ROTARY

May 2021

The science of laughter
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Rotary's hidden influence
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THINKING BIG

Rotary's new multimillion-dollar grants are here

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Rotary

"While global grants and district grants have been very successful, we want to give opportunities for projects with even more impact."

— Sangkoo Yun
Rotary Foundation trustee and Programs of Scale selection committee member

Gwen Keraval

Raising voices

THOUGH SHE COMES FROM a long line of Scottish farmers, Kate Mentink has called Mallorca home for nearly 40 years. Mentink, a member of the Rotary Club of Calvià International, has long been an advocate for members of the international community living and working in Spain, including on Mallorca and the other islands of the Balearic chain.

Mentink served two terms on the city council of Calvià from 2003 to 2011, negotiating oversight of tourism and issues affecting expatriates in a town where about a third of the population is from outside Spain.

One inspiration for her work, Mentink says, was her mentor, a man named Eric Lomax. "Such a positive influence in my life led me to have a similar mentor relationship with younger people," including the international school students who participate in debates run by her Rotary club. One graduate of the program addressed the United Nations after winning an international public speaking competition, and now he hopes to pursue a career in diplomacy or European politics, Mentink says. "We talk nearly every week."

— VANESSA GLAVINSKAS

Read about the interscholastic debates sponsored by the Rotary Club of Calvià International on page 21.

Slovenia
The Rotary Club of Ljubljana and District 1912 (North Macedonia and Slovenia) staged a St. Nicholas Day virtual concert on 5 December. The event, which was shown during a prime-time broadcast on national public television, consisted of highlights from the 27 previous annual concerts. Rotarians, Rotaractors, and their friends helped staff a phone bank to accept contributions. Most of the proceeds — which totaled more than $80,000, including funds raised via text messages starting in November — are being directed this year to helping 46 schools across the country acquire computers and other equipment for distance learning; a portion of the money also went to the pediatric clinic at the University of Ljubljana Medical Center.

Rotary Club of Ljubljana

20 MILLION+

CHILDREN IN EUROPE AT RISK OF POVERTY

Spain
For five years, the Rotary Club of Calvià International has sponsored a series of debates for students ages 14 to 16. Adapting to the COVID-19 crisis, participants in the 2020-21 series — teams of three from six international secondary schools — logged on to Zoom for the contests, conducted in English, which ran from October to January. They squared off on timely themes, taking sides on topics such as "space exploration is a waste of resources" and "the principle of free speech is being compromised in the digital age."

A team of 20 volunteers, most of them club members, was required for the debates, which were posted on YouTube. "The standard is extremely high, and it is a real challenge to the jury to pick the winners," says club member Kate Mentink.

Rotary Club of Calvià International

Cook Islands
On coronavirus-free Rarotonga, the largest of the Cook Islands, the Rotaract Club of Rarotonga rolled out its signature Christmas in the Market, a four-hour festival of cultural artistry, food stalls, and fireworks. The playbill for the 16 December event included dancers swaying to the regional style called *ura*; string bands; singers of Maori songs known as *waiata*; and popular contemporary music with choreography by members of the local Filipino community. About 2,000 people attended, and the $5,700 in proceeds is being channeled toward projects, particularly on the less populated Pa Enua, or outer islands.

Rotaract Club of Rarotonga

171,000

TOURISTS WHO VISITED THE COOK ISLANDS, POP. 18,000, IN 2019