

Rotary
E-Club of World Peace



PEACE *in* ACTION

INAUGURAL ISSUE • OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2026

Voices • Ideas • Projects • Possibilities

Peace Starts Here

Every voice matters. Every action counts.

When
Children Sing,
Will the World
Listen?

*The
Sound
of Peace*

MUSIC. PEOPLE.
A BRIGHTER
TOMORROW.

Host an
Intergenerational
Peace
Conversation

REAL PEOPLE.
REAL STORIES.
A BRIGHTER
TOMORROW.

Ari:

Five Years Old.
500 Kidderactors.
One Extraordinary
Idea.

Our
Members
in Action

LOCAL INITIATIVES.
GLOBAL IMPACT.

A kinder,
more peaceful
tomorrow



President's Message

Welcome to the Rotary E-club of World Peace. As the president of this club I have the privilege of harnessing the aspirations of more than 70 enthusiastic and experienced peace builders. The members of this club represent 10 different countries and 26 different states here in the U.S. which gives us a rich environment to learn and build on diverse approaches to advancing peace.



Dr. Raymond Shields

I consider them to be my brothers and sisters in the cause for global peace, that starts from within. For me, this club is the equivalent of attending a graduate course on peace and conflict resolution, every week. You can be certain that I am an attentive and anxious student. We have hosted incredible speakers from Holocaust survivors to NASA astronauts, with an emphasis on how we can and must work together towards peace. Our club also includes two members who are Rotary Peace Fellow alumni who continue to use their graduate level work in promoting peace and conflict resolution throughout the world. This year our club celebrates its 10th anniversary which started after completion of the Rotary World Peace Conference in Southern California in 2016. This conference was so well attended with incredible speakers and guests that even actress Sharon Stone couldn't resist the opportunity.

Our club is currently actively involved in youth programs to encourage future peace builders through community building via conflict resolution training and collaborative scientific projects, such as building robots for fun team building but also using 3-D printing to fashion prosthetic limbs for amputees in impoverished areas. We have also embarked on creating an e-book of peace, as a resource for peace and conflict resolution in our communities and on a global scale. More recently, we have taken on a project of promoting peace with children in their schools through music (the ultimate vehicle of peace) and conflict resolution training programs.

For me, peace building is a natural extension of the work that I do as a physician. Having traveled to many parts of the world and participating in and organizing mission projects in Ghana, Honduras, Jamaica, and Haiti, for example, it has been an incredible learning experience for me to absorb and experience other cultures to expand on a sense of duty to the world. That is, a duty to be a global citizen where-in what I do here in the upper mid-western U.S. even has an impact on Sub-Saharan Africa, for example. To quote our current Rotary International President, Yinka Babalola, Peace does not happen by accident. It must be pursued deliberately, built strategically, and woven intentionally into everything that we do.

My friends and colleagues for peace, everytime I look up into the night sky, I'm reminded of how blessed we are on this single planet in the vastness of space with no comparison of spherical objects orbiting one of the septillion (1 followed by 24 zeros or 10 to the 24th power) stars in the universe, to be here together, connecting with each other, to build the future of peace.

Yours Truly

Raymond C. Shields, MD

Table Of Contents



03 President's Message

The article serves as a blueprint for business leaders seeking to build resilient organizations capable of thriving in dynamic environments.

05 From Voices of Peace to Peace In Action

The article concludes with a forward-looking analysis of AI's potential to drive innovation and shape the future of retail.

06 Larry Sagen interview: The power of a children's anthem to inspire a movement

How one man's childhood experiences inspired a lifelong commitment to recognizing the extraordinary potential in ordinary young people.

08 Tami Briggs: Music, healing and collective peacebuilding

From hospital rooms to a global vision of peace, therapeutic harpist Tami Briggs shares how music can touch hearts, inspire healing, and bring people together.

10 Youth Peacebuilder Spotlight - Ari's Story

Discover how a five-year-old's excitement over her first pair of shoes inspired more than 500 elementary age kids to embrace kindness and service. A heartfelt story reminding us that peacebuilding has no age requirement.

12 Peace Project Playbook Generations for Peace

A hands-on, intergenerational workshop bringing children, teens, and adults together to share perspectives, discover common ground, and create a peace project they can put into action.

13 When World Peace Happened In A Room

Tami Briggs shares an unforgettable moment in Slovenia when breaking down cultural stereotypes transformed a room of strangers into a powerful example of peace in action.

16 Our Members in Action

Meet the peacebuilders within our club and discover the inspiring projects, personal journeys, and acts of service behind their work. Get to know the members whose stories we'll explore in greater depth in upcoming issues of PEACE in ACTION.

17 Discover Your Piece of Peace

Discover how small acts of kindness can create lasting change, then turn the page to reflect, write your own peace story, and commit to one action that makes a difference.

19 The Digital Power of Women

What happens when women who cannot get to the table create a new table without borders? Shenali Rajaratnam is using technology to connect voices and turn digital relationships into real change.

Articles in these pages have been developed by club members, partners, local experts, and artificial intelligence as a resource for Peacebuilders. It is our hope that you gain insight into Club happenings, but also find ways to engage and expand your own peace initiatives.

Editor Notes

Welcome to the first edition of Voices of Peace, the new quarterly eMagazine of the Rotary E-Club of World Peace.

We created Voices of Peace from a simple conviction: peace is not merely the absence of conflict. Peace is something we can learn, practice, nurture and build—together.

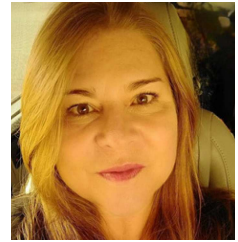
For more than a century, Rotary has demonstrated the extraordinary power of people coming together in fellowship and service to make a difference in their communities and around the world.

Through Rotary's Seven Areas of Focus, Rotarians are addressing some of humanity's most important challenges—from promoting peace and preventing conflict to supporting education, protecting the environment, improving health, strengthening communities, and creating opportunities for people to thrive. Each is a pathway to peace.

At the heart of this work is a timeless question: Is it fair and beneficial to all concerned? Rotary's Four-Way Test offers a remarkably simple compass for living and serving. It invites us to ask whether what we think, say and do is truthful, fair, beneficial, and conducive to goodwill and better friendships.

This is peacebuilding in everyday life.

Voices of Peace will explore the many ways Rotarians and our partners are putting these principles into action. We will share stories from our own communities and from around the world—stories of



Co -Editors David Wick and Luanne Arredondo

compassion, courage, innovation, fellowship and service. We will highlight the contributions of young people, women and girls, whose leadership, creativity and vision are essential to building a peaceful and sustainable future.

In this issue we explore something deeper: peace begins within each of us. The trusted relationships we create—with a neighbor, a child, a colleague, a community, or someone from another culture—are the living fabric of peace. As we grow in awareness of our shared humanity and our fundamental interconnectedness, the circle of compassion expands. Local service becomes global service, and global peace becomes something personal.

This is why fellowship matters. It is why friendship matters. It is why listening matters. And it is why Rotary has such extraordinary potential as a worldwide network of people who can turn caring into action.

Our hope is that Voices of Peace will inform, inspire and lead to action. Not action because we are told we must do something, but action because we discover that contributing to a more peaceful world is meaningful, fulfilling—and joyful.

May these pages give voice to the peace that is already emerging—and inspire all of us to help it grow.

With gratitude, fellowship and hope.

David and Luanne

From Voices of Peace to PEACE in ACTION

Different voices. One shared future.



What began with a simple question—“What does peace mean to you?”—has grown into an invitation to turn reflection into action. The Voices of Peace project set out to collect the insights, experiences and ideas of people committed to building a more peaceful world. As members shared their perspectives, one thing became clear: peace has many meanings, and there are many ways to help create it.

The 2026 Peace Begins With Me survey drew 23 participants. Their reflections extended beyond the absence of war to include inner calm, dignity, justice, safety, belonging, understanding and service. Some described finding peace in nature or meditation. Others spoke about families, classrooms, relationships across cultures and communities where everyone has a voice. Their contributions showed us that peace is both deeply personal and something we build together.

That discovery inspired an evolution. Our original vision was to gather these voices in an eBook. But as the stories and practical ideas accumulated, we saw an opportunity

to create something ongoing: a publication that would preserve those perspectives while helping readers recognize and practice peace in everyday life.

What we heard—and what comes next

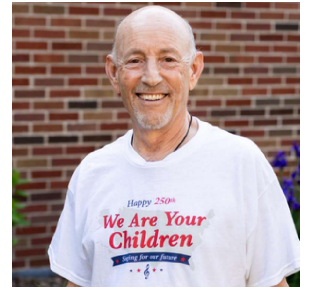
- Peace begins within. Many respondents connected peace with calm, resilience and the ability to respond thoughtfully when life becomes difficult.
- Peace depends on how we treat one another. Respect, compassion, listening, inclusion and a sense of belonging appeared across the responses.
- Peace also needs fair conditions. Contributors described dignity, justice, safety and access to basic needs as essential to peaceful communities.
- Peace is something we practice. From resolving a disagreement to serving a neighbor, small actions can build trust and open the door to larger projects.

Voices of Peace gave us the reflections. PEACE in ACTION creates a place to carry them forward. The next chapter belongs to everyone willing to begin.



WHEN CHILDREN SING, WILL THE WORLD LISTEN?

An inspiring interview with Larry Sagen, creator of We Are Your Children, explores his vision of uniting 250 youth choirs and transforming one powerful song into a global movement for peace, youth empowerment, and lasting change.



Imagine children's choirs across the world raising their voices in harmony. Different languages, cultures and backgrounds, yet united by a shared hope for a peaceful future. What if one song could inspire a movement?

That is the vision behind *We Are Your Children*, a global children's and youth anthem created by Larry Sagen, with music composed and arranged by Jason Hansen. Inspired by America's 250th anniversary, the song asks us to listen to the children who will inherit the world we are creating.

Every Child Deserves to Be Seen

Growing up with dyslexia in a small mining town in northern Minnesota, Larry understood what it felt like to be different. That experience helped shape his lifelong commitment to recognizing young people for their character, compassion and contributions.

In 1990, he founded the International Youth Hall of Fame, celebrating everyday young people whose leadership and service were making a difference. By 2002, the program had honored more than 3,500 young people before Larry transferred it to the Thousand Points of Light Foundation.

A Song Born from Reflection

As America's 250th anniversary approached, Larry reflected on the country's future and the generations who would inherit it.

Inspired through meditation, he developed the vision for an anthem that would give children a collective voice. Composer and arranger Jason Hansen brought the music to life, creating a song intended to resonate far beyond a single performance.

Larry's sister, a nationally recognized choral director, introduced the project to colleagues at a national music conference. Through partnerships and connections with Rotary, Pathways to Peace, Peace Aid and others, the initiative began gaining momentum.

Its goal is to engage at least 250 choirs by September 21, 2027—International Day of Peace. Already, 31 American choirs and one choir in Marseille, France, have signed up with performance dates. And this is only the beginning.

From One Song to a Movement

In 1985, *We Are the World* demonstrated how music could unite people around a humanitarian cause. ***We Are Your Children* offers another possibility: a movement in which children themselves carry the message.**

Larry imagines young voices in harmony creating something greater than music alone—a shared experience of peace that audiences can feel.

His dream includes children from different countries and backgrounds singing together, perhaps someday even an Israeli-Palestinian children's choir.



Rather than relying on famous performers, Larry wants the movement to grow through local communities, schools, youth organizations and the children themselves.

And he is determined that money will not prevent a choir from participating. All musical arrangements, rehearsal tracks and composer's notes are provided free of charge to participating children's and youth choirs. The initiative is about purpose, not profit.

Participating choirs simply register, download their materials, perform the anthem as the finale of a concert, record their performance and share the video on social media with a link to the project website.

Imagine hundreds of communities hearing children's voices carrying the same message of hope.

When the Music Stops, the Work Begins

The opportunity for Rotary is both meaningful and achievable.

Larry envisions Rotary clubs partnering with local children's and youth choirs, introducing them to *We Are Your Children* and supporting their participation. Clubs might even adopt a choir and provide an honorarium to support its musical programs. Interact and Rotaract clubs can help connect participating choirs with their schools and communities, amplifying the anthem's message through their own youth networks.

And when audiences gather to hear the song, they have an opportunity to consider what children are asking of them.



One young choir member expressed the movement's purpose beautifully: **"We may not have the vote, but we have a voice."**

Before we were divided by politics, culture, race or religion, we were all children. That's humanity's common link. Perhaps the greatest gift we can give the next generation is not simply the promise of a more peaceful world, but the opportunity to work with our children, listen to their concerns and dreams, and create the future together.

The frequency of children's voices in harmony may be peace in action. What happens next is up to all of us.

Help Bring Their Voices to Your Community

One club. One local choir. One extraordinary opportunity. Larry is inviting Rotary, Interact and Rotaract clubs to help bring *We Are Your Children* to concert stages around the world.

- Listen to the anthem. Share it with your club and consider how it aligns with your youth and peacebuilding initiatives.
- Connect with a local choir. Reach out to a school, community or faith-based children's or youth choir and introduce its director to the project.
- Invite them to participate. Encourage the choir to register online, download the free materials and perform the song as the finale of an upcoming concert.
- Support and amplify their voices. Consider adopting a choir or offering an honorarium. Help record and share its performance on social media, linking back to the project website.

250 Choirs by International Day of Peace 2027

All performance materials are free. Help make sure every child has an opportunity to be heard.

Listen, Register, or Get Involved
<https://www.weareyourchildren.us/>



THE SOUND OF PEACE: ONE HARP, ONE HEART, ONE WORLD

A Dream That Began in Switzerland

In 1982, a young woman named Tami Briggs traveled to Switzerland, where she lived and worked with six host families. Though they didn't always share a common language, she discovered that working side by side, sharing experiences, and connecting heart to heart could transcend cultural differences.

The experience planted a dream that would shape the rest of her life.

When her father asked what she wanted to do with her future, Tami answered simply: she wanted to work for world peace.

She couldn't have imagined then that her path toward that dream would eventually lead her to a harp.

Nearly a decade later, at age 30, Tami found herself at a crossroads. She had lost her corporate job during a major acquisition, and a personal relationship had ended. Searching for a way forward, she began learning to play the harp in 1989.

The instrument brought her something she desperately needed: comfort, tranquility, and an opportunity to heal emotionally.

As she experienced the music's restorative effect in her own life, a new possibility emerged. If playing the harp could bring her such peace, perhaps sharing its music could help others experience moments of comfort, too.



Where Healing Meets Peace

Tami pursued professional training in therapeutic harp music, studying with the founder of the International Harp Therapy Program. From 1996 until the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted her clinical work in 2020, she spent approximately 25 years bringing harp music into hospitals, hospices, and nursing homes.

Her experiences revealed how much a gentle musical presence could mean to people facing illness, uncertainty, and the final stages of life.

Patients frequently told her they felt deeply relaxed. Some hadn't realized how much stress they were carrying until they experienced a few moments of peaceful music.

For Tami, one of the most meaningful responses was when a patient fell asleep. In a hospital environment, where alarms, interruptions, anxiety, and discomfort can make rest difficult, sleep was a welcome outcome.

Her work also touched families, caregivers, and medical staff, extending moments of tranquility beyond the patient receiving care. Tami joins 8,000+ harpists worldwide who are "rippling out" transformative healing harp vibrations in the healthcare setting, a contribution to both individual and collective healing and peace. Over time, these experiences helped shape Tami's philosophy:

"If healing is on one side, and peace is on another, the harp is the bridge between healing and peace."

~ Tami Briggs September 2026

Her message is not that music eliminates life's challenges. Rather, it offers an opportunity to pause, reconnect with ourselves, and find moments of calm amid difficult circumstances.

And those moments can influence the way we engage with the people around us.

From One Harp to a World of Peace

When the pandemic closed hospital doors in 2020, Tami, like so many of us, suddenly found herself separated from the people and work she loved. But in a world filled with fear and isolation, she recognized that the need for comfort and connection was greater than ever.

She founded Healing Harps for Global Peace and Unity, bringing together approximately 50 harpists to share the gift of music and a common hope for peace.

Today, that vision continues through her Rotary-sponsored monthly Peace Meditations. Whether you are a Rotarian or not, you are invited to join us! Using the harp to elevate and amplify our intention of world peace, these meditations are a powerful, growing community of peacebuilders who hold high vibrations of light, peace and love. For more Peace Meditation information, contact Tami at: <https://musicalreflections.com/contact-us/>.

Tami's newest offering is an e-book titled, "Imagine Peace Today: 111 Haiku Poems of Peace." You can find the book by visiting <https://musicalreflections.com/books/#ImaginePeaceToday>. Inspired by her connections in the world peace movement, this e-book combines poetry, art and music, including short musical Peace Posts designed to be shared with others. Let's make Peace Go Viral!

Her message is beautifully simple: We don't have to wait for the world to become peaceful. We can create moments of peace wherever we are—and share them with those who need them most. When we feel peaceful, we ripple that out into the Unified Field and when enough of us are in that high vibrational, peaceful place,

this becomes the world's reality – this is a vibrational healing of peace. Collectively, let's hold this vision.

Five Minutes That Could Change Your Day

Sometimes, the smallest pause can make the biggest difference to help us feel inner peace—one of our deepest longings and is much needed in our busy work.

Tami believes even five minutes of peaceful music can either help us begin our day with focus or release the day's tension, as we reconnect with ourselves and approach others with greater patience, love and compassion. Those few minutes may seem small, but their effects can ripple through our families, workplaces and communities.

Tami's invitation is simple: give yourself five minutes of peace (and you may find you enjoy this time so much, you choose to expand into more time). You may also be surprised by what shows up to you.

Take Five. Find Your Peace.

A Simple Invitation Inspired by Tami Briggs

You give so much of yourself to others. Now, give yourself five minutes to simply be and move into your inner peace.

1. Settle into a comfortable position.
2. Turn on music that helps you relax, find solace, connect to your inner being. (If you need music suggestions, both "The Healing Journey" and "Blessings to You" are Tami's own harp compositions and were created for meditation.)
3. Next, place your hands on your heart. Take your pulse – how are you doing? Every answer is perfect!
4. Gently close your eyes if you wish. Breathe love into your heart; breathe out peace. Do this mindfully three times, breathing slower and deeper with each breath. If your mind wanders, that's normal and simply reconnect to your breath and the music.
5. Notice how you feel after five minutes. Has anything shifted? There's no right way to experience peace.
6. Carry it forward. Take this feeling into your next conversation, act of kindness or moment with a stranger or someone you love.

Listen. Breathe. Share the Peace.

Explore Tami's music, Peace Posts and monthly meditations.

<https://MusicalReflections.com/>



YOUTH PEACEBUILDER SPOTLIGHT - ARI'S STORY

By Luanne Arredondo

Ari, wearing a red dress and gray pants, is pictured to my right (left side of the photo) with our TK and Kindergarten Kidderact inductees.

Sometimes peace begins with something as simple as a pair of shoes.

My Rotary Moment began at what seemed like an ordinary Shoes and Socks event 7 years ago. I was responsible for entertaining children from preschool through fifth grade while they waited to receive new shoes, socks, and a holiday gift from Santa.

These children came from some of the district's most economically disadvantaged families. Some wore shoes with cardboard tucked inside to cover the holes. Others wore shoes that were too small because they had nothing else.

As I made my way down the line, giving high-fives and playing with the children, I met a five-year-old girl named Ari.

She stood trembling with excitement, her little arms clenched tightly against her body.

"I'm just sooooo excited!" she exclaimed. She was about to receive her first pair of shoes that were truly hers.

I bent down, clenched my arms, and started shaking right along with her. "ME TOO!"

When I asked how old she was, she proudly announced that she was five. "Wow! You're almost an adult! Mama Lu is 53."

Her eyes grew enormous. "WOAH! And you're STILL ALIVE?" "Yes! Can you believe it?" She shook her head nodding "no".

For the rest of the morning, Ari was terribly concerned about my advanced age. She repeatedly asked whether I needed to sit down or wanted some water.

Here was a little girl receiving something she desperately needed, yet she was already thinking about someone else. I didn't realize it then, but I had just met an extraordinary young peacebuilder.

**"If we are to reach real peace in this world
... we shall have to begin with children."**

— Mahatma Gandhi
Excerpt from *Young India*, November 19, 1931.

A QUARTER, A PICKLE, LEMONADE, AND A PROMISE



Once Ari received her shoes, socks, and gift from Santa, she tugged on my shirt. "I want to be a member" she said.

I asked her to raise her right hand and repeat the Rotary Four-Way Test. When she finished, I solemnly announced, "By the power vested in me, I hereby declare you a Rotarian!" I placed a Rotary sticker on her sweater, and that was that. Or so I thought.



A few weeks later, her school principal called requesting more Rotary stickers. Ari had started inducting her classmates! She was selling pickles and lemonade for a quarter, but there was a twist. Any child who agreed to join Kidderact and pledge to be a good citizen, focus on their studies, and help others received their pickle and lemonade for free. The choice was theirs. And hundreds of children chose service.



A few weeks later came another call. Ari wanted pins that wouldn't fall off in the washing machine. Her new members needed something more permanent!

With the help of then-District 5300 Governor John Chase, I secured 600 pins and coordinated a mass induction at the school. Our Area Assistant Governor and I, as District Governor Elect inducted the children class by class, presenting each with a membership certificate, a pin, and recognition for their commitment to service.



Ari had transformed one moment of generosity into a schoolwide movement of kindness and service. A space where hundreds of kids chose **service above self**.

Small Change. A Global Impact.

Ari's initiative raised \$500 toward polio eradication which was matched, earning her a Paul Harris Fellow. But for me, Ari's greatest accomplishment wasn't the fundraising or even the number of children inducted. It was the realization that ***peace is something we can practice long before we fully understand the word.***

Peace was present when volunteers helped children receive shoes they desperately needed. It was present when Ari showed concern for my well-being. And it grew when she invited hundreds of classmates to help one another and be part of something bigger than themselves.

Today, Ari is 12 years old and living in Arizona. I like to imagine she's still organizing children, creating service projects, and inspiring people wherever she goes. She taught me **Peace doesn't have an age requirement. It begins the moment we recognize another person's needs and decide to do something about them.**

And if you're not sure where to begin, perhaps all you need is a quarter, some lemonade, a few pickles, and an empowered five-year-old with an enormous heart. After all, that's how 500 young peacebuilders got their start!

Peace Project Playbook: Generations for Peace

Every Generation. Every Voice. One Shared Future.



What happens when children, teenagers, parents and grandparents, community members, and peacebuilders come together to imagine a more peaceful world?

We often talk about building a more peaceful world for future generations. But how often do we invite those generations to help us decide what that world should look like?

What if we started with a conversation? Different perspectives. Different experiences. A shared desire for peace.

Now imagine expanding that conversation to include an eight-year-old who understands peace as having a friend to play with, a teenager who wants to feel accepted at school, a young adult seeking opportunity and an older adult who has spent decades navigating conflict and change.

What might they learn from one another? And what could they accomplish together?

Our inaugural Peace Project Playbook invites Rotary clubs, schools, families and community organizations to host an **Intergenerational Peace Conversation**.

Format: bring people of different ages together for a 2½-hour workshop that moves from individual reflection to collective action.

Participants begin in one room, establishing common ground and sharing their initial thoughts about peace. They then separate into age-group conversations, where elementary-age children, teenagers, young adults and older generations can speak openly about the experiences, challenges and aspirations that shape their understanding of peace.

For younger children, the conversation might involve drawing pictures and telling stories. Teenagers might explore belonging, bullying or the role of social media. Adults and seniors can reflect on the lessons they've learned and the world they hope to leave behind.

Then something important happens. Everyone comes back together, this time in mixed-generation groups. Children sit alongside seniors. Teenagers exchange ideas with parents and community leaders. Each group shares what it learned and explores a common question:

What can we do together, starting right here in our community, to create more peace?

The goal isn't to reach unanimous agreement about what peace means. It's to discover opportunities to practice it together. Every voice has something to contribute. Children bring curiosity, imagination and perspectives that adults sometimes overlook. Young people offer ideas shaped by the world they're inheriting. Older generations contribute experience, historical understanding and lessons learned.

The workshop concludes with each participant identifying their own piece of peace and groups developing achievable projects they can begin within 30 days.

Because the conversation is only the beginning. What happens afterward is where peace moves into action.

For a copy of the Intergenerational Peace Conversation guide visit us at: <https://rotaryclubofworldpeace.org/contact/>

When World Peace Happened In A Room

As told to PEACE in ACTION by Tami Briggs

Imagine entering a room filled with people from more than 20 countries, many carrying generations of mistrust, historical grievances and cultural stereotypes. Now imagine leaving that same room with a completely different understanding of the people around you.

That is what happened during a cross-cultural training workshop in Slovenia by club member Tami Briggs. The participants were sales representatives from more than 20 Eastern European countries, brought together by an international company for a day of team building. Although they worked for the same organization, their countries shared complicated histories, and some participants arrived with deeply held assumptions about one another.

The facilitator faced a challenge familiar to peacebuilders everywhere: How do you help people look beyond the differences that divide them and discover the humanity they share?

Breaking Down Barriers

During the workshop, participants engaged in an exercise designed to challenge stereotypes and encourage honest conversation. It pushed everyone beyond their comfort zones, inviting them to question assumptions and see one another as individuals rather than representatives of particular countries. As the day progressed, the atmosphere began to change. Participants started to understand one another's experiences and discover connections that had previously been obscured by historical divisions.

At the conclusion of the workshop, the group began developing action plans to take what they had learned back to their respective countries. Then something extraordinary happened. One of the Russian participants stood up, tears in his eyes, and addressed the group.

"After today, I will never think about these countries in the same way. For me, world peace happened today and I will never forget this experience."

*~ Russian workshop participant,
as recalled by Tami Briggs*

When he finished speaking, the entire group was in tears. Participants embraced one another, including the facilitator, who recalled that the experience remained deeply moving years later.

Peace Begins With Understanding

No international treaty was signed that day. No borders were redrawn, and no longstanding conflict was officially resolved. But something meaningful had changed. People who had entered the room carrying assumptions about one another left with a greater understanding of their shared humanity.

Their experience reminds us that peacebuilding doesn't always begin with changing the world. Sometimes it begins with changing how we see the person sitting across from us.

Look Beyond the Label

Invite someone whose background or experiences differ from your own to share their story. Listen without trying to correct, debate or compare their experience with yours. Ask yourself: *What did I learn about this person that I didn't know before?*

A conversation may not resolve every difference, but it can create the understanding from which peace can grow. This is Peace in Action.

A Moment of Peace

PEACE IS...
A MOSAIC OF VOICES

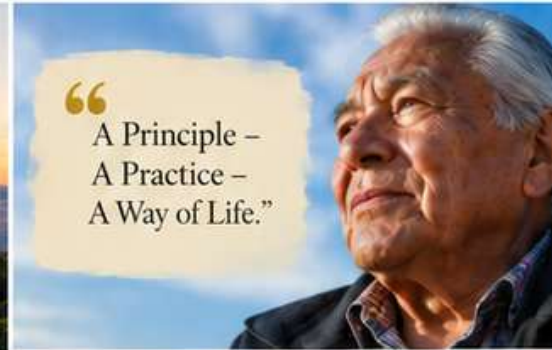
These reflections come from the 2026 Peace Begins With Me survey, which invited members and contributors to share what peace means to them in their own words. Their responses remind us that peace is not one idea, one feeling, or one destination. For some, peace begins within. For others, it is found in dignity, justice, belonging, compassion, and the chance for all people to thrive. Together, these voices form a mosaic of meaning—different in expression, yet united in hope.



“Calm, tranquility and often liberation from negative influences.”



“When all people thrive.”



“A Principle –
A Practice –
A Way of Life.”



“Peace is a state of dignity and respect by all for all.”



“Peace is love, compassion, fairness, justice, respect, and inner calm.”



“A sense of belonging.”



“That which illuminates, lightens, lifts, and soothes.”



“Flourishing for all living things.”



“Peace is a state in which I feel calm and resilient.”



“Peace is Social Justice for every human being in our world.”



“Peace is the resolution of conflict.”



“Peace is the ability to choose your own path while knowing and respecting that you are a part of a community.”



“It is simply respect.”



“Positive peace is where there is justice, forgiveness and kindness towards all.”



“It's the quiet you carry inside you even when the world is loud.”
“Peace grows slowly, quietly, and with care.”

Peace has many meanings.

EVERY VOICE HELPS US SEE IT MORE CLEARLY.



About the Rotary E-Club of World Peace

A global online Rotary club dedicated to building a culture of peace through connection, service, education, and action.

The Rotary E-Club of World Peace brings together members, partners, and peacebuilders from around the world who believe peace is something we can practice every day. Through meaningful dialogue, service projects, educational resources, and collaborative initiatives, the club creates opportunities to reflect, connect, and act.

What We Do



Foster peace-centered conversations and community building



Share practical projects, resources, and inspiration



Support youth engagement and intergenerational leadership



Connect local action with a global vision for peace

Join the Journey

Scan to learn more,
explore resources,
and get involved.



rotaryclubofworldpeace.org

Peace starts here—and grows through all of us.

Our Members In Action

Different Paths. Shared Purpose.

Peacebuilding takes many forms. Through service, compassion, education, and collaboration, members of the Rotary E-Club of World Peace are putting peace into action in meaningful ways. Here, we introduce three members whose work is making a difference—and whose stories we'll explore more deeply in our January issue, *Everyday Peace*.



Paul Vercammen stands in front of ShelterBox USA tents during training in rural Oregon. The five-time Emmy winner emphasized to trainees sleeping in those tents, peace comes through these sturdy shelters and the regained sense of safety found inside.

Paul Vercammen, ShelterBox Peace through humanitarian service

I message the world on how providing shelter to families who have lost everything, restores more than physical safety. Shelter offers dignity, hope, and peace. Getting an angry unsheltered teenager in a conflict zone into a warm, durable U.N. specified, ShelterBox tent, is peacebuilding 101. Temptation to pick up a rifle and fight wanes, when that teen stays with family in our shelter.

Barbara Ledger, Projects in Ukraine

One Teacher ~ One Rucksack ~ One Hundred Students ~ Healing Starts Here

When sirens sound, teachers and students pause and BREATHE. Resilience in a Rucksack brings learning, comfort, and care into the shelter. Reusable props foster interactive peace-building activities and new connections. Peace nurtures resilience, responsibility, purpose, and hope. The Understanding PEACE Project guides students to follow their inner compass, choosing calm reduces fear, and new possibilities emerge—even amid brutal war. For info www.goldenpathofpeace.org or email info@goldenpathofpeace.org



David Wick, Pathways to Peace Peace through education, dialogue and collaboration

Pathways To Peace is a United Nations Peace Messenger Organization and is currently launching the Invest in Peace: Humanity's Highest ROI campaign. This highlights the need and essence of a global mind change.

YOUR PIECE OF PEACE

One person. One choice. One action. A world of possibilities.



Imagine what could happen if every person committed to one small act of peace.

A child invites someone sitting alone to join a game. A neighbor checks on an elderly resident. Two people with opposing opinions decide to listen instead of argue. A community comes together to provide food, shelter, or encouragement to families experiencing difficult times.

Individually, these moments may seem small. Together, they have the power to transform lives and communities.

Throughout this inaugural issue of PEACE in ACTION, you've encountered people who are turning their belief in peace into meaningful action. Some are empowering children, others are connecting people through music, challenging stereotypes, or creating opportunities for dialogue and service.

Their stories remind us that peacebuilding is not reserved for world leaders, diplomats, or organizations. It belongs to every one of us.

Peace Begins Where You Are

Building peace doesn't necessarily require money, special training, or a grand plan. Sometimes it requires nothing more than noticing someone else's needs and deciding to respond.

Perhaps you have a talent you can share, a cause you care about, or an idea that could bring your community closer together. Your first step is simply changing how you respond when someone disagrees with you or is in need.

From Reflection to Action

Think about a moment when someone made you feel valued, respected, or included. What did that experience mean to you?

Now imagine creating that same feeling for someone else.

That's where your piece of peace begins. Over the next 30 days, we invite you to use these pages to reflect on what peace means to you, discover opportunities in your daily life, and commit to actions that can make a difference.

Your contribution doesn't have to be extraordinary. It simply has to begin.

And who knows? Your small act of kindness might inspire another person, who inspires another, until something remarkable begins to grow.

A more peaceful world isn't something we simply hope for. It's something we create together, one piece at a time.

My Piece of Peace

A PAGE FOR REFLECTION, INTENTION, AND ACTION

Take a few quiet moments for yourself. There are no right or wrong answers.
These are your thoughts, your hopes, and your opportunity to make a difference.

*"Peace begins
with each of us."*



1

When I think about peace, I imagine...

2

A moment when I experienced or witnessed peace was...

3

One person or community that could benefit from my kindness or support is...

My Commitment to Peace



One action I will take in the next 30 days:

The first step I will take:

I will begin on: _____

*"Small actions,
when multiplied
by many people,
can transform
our world."*



Share Your Piece of Peace

Have a reflection, story, photograph, or project you'd like to share?
We invite you to submit it for consideration in a future issue of
PEACE in ACTION.



SCAN TO SHARE
YOUR STORY

Submit your reflection, peace project,
or inspiration, and help encourage
others around the world.

One reflection. One action. One story.

YOUR PIECE OF PEACE MAY BE EXACTLY WHAT SOMEONE ELSE NEEDS TO BEGIN.





THE DIGITAL POWER OF WOMEN

Creating a table without borders—and making room for the voices that can change the world. Featuring Shenali Rajaratnam

Shenali Rajaratnam's understanding of women's empowerment did not begin at an international conference or in a boardroom. It began at home.

Her father raised her with a simple message: "You can do anything you set your mind to." He did not define her possibilities by gender. He saw her capabilities and encouraged her to believe there was little she could not pursue if she was willing to work for it. Her brother became another important source of support. Those experiences helped shape one of the principles that would later become central to Power Of Women: empowering women does not require excluding men

Power Of Women, an initiative of We Are The Hope Foundation, was created to increase women's participation in leadership and decision-making while building collaborative solutions across cultures and sectors. Its work draws on technology, media, education, storytelling and the creative arts to connect people.

Shenali believes men who value and support women can be among their greatest allies. That idea—progress through partnership—would eventually become part of a much larger vision. *le* and turn ideas into action. But the idea for Digital Power Of Women came from a very specific moment.

Shenali was looking at the leaders gathered for the G20 Summit in India when something stopped her. Among eighteen male leaders, she saw only two women. "It genuinely stunned me," she recalls. The question that followed was unavoidable: How can the world expect to find its best solutions

"If someone cannot get to the table, technology allows us to expand the table."



when the wisdom, experiences and potential of half of humanity are not adequately represented at the decision-making table?

Shenali understood that increasing representation was important—but she also recognized another problem.

Many women would never have access to the traditional tables where major decisions are made. International travel is expensive. Visas can be difficult. Family responsibilities can make participation impossible. Geography itself creates barriers. And invitations to influential spaces are limited.

So instead of waiting for existing structures to change, Shenali began asking a different question: What if we created a table without borders?

Technology made that possible.

The Digital Power Of Women Conference became a way to bring women, girls—and men committed to supporting their leadership—into a shared global conversation. The initiative uses digital gatherings, workshops, storytelling, music, networking and leadership conversations to expand access to spaces traditionally limited by geography or privilege. Its public mission emphasizes greater female participation in decision-making and digital inclusion.



Power of Boys and Girls Club Kisumu Kenya

For Shenali, however, technology is never the destination. It is simply the bridge.

When a Digital Connection Becomes a Real Future

One of the most powerful examples of Digital Power Of Women's impact did not happen during a conference. It happened afterward.

Following the first Digital Power Of Women gathering, Shenali and her team connected with a community in Kinoni, Uganda, where a Rotary club was being formed. That relationship eventually led to the creation of the first Power Of Girls Clubs.

What began on a screen quickly became something deeply personal. The girls were asked to record videos imagining their futures. Not what someone else expected them to become. Not



Global Society Institute Tarifa, Spain — at the Whitehouse

what circumstances suggested was possible. What they wanted their lives to become. And then the adults did something deceptively simple. They listened.

Over time, supporters were able to help three of those girls begin college. Two are now completing their second year of nursing school—young women who might otherwise never have had the opportunity to pursue higher education.

For Shenali, the story demonstrates what digital connection can become when it leads to relationships, mentorship and sustained action.

A global digital conference created a connection thousands of miles away. That relationship led to Power Of Girls Clubs. Girls were encouraged to imagine their futures. Supporters stepped forward. And dreams first spoken into a camera began becoming real lives.

The Next Generation of Leaders

Working with young women has also changed the language Shenali uses. Adults often describe young people as “the leaders of tomorrow.” She increasingly rejects that phrase. To Shenali, it can unintentionally tell young people to wait. She calls them instead: The New Generation of Leaders.

They already have opinions about education, technology, equality, climate, peace and the future they will inherit. The responsibility of established leaders is not simply to speak on their behalf, but to create spaces where young people can exercise leadership now. One young woman in Kinoni demonstrated exactly why.

After girls in the program received digital certifications through Cisco Networking Academy, one Power Of Girls Ambassador thanked Shenali for the educational opportunities—but then asked about the boys in the community.

Her reasoning was striking: these were the boys the girls would grow up alongside and potentially marry. If the goal was to build healthier communities, she argued, they needed opportunities too. Instead of viewing empowerment as something one group wins at another’s expense, the young woman immediately saw the larger community. That lesson stayed with Shenali.

So did an experience in Kenya, where a girl told her that simply knowing people had traveled so far to visit their community made them feel less alone. Sometimes impact is not a grand program. Sometimes it is showing up. Listening. Seeing someone’s potential. And letting them know they matter.

Shenali describes these girls as little flowers. The potential is already there. The job of the adults around them is to create the environment in which they can grow.

Technology With a Human Purpose

For Shenali, digital peacebuilding means using technology to increase human connection rather than division.

Peace, she believes, is not simply the absence of war. It is also dignity, opportunity, understanding, dialogue, and the ability to participate meaningfully in society.



Partnerships for Change event in San Francisco, CA

Technology can help create those opportunities. A woman can learn a professional skill from home. A girl can connect with a mentor thousands of miles away. Community organizations can exchange ideas across continents and work together on shared challenges.

Artificial intelligence expands that potential even further. Shenali sees opportunities in education, translation, entrepreneurship, productivity, and access to knowledge. But she also sees

“The technology is only the bridge. What matters is what human beings choose to build once they cross it.”

serious risks if women and underserved communities are left out of the decisions shaping these technologies. That is why she believes women should not simply be taught how to use AI. They should also have a voice in how it is designed, governed, and applied.

Digital inclusion, in her view, must mean more than access to a device. It should mean access to knowledge, skills, networks, economic opportunity, and decision-making power.

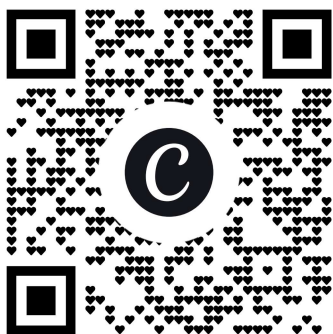
From Inspiration to Action

Shenali is inviting Rotary clubs and community organizations to help expand Power Of Girls Clubs, support locally led initiatives, participate in the Digital Power Of Women Conference, and bring forward ideas for new partnerships.

She does not believe meaningful collaboration begins with one organization having all the answers. It begins when people ask: “What can we build together?” For Shenali, that is also what peace in action looks like: “Recognizing one another, making room for one another, and then choosing to build together.”

Connect With Power Of Women

www.powerofwomen.info
hello@powerofwomen.info



Power of Women Speech



Presenting for Brahma Kumaris California



Speaking to Civil Society Leaders in Nairobi, Kenya

WHAT'S NEXT?

You've read the stories. Now put peace into action.

KINDER
PEOPLE
BRIGHTER
TOMORROWS

This issue introduced people who are building peace through music, dialogue, service, technology, youth leadership, and everyday acts of courage and compassion.

Now it's your turn.

Peace doesn't require a title, a large budget, or a perfect plan. It begins when we notice what is needed, recognize what we can offer, and choose to act.

Choose Your Next Step



START A CONVERSATION

Invite people of different ages, backgrounds, or perspectives to sit together and listen. Use our 'Generations for Peace' project as a starting point.



AMPLIFY A YOUNG VOICE

Ask a child or young person what they care about, what they would change, and what kind of world they hope to inherit. Then help create an opportunity for their voice to be heard.



TURN YOUR TALENT INTO PEACE

Music. Teaching. Technology. Writing. Mentoring. Service. Advocacy. Whatever your talent may be, ask yourself:

How could I use this to help someone else?



SUPPORT A PEACEBUILDER

Connect with one of the organizations or projects featured in this issue. Volunteer, share their work, make an introduction, or help open a door.



SHARE YOUR PIECE OF PEACE

Tell us what peace looks like where you live. Your reflection, project, photograph, or story could inspire readers in a future issue of *PEACE in ACTION*.

One Small Commitment

Before you close this magazine, complete this sentence:

*In the next 30 days,
my piece of peace will be...*

Then take the first step.

Because peace is not only something we hope for.

Peace is something we practice.

Keep the Journey Going

Visit the Rotary E-Club of World Peace to connect, learn, and discover more ways to become involved.



rotaryclubofworldpeace.org

NEXT ISSUE — JANUARY 2027

Everyday Peace

Discover how ordinary people, everyday choices, and simple acts of service can create extraordinary change.

Don't just read about peace. Be part of it.



Rotary
E-Club of World Peace



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A More Peaceful World Begins With Us.

Every voice matters. Every action counts.

Peace doesn't require us to agree on everything or wait for someone else to lead. It begins when we listen, recognize the needs of others, and choose to act.



START
a conversation



BUILD
a peace project



SHARE
your story

rotaryclubofworldpeace.org

