the vision of Major Warren Yoder, who established the committee in 1988.

As the director of the Salvation Army of Midland, Major Yoder had observed unmet community needs for groups of children in Midland County.

The purpose of the Community Needs Committee is to meet the financial needs for youth-oriented projects that would otherwise “fall through the cracks.” Since inception, thousands of dollars have supported countless projects thanks to our generous Rotary members. Funding for committee grants comes from the proceeds of the annual Pancake Supper. The annual budget for grants averages approximately \$15,000.

Members of the Community Needs Committee include co-chairs Stacey Gannon and Caleb Hortop, Melissa Barnard, Dale Davis, Tom Erickson, Preston Jones, Samantha MacKenzie, Sallie Moss, Jennifer West, and Scott Withrow. If you are interested in joining this committee, please email staceygannon302@gmail.com. Members are responsible for reviewing grant requests.

Grants are evaluated on the following criteria:

- Community needs money is designated for area clubs and organizations with a 501c3 tax exemption. It is NOT designated for individuals, other club committees or school clubs. Such requests should be forwarded to the Board of Directors for consideration.
- Will not fund “fundraising” projects
- Preferred beneficiaries are Midland County youth
- Funds are designated for specific projects as opposed to ongoing initiatives
- Requests should demonstrate a broad and diverse community-wide project
- Requests cannot exceed \$3,000
- Requests are considered on an ongoing basis, with no set award cycles
- All applications must be sponsored and reviewed by a member in good standing of the Midland Noon Rotary club

Committee members will meet in person for a few minutes following the regular scheduled Thursday noon meetings, on the first Thursday of the month to deliberate and discuss any open issues. Grant applications are circulated as received, via email, to committee members for consideration and response. A majority of the members is required for a decision to be rendered.

In March, a partnership with the Midland Area Community Foundation and local service clubs will be launched that will enable collaboration between services clubs to meet the needs of local non-profits in the community. Access to the grant application is available through a link on the Midland Noon Rotary website.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Cultural Competency

By Sharon Mortensen



Recently, I attended a training and the following question was raised, "Is 'colorblindness' the right approach to fostering inclusion and equity?"

We then paired up to discuss this question. Bottom line, this does not allow us to recognize and appreciate cultural differences.

To develop cultural competency, we need to value the unique culture and experiences each individual brings. The following clip — <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zDJcjasFzBI> — explains why 'colorblindness' is no the right approach.

Rotary strives for cultural competency, understanding that "cultivating a diverse, equitable, and inclusive culture is essential to realizing our vision of a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change."

So, what steps we can take to build greater cultural competency? It may be helpful to look at three myths around this subject: (1) all or none, (2) mistakes and moral worth, and (3) tonsils of bias. At the same training I mentioned above, we discussed these myths.

First, let's talk about the "all or none" myth. This separates people into two groups: those who are "with it" and those who are not. If, for example, you grew up in poverty, that does not mean you understand others who have experienced oppression because of their race, ethnicity, age, etc. Having a growth mindset and accepting that there is always more to learn will enable us to listen and build our understanding.

Another challenge of the "all or none" myth is that making a mistake means we are not culturally competent. The reality is that we will all make mistakes – welcome to the human condition! Keeping a perspective that mistakes are inevitable and maintaining curiosity will keep us growing.

The second myth is around mistakes and moral worth. This myth addresses the idea that an individual that hurts and offends another is doing so because they are bigoted and morally deficient. This myth ascribes to the idea that good people do not speak or act in ways that marginalize others – bottom line, that being good, having moral worth, equates to not making mistakes.

We understand that good people can and do make mistakes.

Pancake Supper now set for April 20

A severe winter storm caused us to postpone the 43rd Annual Pancake Supper to April 20.

This is our club's largest fundraiser and all Rotarians are expected to attend from 2 to 8:30-9 p.m. on April 20. The actual event will take place from 4 to 7:30 p.m. at the H.H. Dow High School Cafeteria. The menu will include pancakes, sausage, applesauce, butter and syrup, milk and coffee.

We will not be holding a regular meeting on this day and need all Rotarians to report to Dow High by 2 p.m.

Please consider engaging with our Facebook event and sharing it to help promote it within our community.

If you have questions, please check with Mark Bone or Todd Gambrell, our Pancake Supper committee co-chairs. Thank you all for making this a great event!

DEI, continued...

However, those mistakes should not define our value. When we say something offensive, we take responsibility, apologize, and look for ways to repair the damage we may have caused. What about when others make a mistake? It is possible to dislike what someone has done without disliking the person themselves. Those of us who are parents can definitely relate to this concept. We can hold ourselves and others accountable while extending grace.

The last myth is called the "tonsils of bias." This myth assumes that biases and prejudice are like tonsils, we either have them or we don't. Furthermore, like tonsils, we can get them removed. Recently, I was talking with someone about unconscious biases. The person told me that they understood unconscious biases because they attended one training on the topic. Thinking that one training will provide a comprehensive understanding and remove any unconscious biases illustrates the "tonsils of bias" myth. A TEDx talk by Jay Smooth on "How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Discussing Race" is worth a listen as he discusses this myth. Having a regular practice of questioning, learning and engaging across differences will help us avoid this kind of thinking and increase our ability to understand and relate to others.

To wrap this up, we want to be lifelong learners when it comes to cultural competence. Recognizing some of the myths that may stop this learning is critical. We want to learn about our fellow Rotarians and welcome all they bring to our Rotary family to reach our goal of building "an inclusive culture where each person knows they are valued and belong."

RI: Conflict should not be a way of life

Today, over 70 million people are displaced as a result of conflict, violence, persecution, and human rights violations. Half of them are children.

We refuse to accept conflict as a way of life. Rotary projects provide training that fosters understanding and provides communities with the skills to resolve conflicts. Rotary creates environments where peace can happen.

As a humanitarian organization, peace is a cornerstone of our mission. We believe when people work to create peace in their communities, that change can have a global effect.

By carrying out service projects and supporting peace fellowships and scholarships, our members take action to address the underlying causes of conflict, including poverty, discrimination, ethnic tension, lack of access to education, and unequal distribution of resources.

Our commitment to peacebuilding today answers new challenges: how we can make the greatest possible impact and how we can achieve our vision of lasting change. We are approaching the concept of peace with greater cohesion and inclusivity, broadening the scope of what we mean by peacebuilding, and finding more ways for people to get involved.

— Rotary International, February 5, 2023

Rotary Club of Midland's peace journey

By Gail Hoffman

Our Club, starting with Kevin Kendrick's presidency followed by Tawny Ryan Nelb's leadership, has strived to serve not only locally, but also globally. This overview would not be complete without the reminder that Rotary International recently approved a Global Grant of \$83,800 to a consortium consisting of four Rotary districts and four Rotary clubs across two states and two continents to support sanitation, solar power, and teaching/learning technology projects for two schools in rural Uganda. Our Club under Dick Dolinski's leadership played a huge role in the grant award. What a wonderful example of global collaboration!

Although the global need is tremendous, we cannot ignore the ongoing needs locally. Our Peacebuilding Committee, chartered in 2017-18, has been a "meet as needed" committee responsible for (1) Identifying, evaluating, and selecting opportunities for peacebuilding initiatives both locally and globally in collaboration with other like-minded entities and (2) Aligning projects with Rotary International's priorities, specifically the focus area of Promoting Peace through peacebuilding and conflict transformation.

PEACE, continued...

Prior Accomplishments:

1. Youth Voice for Peace – Chartered an Interact Club and offered programming in partnership with The ROCK and its “Discover You” curriculum. Project has been on hold given challenges of Covid. It is time to reinvigorate youth peacebuilding locally and globally through networking. Stay tuned!
2. Global Grant for Peace within South Sudan – Aligned with Nonviolent Peaceforce Midland Chapter and NewGen Peacebuilders to work with Rotarians in Juba, SS. Project has been on hold given challenges of Covid; e.g., SS borders were closed. Great News: We have reconnected with Patricia Shafer, Ex. Dir. of NewGen Peacebuilders/Mothering across Continents. Thanks to District 6310 donations and a generous grant from St. John’s Episcopal Church, Midland, a new project is underway: Peace Education/Training in South Sudan. In a recent enthusiastic email from Patricia: “We’re doing it again!” She mentioned that mid-March is optimal time for being in South Sudan to conduct the training Stay tuned for this one too!

2022 Accomplishments:

1. Continued our strong partnership with Nonviolent Peaceforce Midland Chapter (NPMC).
2. Continued to create awareness and interest in Midland’s November 2021 designation as an International City of Peace (ICP). Midland has joined other Cities of Peace around the globe, engaging other peace teams, creating an action plan, implementing on-the-ground work for peace to build a global network of peacebuilders. The goal is to have 1,000 Cities of Peace by 2025. Midland was the 343th ICP; there are now 374. In September 2022, City Council approved a renewal proclamation. Also that month, in partnership with Creative 360, we organized a Midland Celebration of Peace event.

Peacebuilding Committee 2022-23 Goals:

1. Transition from a “meet as needed” committee to holding quarterly, in-person meetings.
2. Update membership. Those on the original committee will soon receive an email asking if they want to continue their membership or be removed from the distribution list.
3. Engage Rotarians in ICP-related events and activities. Since a yearly proclamation affirming commitment and involvement is required by City Council, we will have lots of opportunities to further our peacebuilding efforts locally.
4. Partner with Creative 360 to host “Midland Celebration of Peace” on Sept. 23, 2023.

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

PEACE, continued...

Peacebuilding is evolving. WE can all be everyday peacebuilders! YOU can be an advocate for Positive Peace defined as the attitudes, structures, and institutions that create and sustain peaceful societies. Rotary provides a plethora of valuable resources from which you can learn about Rotary's peacebuilding work:

- Learn more by downloading the Rotary Builds Peace Brochure.
- Learn more with the Rotary Positive Peace Academy training.
- Subscribe to the Peace in Action newsletter to stay up to date.
- Encourage your district to become a Global Peacebuilder District.
- Take part in peace activities associated with the Rotary International Convention.
- Visit My Rotary to find even more ways that you can be an everyday peacebuilder with Rotary.

Other ways to become informed and engaged in practical peacebuilding include the following:

- **Rotary Peace Fellowships:** The 2024 Rotary Peace Fellowship application is now available. This fully-funded fellowship provides peace and development leaders with the knowledge, skills, and networks they need to build peace globally. We need your help to promote the program and recruiting candidates. If you know someone who might be interested in applying, please send me their name and email address using the referral form by April 15, and I'll contact them with more information.
- **Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE):** Each year, Rotary Youth Exchange gives thousands of students the opportunity to experience life in another part of the world. During their exchanges, students develop new skills, build lifelong friendships, and gain a new perspective on themselves and the people around them that fosters an understanding and appreciation of different cultures. Rotary Youth Exchange inspires young leaders to serve as catalysts for peace and social justice in their local communities and throughout the world, long after their exchanges end. Our club has a long history of hosting and sponsoring Youth Exchange students. The COVID-19 pandemic, of course, brought RYE to a screeching halt. As the largest club in our District, we need to reactivate this import youth initiative.
- **Rotary Action Groups** are independent, international, Rotary-affiliated groups whose members have expertise and experience in a particular area of specialization. Action groups collaborate with clubs and districts on humanitarian service projects by offering their technical expertise and support on project planning and implementation or helping them find partners, funding, and other resources. One of our Club's RI goals is to increase the number of members who participate.
- **Rotary Action Group for Peace (RAFP)** provides technical advice, resources, and best practices to clubs and districts to further their peace efforts around the world. The group advises clubs on their global grant applications and helps identify partners and funding resources.

In the January 2023 RAGP newsletter, Chairwoman Barbara Muller, shared her "Dream for World Peace": How we create a culture of peace is evolving. Peace building is more effective at the community level where needs are known and solutions come from collaboration and cooperation between all sectors which also creates greater respect for one another and benefits all citizens.

Paul Harris, our founder, sums it up well: "Rotary changes us and those we serve. I believe we can change the world one club at a time."

Grove Park Cleanup set for May 6 in Midland

Save the date: May 6 will be our annual spring cleanup at Grove Park. Each spring and fall, our Rotarians meet up to help clean up Grove Park. Keep an eye out for this year's signup sheet, and we look forward to seeing everyone at Grove Park on May 6!



COMMUNITY NEEDS, continued...

Recently, our club has been able to make a positive difference to allow several important projects to be completed. These include:

- Assistance for funding a Midland County youth survey for the Legacy Center for Community Success
- Children's programming at Creative 360
- Funding the ARC's iCanBike program and assisting with building a gazebo at their facility
- Midland County Youth Leadership projects
- Assistance with replacing a damaged sign for Windover School
- Funding a program to build confidence in local youth with Self, Love, Beauty
- Providing outdoor furniture and space for Family and Children's Services, which was critically important during the pandemic

We look forward to celebrating our grants with check presentations at our meetings, allowing those we support a chance to share information and fellowship with us. The Community Needs Committee is just one more way we serve our Rotary mission – making a difference in the lives of many in our midst.

For more information regarding the Community Needs Committee or grants please email myself at staceyannon302@gmail.com or Caleb Hortop at caleb.hortop@gmail.com.

PEACE, continued...

It is possible to build a more peaceful world. We Rotarians are people of action.

As the grandmother of two very young grandsons, I want to do what I can to ensure that they prosper at least as much as we have during our lifetimes.

Please reach out with questions or comments.

Gail Hoffman is the Rotary Club of Midland Peacebuilding Committee Chair, District 6310.

March focus is water and sanitation

Clean water is a basic need for human beings. When people, especially children, have access to clean water, they live healthier and more productive lives.

However, at least 3,000 children die each day from diseases caused by unsafe water, which is what motivates our members to build wells, install rainwater harvesting systems, and teach community members how to maintain new infrastructure.

While very few people die of thirst, millions die from preventable waterborne diseases, providing the impetus for our members to also improve sanitation facilities in undeveloped countries.

Members start by providing toilets and latrines that flush into a sewer or safe enclosure and then add education programs to promote hand-washing and other good hygiene habits.

From the various water projects in which Rotary has participated, we have come to know the obstacles that many people across the globe face when it comes to some of the basic necessities of life. We tend to take for granted the clean and generally safe and plentiful water sources to which we have access.

Rotary International, through the combined actions of individual Rotarians and Rotary Clubs, seeks to assure that all people have adequate access to clean and safe water. The Rotary theme for March, Water and Sanitation, asks us to focus on the life changing improvements that we can make through these international projects to provide a more readily available and healthy supply of water to all people.

The problem is not that the world will run out of water (that amount is fixed through evaporation and re-condensation). The problem is the unequal distribution of water and the lack of universal proper sanitary practices to assure safe water for drinking.

While some regions and peoples are certainly at greater risk than others and deserving of greater attention, we have seen recently that no population is free from concern. Consider the lead problems in Flint, Michigan and the approaching Day Zero for Cape Town, South Africa (which fortunately has been moved further out and may never happen). Water and sanitation issues will certainly continue to be an area of focus for RI and deserving of our attention as Rotarians.

Rotary is dedicated to six areas of focus to build international relationships, improve lives, and create a better world to support our peace efforts and end polio forever. Water and Sanitation is one of those six areas of focus. For more information, visit www.rotary.org/en/get-involved/projects.

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