

A ROTARY PRIMER

# GLOBAL OUTLOOK

A ROTARIAN'S GUIDE TO *PEACE THROUGH SERVICE*



## THE PATH TO PEACE

# P

Peace is more than the absence of conflict. It brings freedom, security, and happiness. It is the enemy of persecution and instability. It is central to Rotary's mission and a driving force in our efforts to eradicate polio across cultures and in areas of conflict. In July, RI President Sakuji Tanaka challenged every club member to build *Peace Through Service*. In response, Rotarians have initiated and bolstered projects, sponsored Rotary Peace Fellows, and organized peace forums. Global forums in Berlin, Honolulu and, this month, Hiroshima are bringing community leaders and club members together to evaluate Rotary's role in the path to lasting peace. In this issue, you'll find reflections from the president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, advice on finding the next peace fellow, and information about securing a global grant for a peace-building project. "In Rotary, our business is not profit," Tanaka says. "Our business is peace."

# EXPERT ANALYSIS A CONVERSATION WITH JESSICA TUCHMAN MATHEWS

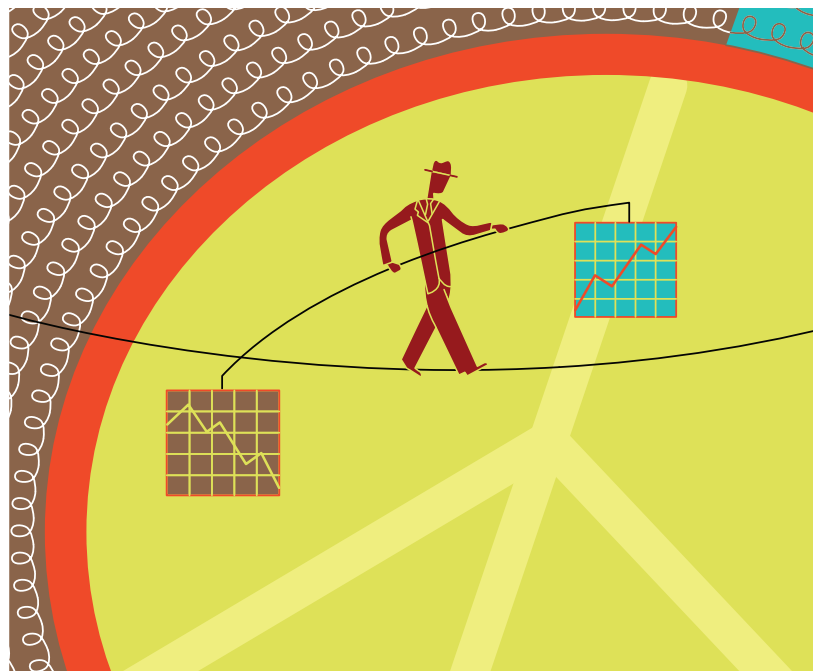
Jessica Tuchman Mathews is president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a global think tank. An influential voice on international affairs, she often advises world leaders. She previously served as director of the Council on Foreign Relations' Washington program and as founding vice president and director of research for the World Resources Institute. As director of the Office of Global Issues at the National Security Council, Mathews covered nuclear proliferation, conventional arms sales, and human rights. She was on the editorial board of the *Washington Post* and later became a columnist. She holds a PhD in molecular biology from the California Institute of Technology. Mathews spoke with *The Rotarian* about the possibility of world peace and how Rotarians can help get us there.

**You've been at the helm of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace for more than 15 years. What do you consider the most notable stride toward world peace during that time?**

These last 15 years have been an odd time. There has been some steady progress toward a more peaceful world, but it's not a period when there have been any striking geopolitical steps. Probably the most important change has been the increase in incomes in the developing world. As incomes increase, you move along the axis toward more stability and less conflict.

**What have you observed to be the greatest impediment to peace?**

It really varies from region to region, but if I had to pick one, it is bad governance, a government that does not care about its



own people. That can sometimes take the form of aggression abroad, but it can also simply lead to increased unhappiness at home, which feeds anger, which gets easily fed by nationalist or religious rhetoric and then causes conflict.

**What role do issues such as hunger, disease, lack of clean water, and lack of education play in world instability and conflict?**

When people feel that their needs are not being met, when they lack hope and opportunity, they will respond. This response may not end up serving their own interests, but they will act.

**Speaking in particular about disease as a destabilizing force, Rotary and its partners are closer than ever to eradicating polio. How does preventing disease help build peace?**

It's a key contributor to the well-being of people, and *well-being* is the word that's most appropriate here, whether people feel that they can in some way meet their own goals. In more acute pandemic and epidemic situations, disease can create refugees, which is always a destabilizing force. People cluster and produce a burden on the people in the area they move to, which often results in conflict.

**As a global organization without political or ideological ties, Rotarians have access to regions that other organizations may not. How and where can Rotarians best leverage this vast grassroots network of community leaders?**

The natural answer is that the leverage would be greatest where others can't get in. But Rotarians are a critical element of a healthy civil society, so the leverage is also greatest where civil society is weakened and Rotarians can work to strengthen it.

**There are parts of the world that seem locked in endless conflict. Is the end of conflict in these areas ever possible? Are some conflicts hopeless?**

Nothing is hopeless, and yes, the end of conflict is possible. Words can do a great deal of damage. The phrase *Arab Spring* connoted a period of overnight change [in the Middle East]. At Carnegie, we always say *Arab Awakening* to make it clear that what's involved isn't a short span of months but the beginning of a long process. The conflicts in the region won't be solved in months or years, but decades. The challenge for those of us outside is to distinguish between the ups and downs and the underlying trend. If we're looking back on this period 40 years from now, I think we will see it in an enormously positive light. It is the end of decades of poor governance by governments that were not interested or capable of meeting their people's needs. But getting from here to there is going to be a long and often conflict-ridden process. In particular, I fear we're entering a period when the Middle East is going to be defined by sectarian violence. We may have 10 years of conflict, and the great challenge for those outside is to try to intervene and help in ways that heal this rift rather than deepen it.

**How has the Internet and other technology changed the face of civil unrest?**

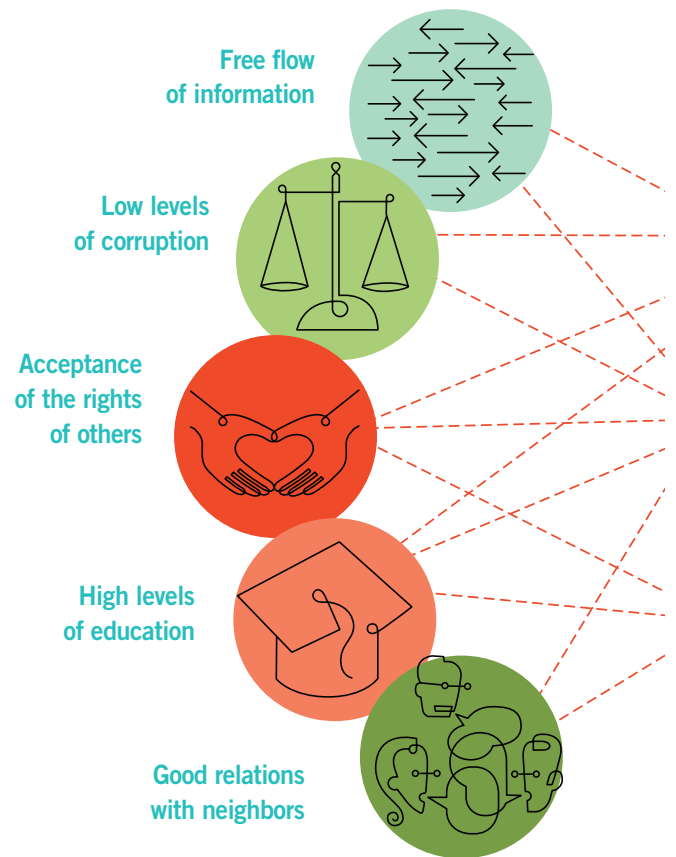
There has been enormous debate over whether this technology is simply a new means of action or a fundamental change. I think at this point it's clear that while it is a means, it's a transformational means. It does inform and make it possible for mass numbers to come together in a spontaneous way. Now, it's also true that what is one man's positive is another man's negative. Governments can see this as disruptive. This technology can be terribly invasive of privacy. It empowers criminals and smugglers just as much as it empowers those fighting for their rights. But in terms of civil unrest, it is transformational.

**For 2012-13, Rotary planned three global peace forums during which Rotarians, Rotary Peace Fellows, and community and world leaders exchange ideas and network. What is the effect of events like these?**

These events energize people and give them a sense of what they can do. At conferences, I am often asked, "What can I do?" It's an opportunity to help people develop plans and projects. When people have a task – call that person, email that person, organize this in your community – a lot can get done.

**Humankind has the capacity to cause mass devastation with a single nuclear weapon. How real is this threat?**

Well, it's not easy to answer. The underlying tension that made nuclear war likely between the United States and Soviet Union is far less than it was. Fifty years ago, experts predicted that there would be two or three dozen nuclear powers by this time.



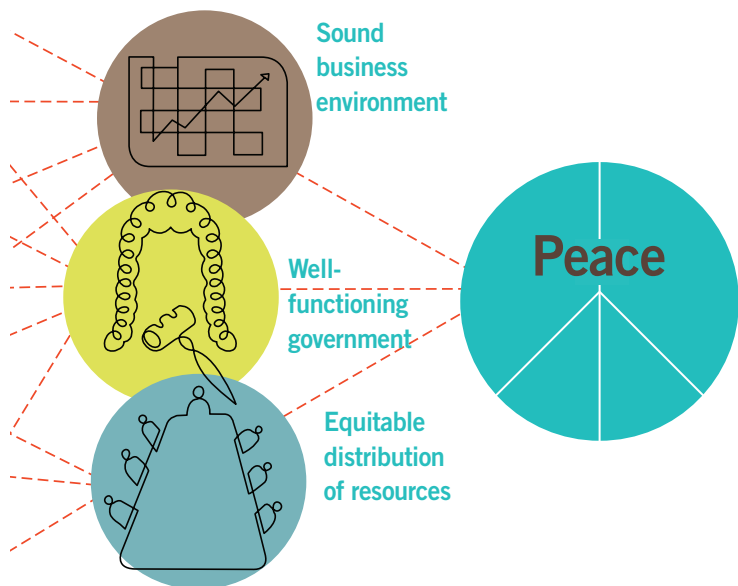
The fact that it's been kept to nine is an enormous success. On the other hand, technological progress makes it easier to acquire nuclear weapon status, and we do live in an age of terrorism. The risk that one of these weapons could get into the wrong hands is still very high.

**That's scary.**

It's true, but it's a fact we live with. We can't un-invent the technology.

**Your mother, the historian and author Barbara Tuchman, introduced a principle called Tuchman's Law that suggests that reporting on terrible events like conflict or crime makes those events seem more pervasive than they actually are. Do you agree? Is a peaceful world closer than we think?**

I think this is one area where the addition of new media to old media has made a positive difference. What is covered in conventional, "old" media is almost entirely bad things. Good news gets some coverage, but not as much as when something is at risk or goes wrong. With the massive number of sources that people can go to now, I think the balance between good news and bad news



SOURCE: INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMICS AND PEACE  
<http://economicsandpeace.org>

more accurately reflects the real conditions out there. So, “Tuchman’s Law” – which of course she said tongue-in-cheek – is a weaker phenomenon than it used to be. Thirty years ago, one TV camera focused on 20 people could make it look like a major protest. Now there are 10 or 200 cameras there, and you get a sense of what is actually happening.

#### How will we know when peace breaks out?

Peace doesn’t ever break out. It is not an end state, but a process – like health. It’s a constant balance between the forces of development in economic, social, and political terms, and the destabilizing sources of conflict. Peace is more than the absence of conflict. It’s the quality of governance, a theme I’ve come back to several times, and the degree to which human needs are served. It’s not something that we will ever turn to one day and say – ah, we did it, world peace. Peace is this process that has to be worked toward all the time.

#### How can Rotarians best work toward peace?

I think the work you do in trying to improve individual lives and strengthen the institutions of civil society is a powerful weapon in the search for peace. ■

# HOW TO FIND THE NEXT ROTARY PEACE FELLOW

In their first decade, the Rotary Peace Centers educated more than 600 peace fellows who are now leaders in the international peace community. Usher in another successful decade by recruiting the next generation of fellows. Here’s how:

- (1) Educate your club.** Recruiting is an easy pitch, according to Barry Phillips, chair of the Rotary Peace Centers Host Area Coordinators Committee and past governor of District 7710 (North Carolina, USA). “It’s a great program, and it doesn’t cost your club one cent,” he says. For Phillips, recruitment starts at the club level. Tell Rotarians about the program to inspire them to seek applicants. “Put an existing fellow in front of an audience of Rotarians and let them hear and see what that person is about,” Phillips says.
- (2) Get the word out.** Send a press release about the program and its application deadline. Target local newspapers, universities, and community partners, such as nongovernmental organizations and international corporations. It’s an effective way to reach a large number of people with minimal effort.
- (3) Pitch to community partners.** Meet with members of local organizations involved in peace and conflict resolution, such as the Red Cross or Doctors Without Borders. Create a 30-second promotional pitch for friends, colleagues, and community members.
- (4) Use social media.** Post on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter to publicize the opportunity to apply for Rotary Peace Fellowships. You can re-post interesting photos and stories from the Rotary Peace Centers Facebook page.

**The deadline for districts to submit fellowship applications to The Rotary Foundation is 1 July.**

**For more information, contact [rotarypeacecenters@rotary.org](mailto:rotarypeacecenters@rotary.org).**

## Forums in Berlin, Honolulu, and Hiroshima renew Rotary's commitment to peace

**H**undreds of Rotarians, New Generations program participants, community leaders, and current and former Rotary Peace Fellows will gather in Hiroshima, Japan, this month to promote peace during the last of three Rotary Global Peace Forums.

The other forums were held in Honolulu and Berlin. At each event, attendees focused on a theme and adopted a declaration. In Berlin, they called for "Peace Without Borders." In Honolulu, they discussed building peace by protecting the environment, with an emphasis on encouraging young adults to be catalysts for peace. In Hiroshima, participants will explore every individual's power to promote peace.

In Berlin, RI General Secretary John Hewko explained how Rotary's humanitarian service, even when it is not explicitly labeled as peace-building, creates communities and societies that are calmer, more prosperous, and less violent.

"By helping to build a healthier, more literate society, you are doing the single most effective thing you can do to establish peace in the long term," Hewko said.

In Honolulu, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, a leader of Myanmar's democracy movement, was honored with the Hawaii Peace Award for her longstanding pursuit of democracy through peaceful means.

After spending the majority of two decades under house arrest, Suu Kyi was released in 2010 and last year was elected to Myanmar's parliament as a member of the pro-democracy opposition party. During her keynote address at the peace forum, she emphasized that democratic institutions and practices are necessary to guarantee human rights.

Myanmar has "many ethnic nationalities, and faith in its future can be founded only on a true spirit of union," she said. "We want the kind of change that will enable all ethnic communities of the country to feel, to know, to be confident that our nation is their true sanctuary, their home is their sanctuary."

"As a member of the first generation to grow up in Japan after World War II, I understand the importance of peace and its connection to our well-being," RI President Sakuji Tanaka said in Berlin. "Every day, in 34,000 clubs around the world, we are working together for a more peaceful world by bringing water, health, literacy, and hope to the people who need them most."

# PEACE PROJECTS AROUND THE WORLD

## UNITED KINGDOM

**5**

This month, the Rotary Club of Londonderry will host a peace forum to promote peace in Northern Ireland and other areas affected by conflict. In December, street protests erupted after the Belfast City Council voted to stop flying the British Union Jack flag year-round. Up to 750 people, including RI President Sakuji Tanaka, international peace activists, political and business leaders, and academics from around the world, are expected to attend the forum.

## ITALY

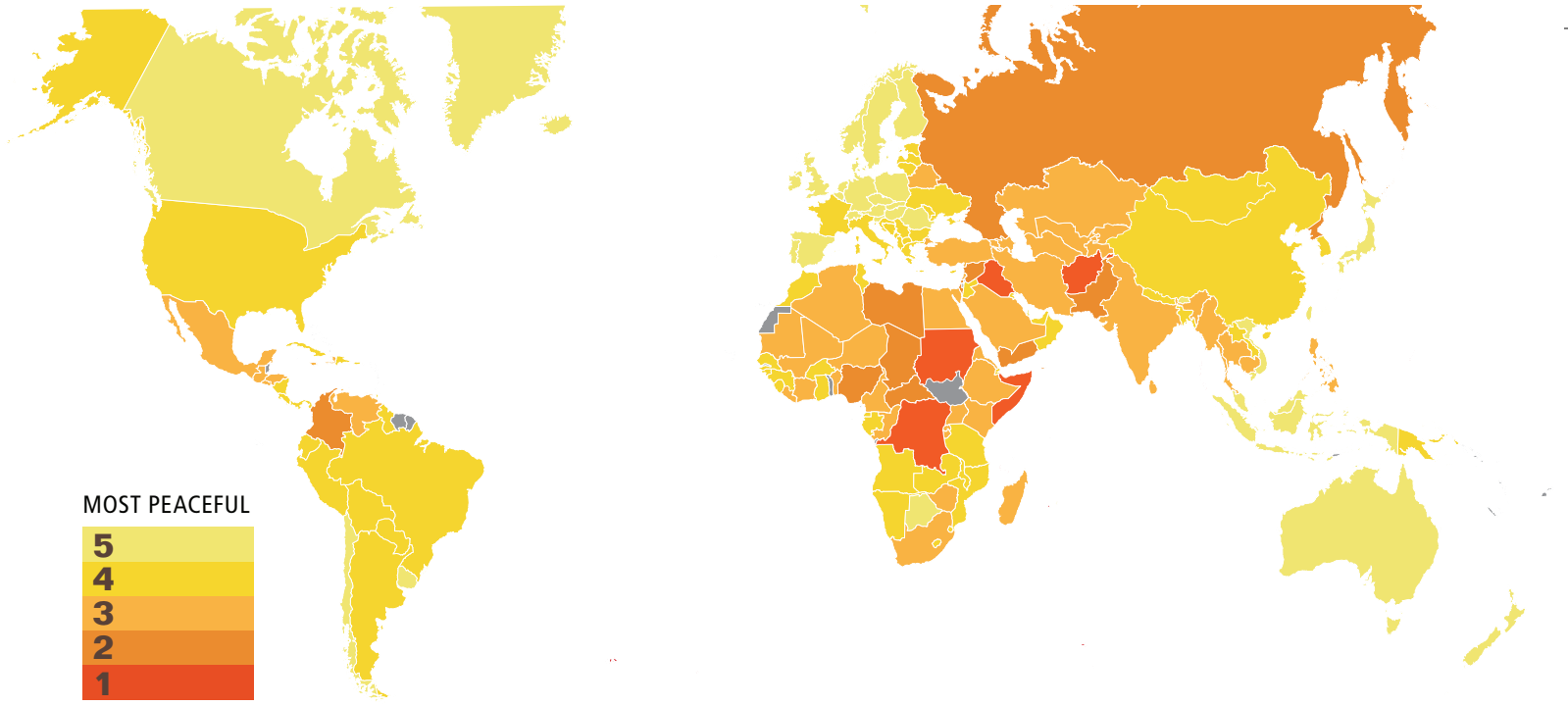
**4**

To open a discussion with teens about peace, several Genova Rotary clubs and the *Good News Agency*, an e-magazine associated with the United Nations Department of Public Information, organized a peace-themed contest for high school students. Entrants submitted an essay, poem, story, drawing, or photo that focused on either the UN Millennium Development Goal to eradicate poverty or the goal to achieve universal primary education. Local Rotarians picked the winners and published their work on the District 2032 website ([www.rotary2032.it](http://www.rotary2032.it)); the *Good News Agency* site posted the winning entries in February. The winners will also receive awards in June.

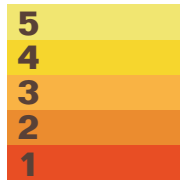
## AUSTRALIA

**5**

In September, the Rotary Club of Wagga Wagga Koorringal hosted a three-day international "peace communities" conference. Topics ranged from the causes and



MOST PEACEFUL



LEAST PEACEFUL

NO DATA

## Global Peace Index (GPI)

SOURCE: INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMICS AND PEACE, DATA AS OF DECEMBER 2012

resolution of global conflict, to local peace-building, to finding inner peace. In the early 1990s, the club introduced the idea of peace communities – cities or towns committed to promoting goodwill and understanding. The club named Wagga Wagga the first peace community and asked clubs around the world to declare peace communities in their own regions. Today, there are more than 50 around the world.

### UGANDA

**3** One-third of the population in Uganda lacks access to safe drinking water, leading to widespread illness and death. Children often must fetch water from faraway wells, a task that can interfere with attending school. In February, clubs in northern Uganda, led by the Rotary clubs of Lira and Kampala South, held a conference titled “Promoting Peace Through Access to Clean Water for Health, Sanitation, Hygiene, and Development” to explore the relationship between health and peace. The event drew many leaders, including the state minister for housing of Uganda.

### USA

**4** The Rotaract Club of Portland hosted a symposium in February to explore the role of women in the peacemaking process. Barbara Roberts, the only woman to have served as governor of Oregon, gave the keynote address, and Rotarians, nonprofit executives, and female leaders in business, politics, health care, and education rounded out the roster of speakers. The event took place on the

Portland State University campus and included a panel discussion with teens from a local high school.

### CANADA

**5** To honor the theme of *Peace Through Service*, the Rotary Club of Pemberton, B.C., began a yearlong series of events in July. It held a banner contest for community members, who submitted eight 2- by 3-foot banners related to peace. The banners have been adorning street posts since November and will remain there for a year; the winner received a cash prize. The club also started a “letters of friendship” project at several elementary schools, encouraging students to write postcards to children in an African orphanage. In another effort, it sponsored a celebration where local artists and residents painted a peace-themed mural, which was installed at a community center. Club members are also working with local schools on an anti-bullying speaker series.

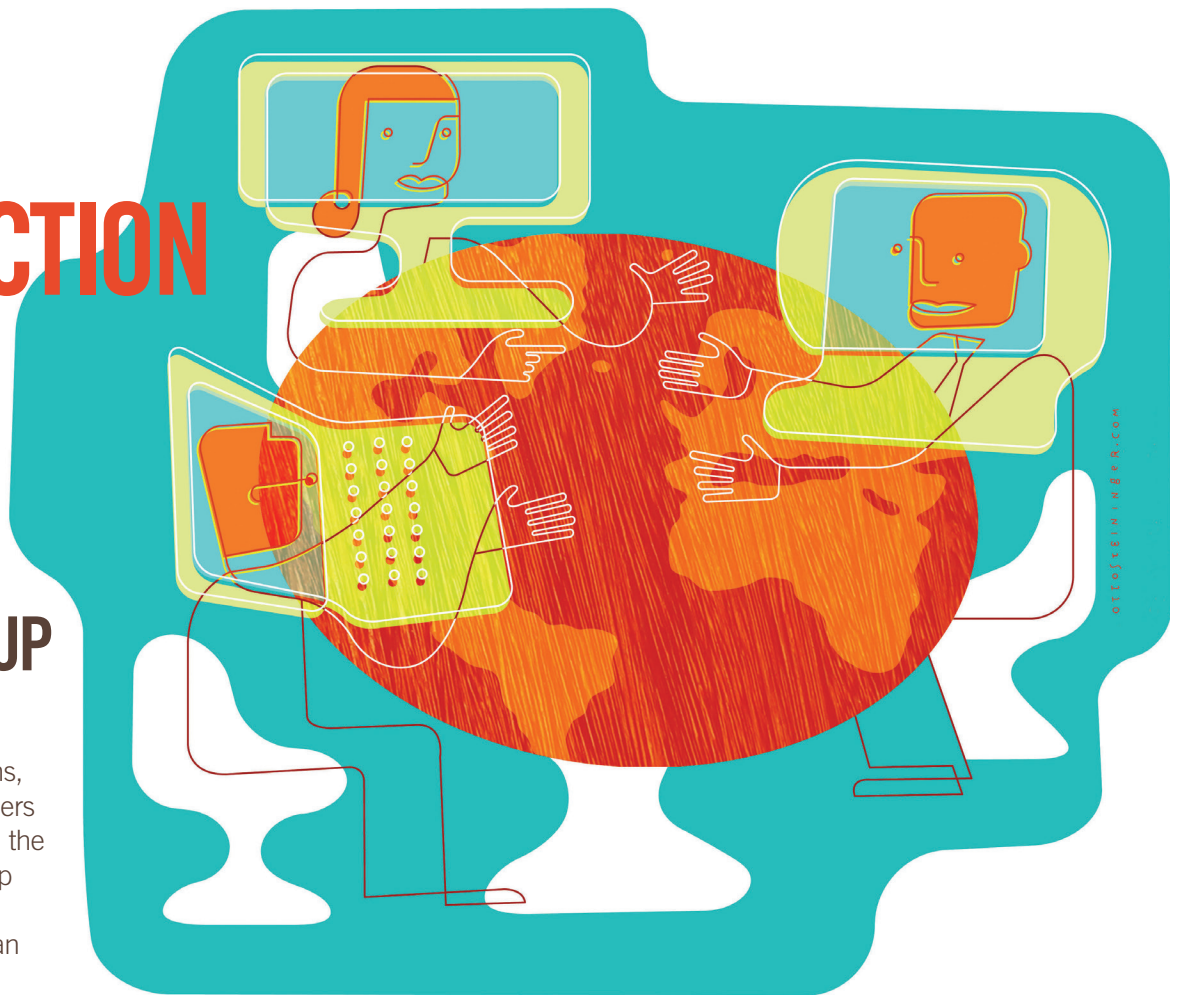
### ISRAEL

**2** The Rotary Club of Jerusalem sponsored Rajaa Natour as a Rotary Peace Fellow. Today, she promotes peace as a program manager for the Gemini Project, part of the Sadaka-Reut Arab Jewish Youth Partnership in Jaffa. Natour holds seminars and workshops where she regularly brings together groups of Jewish and Palestinian youth and university students. The students discuss the complexities of the Jewish-Arab conflict, challenge participants to understand their preconceptions, and aim to build trust and partnerships.

# TAKE ACTION

## JOIN THE ROTARIAN ACTION GROUP FOR PEACE

**C**onnect with Rotarians, Rotaractors, and others to advance peace through the new Rotarian Action Group for Peace. Learn more at [www.facebook.com/rotarianactiongroupforpeace](http://www.facebook.com/rotarianactiongroupforpeace).



## APPLY FOR A GLOBAL GRANT

**F**und a peace-related project in the new Rotary year with a Rotary Foundation Global Grant. Global grants support large international activities with sustainable, measurable outcomes in one or more of the six areas of focus. Here are some examples of projects that would fall under the peace and conflict prevention/resolution area:

**1** Assist vulnerable populations affected by conflict, particularly children and youth

**2** Support studies related to peace and conflict resolution

**3** Strengthen local peace efforts to build stable communities

**4** Promote long-term peace-building in areas affected by conflict

**5** Train local leaders to prevent and mediate conflict

Global grants do not fund peace fellows; the Rotary Peace Centers are supported separately. Learn more about the Rotary Peace Centers at [www.rotary.org/rotarycenters](http://www.rotary.org/rotarycenters).

LEARN MORE AT [WWW.ROTARY.ORG/GRANTS](http://WWW.ROTARY.ORG/GRANTS)