

# Rotary Centers *Peace is Possible*



## Educating a Generation of Global "Change Agents"

The Rotary Centers for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution is a bold and creative initiative of The Rotary Foundation. The first class of Rotary World Peace Fellows began their studies in fall 2002.

The program's three objectives are:

- ♦ To advance research, teaching, publication, and knowledge of issues of peace and goodwill, causes of conflict, and world understanding
- ♦ To provide advanced educational opportunities for a group of Rotary World Peace Fellows chosen from various countries and cultures in order to advance knowledge and world understanding among potential future leaders of government, business, education, media, and other professions

- ♦ To establish a program through which The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International and its member clubs may become increasingly effective in promoting greater tolerance and cooperation among peoples, leading to world peace and understanding

*Taken from the June 2007, Issue #45 of "Our Foundation," a monthly newsletter prepared by PDG Dr. Edward Blender, Chair, Rotary Centers Major Gifts Initiative. To subscribe to Eddie's newsletter, please visit [www.ourfoundation.info](http://www.ourfoundation.info).*

*Edwin M. Epstein,  
Director, Berkeley Rotary Center,  
University of California, Berkeley*



*"The Rotary Centers are a farsighted and critical step in the Foundation's commitment to world peace, goodwill, and understanding by educating a generation of global change agents who, by their ideas and actions, will be at the forefront of creating a more just and peaceful global community."*



ROTARY CENTERS

# Leading to Improvements in Basic Human Needs

Comments from Dr. James Peacock

**"Do we have a secret formula for peace? No, but we and the other Rotary Peace Centers do provide some new paths to supplement older ones that are no longer sufficient."**

The focus of the Rotary World Peace Centers is not on ending wars but in preventing conflict from ever occurring. Conflict prevention must address the promotion of sustainable development policies that lead to improvements in basic human needs and rights, more equitable access to resources and services, and the assurance of freedom and dignity.

Peace Centers like ours at Duke-UNC provide an opportunity to study emerging approaches and then to apply and develop them around the world.

Graduating Rotary World Peace Fellows have taken these new approaches with them and put them to the test. A few examples of the work of our Duke and UNC alumni:

- ♦ Constitution-building efforts in southern Sudan
- ♦ Supporting the peace process in Colombia
- ♦ Election monitoring in Afghanistan and Iraq
- ♦ Poverty reduction through education programs in Asia



*Dr. James L. Peacock, Kenan professor of anthropology at UNC Chapel Hill, is co-director of the Duke-UNC Rotary Center.*



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***"This is where we are. Mankind must put an end to war or war will put an end to mankind. It is no longer a choice, my friends, between violence and nonviolence. It is either nonviolence or nonexistence."***

***— Martin Luther King, Jr., from his speech  
"Remaining Awake through a Great Revolution"***

*“Peace is a daily, a weekly, a monthly process, gradually changing opinions, slowly eroding old barriers, quietly building new structures.”*

*— John F. Kennedy*

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## Having a Significant, Positive Impact on World Peace and Conflict Resolution during Their Future Careers

*Comments from Dr. Francis Lethem*

One of the strengths of the Rotary program in Peace and Conflict Resolution is that it recognizes that each conflict is unique in its causes and therefore must be addressed from a variety of disciplines and methods.

The Rotary program is ideally placed to do so because we are a network of 6 Peace Centers, each with its complementary philosophy and specializations, where mid-career professionals already committed to

promoting world peace can find the best match for their interests and the best opportunities to further develop their knowledge and experience.

**“[A]bout three quarters of our first 22 graduates are now working with international development and humanitarian organizations and similar bilateral organizations and international NGOs.”**

In addition, at Duke-UNC, we make sure that, as part of their Capstone seminar, our Peace Fellows are prepared for their future leadership roles through individual coaching on their preferred leadership styles

and career plans, as well as through intensive discussions with visiting senior officials and our own alumni about their career paths and experience.

The result has been that about three quarters of our first 22 graduates are now working with international

development and humanitarian organizations and similar bilateral organizations and international NGOs, while the remainder are pursuing further graduate studies or returned to work with their government.



*Dr. Francis Lethem, Director and Professor of the Practice, Duke Center for International Development, Duke University, is Co-Director of the Duke-UNC Rotary Center.*

# Incorporating Peacebuilding into Class Curricula: Experience of Duke-UNC Rotary Center for International Peace and Conflict Resolution

## Making a Difference

"The experiences our fellows have had during their master's programs at our two universities, the knowledge and training they receive through the Rotary Center and core courses in peace and conflict resolution, the connections they make with top leaders around the world during their summer internships, the community of peacemakers they have formed with other Rotary Peace Fellows during their two years of graduate study – all of these contribute to the immediate impact the Rotary World Peace Fellows make in real life."



*Dr. Natalia Mirovitsaya,  
Duke Center for  
International Development*

**"[T]he connections . . . all contribute to the immediate impact the Rotary World Peace Fellows make in real life."**

**RICHARD GEE** (2002-04 Rotary World Peace Fellow from England), after graduation, was approached by the International Organization for Migration to assist Afghan refugees living in Pakistan and Iran in registering for the first democratic elections of Afghanistan. This opportunity was directly linked to his final master's project entitled "Refugee Enfranchisement in the 2004 Afghan Presidential Elections." The requested task was to register and conduct a poll for up to 1.5 million refugees in a period of less than three months. A network of field offices began the task of informing the refugee populations about the elections and what it meant to participate in a democratic process. Many had fled Afghanistan during the 1980s or after the Taliban took power.

As part of the process, Richard traveled to many of the regions where the refugees lived and met with refugee elders, local and national politicians, and women's groups to help encourage a safe and enthusiastic turnout. After completing his term as Senior Legal Advisor to the Chief Electoral Officer for Afghanistan in Kabul, Afghanistan, Richard Gee has been working on providing support for elections in Iraq and Palestine and is now with the Electoral Assistance Division of the UN Secretariat.



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**SUSAN STIGANT**, 2003-05 Rotary World Peace Fellow from Canada, is currently working in Rumbek, Sudan, with the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs. In the first few months of her deployment in Sudan, Susan has provided support to the constitutional technical committee and to a constitutional convention – a topic on which she had done considerable research during her studies. Currently, she is working on a civic education campaign on the constitution that takes information to be distributed throughout South Sudan.



**BAUTISTA LOGIOCO**, 2002-04 Rotary World Peace Fellow from Argentina, wrote his master's thesis on Strategies for Mainstreaming Conflict Prevention into International Development Policies and Programs. He is currently working as Chief of Mission for Colombia, Special Area for the Promotion of Dialogue and Conflict Resolution at the Organization of American States – a position that allows him to implement his thesis recommendations into practice.



**MITCHELL O'BRIEN**, 2002-04 Rotary World Peace Scholar from Australia, has been employed by the World Bank to write a book on constitution-building processes in post-conflict countries, also on the basis of his master's project. The work of these and other graduates of the Duke-UNC program contributes to the development of the theory of peacebuilding and, on the other side, has already made a real-life difference in the countries torn by violence, hunger, disease, and poverty.

# Far Too Few Mediators

"Today, there are still far too few mediators who are experienced practitioners in conflict resolution. There is an urgent need to produce another generation of people who can play a mediating role in the future."

*Paul Rogers,  
Professor of Peace Studies,  
University of Bradford*



"The focus of the Rotary World Peace Centers is not on ending wars but in preventing conflict from ever occurring."

*Dr. James Peacock*



MONIKA LOZINSKA-LEE/ROTARY IMAGES

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MONIKA LOZINSKA-LEE/ROTARY IMAGES

"Today, we are going to be speaking Arabic only – English is banned," Professor Nasser Isleem tells the 23 students in his beginning Arabic class at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He hands out their graded midterm exams.

Shai Tamari, a first-year Rotary World Peace Fellow, gets 94 1/2 points. "There'll be peace after all in the Middle East," he jokes.

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## Student of Peace

### An Israeli learns to resolve conflict through Rotary

*The life of a Rotary World Peace Fellow. An excerpt from "The Peacemakers" in the February 2007 issue of The Rotarian*

By Tiffany Woods

A Jewish man born in Jerusalem, Tamari hopes that by studying global history with a specialization in conflict resolution and Arabic, he'll be able to help find a political solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Tamari says he grew up in a society that taught him to feel superior to Palestinians. But as a child, he never understood why he was supposed to feel that way. "I always felt something wasn't quite kosher to hate Arabs for a reason I didn't understand," he says.

It's 4 p.m. on a Friday. Tamari is pretending to be a conflict consultant advising Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh. He stands at a lectern in front of his international conflict management class. The 21 students seated in front of him are his team. Their job is to figure out whether Tamari should advise Haniyeh to

persuade Palestinian officials to recognize the state of Israel.

After he gives an overview of the problem, Tamari talks about the obstacles that might color his thinking. "Because I was raised in Israel, I was raised with walls in my head," he says. "That's why it's important for me to talk to people who are not Jewish."

At 18, Tamari began his mandatory service in the Israeli military. "I wanted to go into it," he says. He had a hard time adjusting, though. As an only child, just sharing a room with other soldiers was something of a shock. But his eventual disenchantment with the military stemmed from a more serious factor. "I realized I didn't want to hurt people," he says. "I don't have the ability to confront someone with a weapon."



MONIKA LOZINSKA-LEE/ROTARY IMAGES

During his first month in uniform, members of Tamari's unit were ordered to man a checkpoint just outside their base in the West Bank. They were told to allow all cars to pass. At one point, a car with a Palestinian license plate drove up. "One of the

**"I found my passion. This is my way of changing a small piece of the world."**

soldiers from my unit walked to the center of the road, lifted his rifle, and aimed it at the driver," Tamari says. "The driver slammed on the brakes and stopped a few meters from the soldier. Neither of them spoke. The soldier then lowered his weapon and let the driver resume his journey. As the soldier returned to the side of the road, he wore a grin on his face. What bothered me most was that I did not speak a word. I was shocked. Until that time, I never thought Israeli soldiers abused Palestinians."

After three years in the army, Tamari became a civilian again, uncertain about what to do next. He moved to Australia and earned his bachelor's degree in journalism. Halfway through his studies, however, he realized he wanted to change paths. He knew he wanted to work to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In 2006, he obtained his master's degree in Near and Middle Eastern studies from the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies.

"I found my passion," Tamari says. "This is my way of changing a small piece of the world."

## How you can help?

Fellows such as Tamari are largely funded by Rotary districts and Rotarians that contribute financially to our six Rotary Centers for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution around the world. Do you wish to help? To be more involved in The Rotary Foundation's educational programs, please e-mail [EBlender@aol.com](mailto:EBlender@aol.com) for more information.



**The Rotary Foundation aims to raise US\$95 million by June 2015 to fund 60 Rotary World Peace Fellows every year. So far, approximately \$17 million has been raised. For information on how to donate, including special naming opportunities, e-mail [plannedgiving@rotary.org](mailto:plannedgiving@rotary.org) or call Donald R., Fund Development Manager, at 847-866-3222.**



# A Career Military Officer with the Philippine Army Studies at Duke in the Rotary Centers Peace Fellows Program

By Tiffany Woods



MONIKA LOZINSKA-LEE/ROTARY IMAGES

First-year peace fellow Crisostomo Jr. “Jun” Bas is curled up on his living room floor with one book over his face and another under his arm. His laptop is on the coffee table next to him. He has fallen asleep preparing for a presentation he has to give on Sunday about the conflict over the sovereignty of the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea. In four hours, his wife, Lynne, will wake him up.

Back home in the Philippines, Bas is a major in the army. He and Lynne lived with their two children in a gated military community. They had a chauffeur and two cars, plus a nanny to help around the house. Now on sabbatical from his army post, he and his family share a spartan apartment.

Bas is at Duke to study international development policy with a specialization in peace and conflict resolution. He wants to apply what he’s learned to help the Philippine army implement new development strategies.

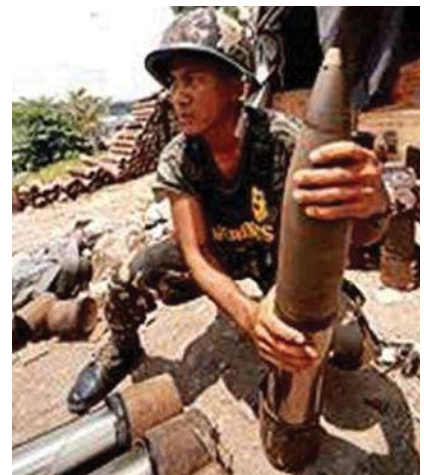
Bas, 40, has been in the military for almost half his life. In 1986, he enrolled in the Philippine Military Academy and graduated four years later. After he joined the army, he was deployed to rural areas to fight communist insurgents aiming to overthrow the government and implement land reform.

One day, after a battle in which the company he commanded killed several insurgents, he had an epiphany. On a mission to recover the rebels’

corpses from the battle scene, Bas vomited as he looked at their bodies. “Why are we doing this?” he asked himself later. He realized he was fighting his own countrymen.

Bas creates doctrine manuals for the military and believes the Philippine army should be involved in developing communities on a sustainable level, which he says would curb the possibility of insurgents resurfacing.

He says the army’s current practice is to clear an area of insurgents, then carry out civil military operations, such as installing water pumps and building schools. But those projects, Bas says, are “shortsighted” and aren’t integrated into the community planning process. Bas wants to see the army become a strategist and middleman when it comes to development. He envisions it assessing a community’s needs, then channeling funds from donor agencies to it.



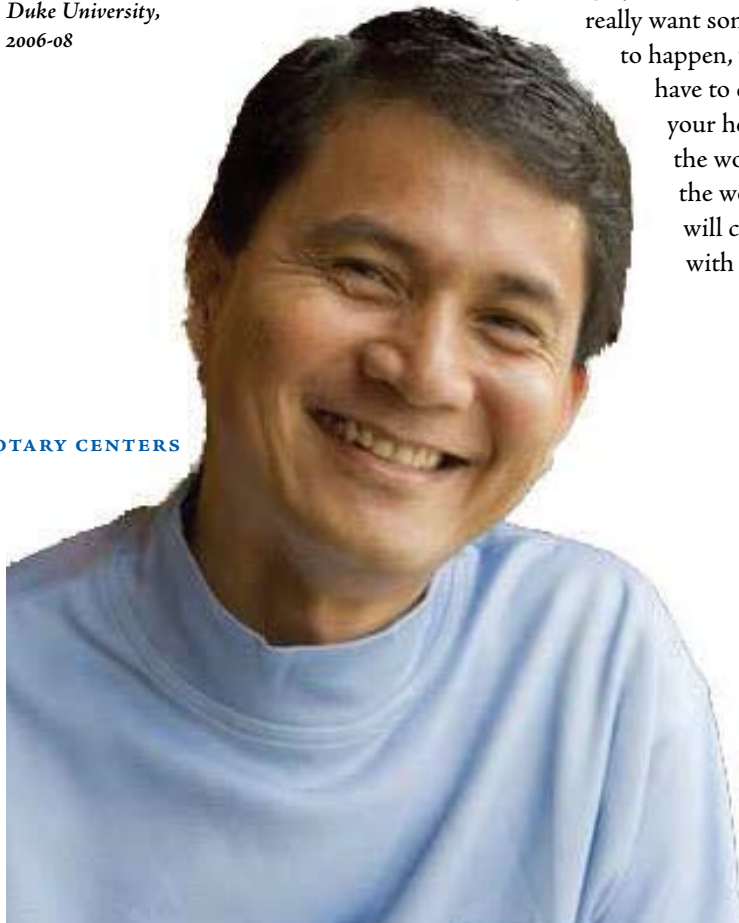
Bas says studying international development will give him the skills to implement this plan. He and two colleagues have already established a scholarship program to send 16 army personnel to the University of the Philippines to get master's degrees in community development.

What's the motivation behind all this? Bas simply says: "I just want to make a difference."

**"I believe that through this Rotary Fellowship I could pursue change by changing the mindset of the military that is conditioned to think of rebels as enemies, but never as fellow countrymen."**

*Crisostomo Bas,  
Rotary World Peace Fellow,  
Duke University,  
2006-08*

"I always remember the famous fable by Paulo Coelho in his international bestseller novel *The Alchemist* wherein the novel's motif revolves around the philosophy 'that when you really want something to happen, you have to connect your heart to the world, and the world will conspire with you."



Just like anyone of us here, I have big dreams . . . and I believe that this philosophy is true as the Rotary Foundation conspires with me to let it happen. For . . . I dream of a united, cohesive, progressive, and peaceful Philippines . . . as I have always been praying, since my entire military career, for an end to its long-standing conflict that runs for more than 30 years now.

I believe that through this Rotary Fellowship I could pursue change by changing the mindset of the military that is conditioned to think of rebels as enemies, but never as fellow countrymen.

I believe I could change the old paradigm, that instead of counting Killed In Actions (KIAs) and Wounded In Actions (WIAs), it would be numbers of peaceful surrenders and mainstreaming successes . . . and I believe I could convince the government that the ultimate victory of all is the strategy of winning without fighting.

But most of all I believe I could do this because of the opportunity that Rotary Foundation has given me to be in the best Rotary Center for international studies in peace and conflict resolution. In this Center, I can have the best that Duke University and University of North Carolina could offer. Great, professional management, faculty and staff . . . and I could never ask for more.

And with all these, I am most grateful. No amount of words could express my gratitude to the Foundation and to those who keep this Fellowship alive and strong.

So in behalf of my fellow colleagues, let me say thank you for everything. As we understand the high expectations of being a Rotary World Peace Fellow, it is always our earnest hope to do our best to keep it that way."



## Maria Effendi, Pakistan, RWPF 2006-08, University of Bradford, sponsored by District 3270

Prior to becoming a Rotary World Peace Fellow, Maria worked for 6 years as a social science researcher focusing on conflict resolution initially at the University of Karachi, and then at the Institute of Regional Studies in Islamabad. She has been accepted to conduct



*Maria Effendi, 27, is a Class V Rotary World Peace Fellow who is pursuing a Master of Arts in Conflict Resolution at the Department of Peace Studies, University of Bradford. She is from Islamabad, Pakistan.*

her summer applied field experience (internship) with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute in Sweden, where she will carry out a research study tentatively entitled "Implications of Iran's Nuclear Issues for Pakistan."

Her career plans are to be an expert and practitioner of conflict resolution and crisis management in Southeast Asia and bridge the gap between academics and policy makers in Pakistan.

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## Megan Powers, USA, RWPF 2004-06, Universidad del Salvador, sponsored by District 5960

Prior to receiving her Rotary World Peace Fellowship, Megan taught English in South Korea and coordinated the Nepal School Project at Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights.

Megan's studies at Universidad del Salvador in Buenos Aires focused on the impact the World Bank's anticorruption policies have on countries where it funds education and also where there are gaps in the World Bank's internal procedures. As her career unfolds, Megan hopes to continue to integrate global issues into education and to facilitate conflict resolution.

Megan says of her experience: "I've begun to learn how basic education issues (such as access to schooling, literacy, etc.) can't be viewed in isolation from larger issues that serve as barriers to education. (I've learned) more about these barriers, such as the effects of child labor, of violent conflict, and of corruption in the education system."



*Megan Powers presents her research at 2006 Annual Seminar at USAL*





*During his college years, Vadim Ostrovosky was a very active Rotaractor with the Danville-Riverview Rotary Club in Virginia.*

## **Vadim Ostrovosky, Ukraine, RWPF 2005-07, University of Queensland, sponsored by District 7570**

When not studying, Vadim spends much of his time on his personal project, Click Ukraine. Its mission is to bring computers and computer literacy to his homeland. Less than one in 100 homes in the Ukraine have computers and, in the absence of government funding, Ukrainian parents scrape together their pennies to pay for two or three computers for an entire school to use.

Vadim's applied field experience was twofold: the first part in Cairo with the UNDP HIV/AIDS Regional Program in the Arab States and the second part in Ukraine to continue his work on the Click Ukraine project.

## **Noëlle DePape, Winnipeg, Canada, RWPF 2003-05, University of Queensland, sponsored by District 5550**

Noëlle will soon be starting as the executive director of the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba ([www.ircom.ca](http://www.ircom.ca)). IRCOM provides transitional housing as well as social services (i.e.: recreation, literacy and family programming) to newly arrived refugees in the City of Winnipeg. It houses 67 families and seeks to facilitate their integration into their new Canadian environment through subsidized housing and support programming.

"As a World Peace Fellow, an activist, an educator, and a peacemaker, I am working to create (an) alternative world – a place where equal and sustainable relationships can be built," says Noëlle.



*Noëlle DePape enjoys a copy of The Rotarian at the Paul Harris Seminar in 2005*



# Rotary Centers Monograph Series

Edwin Epstein

"In the initial Monograph Series, *Sources of International and Intrastate Conflict and Possibilities for Resolution in This Decade*, we have sought to include papers covering diverse topics pertinent to the world in which we live. Some of these papers are derived directly from empirical research, while others are more conceptual in nature, based on analyses of key issues in international human rights, peace studies, and conflict resolution.



From the outset, the Rotary Centers program has emphasized fellows' research into critical peace-related issues, not merely of the day but inherent in the complex global political economy of the twenty-first century.

At each of the Rotary Centers, fellows write research papers as part of their course/seminar requirements. At some centers, they are obliged to complete master's theses in order to receive their degrees. Frequently, these research projects originate from pertinent "on-the-ground" involvements, either during the fellowship (typically in the course of their summer field placements) or beforehand."

Edwin M. Epstein,  
Editor,  
*First Monograph Series*



## About Educational Programs

The Educational Programs Division of The Rotary Foundation exists to achieve understanding and world peace through the exchange of people internationally.

It is the specific mission of the Educational Programs Division of TRF to provide quality programs and services to those individuals who apply for funding, and logistical support to undertake a term of study or teaching abroad that is enhanced by becoming involved with Rotary before, during, and after their travel.

The division, in conjunction with Rotarians, Rotary clubs, and Rotary districts, provides assistance through scholarship, fellowship, and grant processes.



*Former TRF General  
Manager Duane Sterling,  
Rotary Peace Centers  
Committee Chair*

**"The support of the Centers program comes from the Rotarians. The success of the Centers program comes from the fellows. The combination of the fellows' education and their ability to establish a global fellows network is our best hope for peace."**

## The Rotary Centers for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution

In addition to providing advanced educational opportunities for potential future world and community leaders, the Rotary Centers also advance research, teaching, publication, and knowledge on issues of peace, conflict and its resolution, and world understanding.

The Rotary Centers have been designed as a program through which The Rotary Foundation and the member clubs of Rotary International may become increasingly effective in promoting greater tolerance and cooperation among peoples, leading to world understanding and peace.

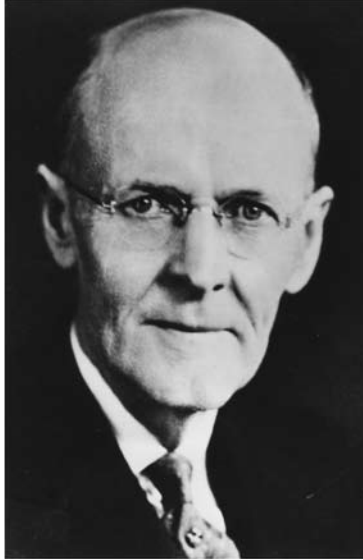
Up to 60 Rotary World Peace Fellows are selected each year to begin one- to two-year master's degree programs in conflict resolution, peace studies, international relations, or international development at six Rotary Centers.

Ten fellows on average are assigned to each Rotary Center. Fellows are assigned to study at a Rotary Center located in a country other than that of their citizenship or permanent residence.

Rotary World Peace Fellows are chosen based on their ability to have a significant, positive impact on world peace and conflict resolution during their future careers.



# What Paul Harris Said...



Our Rotary World Peace Fellowship program is a positive step toward helping to overcome the disastrous blunders in this often cruel and bloody world.

A donation of US\$500,000 would endow a Rotary World Peace Fellowship, which would provide a Peace Fellowship in your name in perpetuity.

Individuals, clubs, and districts are encouraged to participate in this Endowed (Named) Fellowship program.

*“War always is a ghastly blunder; even the winners lose.”*

— *Paul P. Harris, My Road to Rotary*

In addition, donations in the amount of \$25,000 per year or \$50,000 every other year will recognize your district as a Rotary Centers Peacebuilder District.

And a one-time gift of \$60,000 will support a Rotary World Peace Fellow for two years of study toward a master's degree at one of our Rotary Centers for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution.

Interested? Care to help? Please contact me to talk about it!

Dr. Edward “Eddie” Blender  
EBlender@aol.com

A “What Paul Harris Said” message can be sent to you every other week. Please register for this free service at [www.historycomment.org](http://www.historycomment.org).