

# OUTA SPACE

NEWSLETTER

ROTARY E-CLUB OF SOUTH AFRICA ONE

[www.rotaryclubsa.org](http://www.rotaryclubsa.org)

PBO 930039682

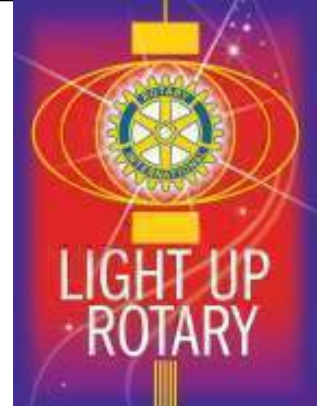


[www.rotaryclubsa.org](http://www.rotaryclubsa.org)

Rotary



12 May 2015  
No 22



From next year, May has been designated **YOUTH SERVICES MONTH** and this year, like in all the **Merry Months of May** in the past has no specific recognition in the **Rotary Calendar**.

As I ponder what to write in this, my 96<sup>th</sup> Editorial of OUTA SPACE, I wonder what I am able to contribute to the subject of Youth as all around me I am in the constant company of elderly people ranging in age from mid 60's to 106. Many of these 'senior citizens' are still extremely 'youthful' while sadly others no longer have a zest for life as ill health and old age has taken its toll.

However, whenever children, grandchildren or great grandchildren arrive for a visit there is always a spark that ignites in these elderly folk as they enjoy the company of their young offspring with much delight and excitement. Some are fortunate and have regular visitors whilst, sadly the families of others live far away and a visit is indeed a rare occasion.

It was wonderful to hear about the projects of the members of the newly chartered Interact Club of Ekuthuleni and their plans to visit the elderly. I am sure these visits will be mutually beneficial.

The exchanges of our 3 STEP students have now been finalised – 2 will be going to Austria and the other one to Italy. Exciting times for these young travelers! It appears as though the 3 inbound students will all be arriving this year in and around July. See page 3 for more.

We had an enjoyable GoTo-Meeting with our District Governor, Andrew Jaeger on 5<sup>th</sup> May. Thank you to all our members who were able to join the meeting. DG Andrew expressed his amazement at the spread of our Community Service projects and this just goes to show that as an E-Club we are able to make a significant difference in the lives of many people.

*Have FUN*

*Gerald Sieberhagen - Editor*

Please make a prominent note in your Diaries →→→→

Induction of Jean Singh as President of our E-Club – 1.7.2015

# OUTA SPACE

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## NEPAL – ROTARY AND SHELTERBOX



**SHELTERBOX  
GLOBAL GIFTS**

ShelterBox provides emergency shelter and vital supplies to support communities around the world overwhelmed by disaster and humanitarian crisis.

If there are families in need of emergency shelter, ShelterBox does everything it can to help them rebuild their lives.



First ShelterBox aid was distributed to hospitals in Kathmandu

After Nepal's massive earthquake, patients were being treated in the open air



Millions of lives have been shattered by Nepal's deadly earthquakes

600,000 homes have been damaged or destroyed

Millions of people urgently need shelter in Nepal as temperatures plummet



Read more about the Nepal earthquake on pages 13 & 14.

# OUTA SPACE

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John Fannin, ably supported by his ace photographer, June Fannin, always manages to get worthy news items published – well done John.



**ROTARY E-CLUB HONOURS BETTIE:** Recently, Bettie van der Merwe-Bonnet, the chairperson of FDSA in Velddrif, was unanimously elected to honorary member of the Rotary E-Club of South Africa One. She was elected for honorary membership because she epitomises the Rotary's Motto of "Service Above Self" in assisting, at all times, those less fortunate than herself, wrote John Fannin, member of the Rotary E-Club. Van der Merwe-Bonnet was also honoured with the Paul Harris Fellowship from the same club in 2013. According to Fannin the Rotary E-Club of South Africa One serves communities throughout South Africa and currently has 53 members of which 48 are active members with 5 honorary members. He says Van der Merwe-Bonnet is the only honorary member who has not been an active member previously.

PHOTO: JUNE FANNIN

## OUR INBOUND STEP STUDENTS



**Ronja Barz**  
**AUSTRIA**



**Anna Kohler**  
**AUSTRIA**



**Chiara Peretti**  
**ITALY**

**Erin Bloch**

**Jenna Burnill**

**Ama Getsemane**

*These Inbound STEP students will be exchanging with*

At this stage we are not sure when in July/August they will be here but during their time here they will probably go on the Rotary arranged tour to the Eastern Transvaal – well actually Mpumalanga. One thing is certain and that is that they will be kept busy as Durban and surrounds and South Africa has so much to see.

On one of the nights that they are in Durban they will attend a meet and greet and fellowship with our E-Club members. Hmmm, I see that Ronja plays the clarinet, Anna plays the piano and sings and Chiara does Latin-American dancing so perhaps these 3 with their South African counterparts could put together something interesting. Members, please no excuses for not attending this event – will keep you posted regarding the date. **Editor**

# OUTA SPACE

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## BIRTHDAYS

### MAY

13<sup>th</sup> – Candelaria Zapp  
15<sup>th</sup> – Aadila Sabat-St Clair  
17<sup>th</sup> – Gillian Stark  
17<sup>th</sup> – Delia Kleu  
20<sup>th</sup> – P-J Cloete  
23<sup>rd</sup> – Angie Goody  
26<sup>th</sup> – Andisha Maharaj  
27<sup>th</sup> – Gerald Sieberhagen



### JUNE

7<sup>th</sup> – Herman Zapp  
11<sup>th</sup> – Johnny Stark  
11<sup>th</sup> Jacqueline Lindegger  
12<sup>th</sup> – Janet Rouillard  
12<sup>th</sup> – Natasha Morris  
13<sup>th</sup> – June Fannin

## ANNIVERSARIES

### MAY

23<sup>rd</sup> – EARLYACT CLUB OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA – 2<sup>nd</sup> Charter Anniversary  
25<sup>th</sup> – Aadila & Brian St Clair

### JUNE

17<sup>th</sup> – David & Eleni Tilling

## DATES TO DIARISE

2015

7-8-9<sup>th</sup> Oct – Rotary Family Health Days

1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> Nov – World Interact Week

## WEEKLY TOPIC - ROSTER FOR MAY to JUNE

18<sup>th</sup> May – Rob Lindegger  
25<sup>th</sup> May – Aadila Sabat St Clair  
1<sup>st</sup> June – Suresh Setty  
8<sup>th</sup> June – Maxwell Pomeyie  
15<sup>th</sup> June – Peter Mugisha  
22<sup>nd</sup> June – Irene Kotze  
29<sup>th</sup> June – Jean Singh

Please send your TotW to either President Irene or Club Admin director Gerald by at least the THURSDAY preceding the date of the TotW. It always makes it easier if Rotarians send their TotW well ahead of time. Alternatively, if you are unable to fulfil your duty, please advise us well ahead of time so that we are able to find a replacement.

As we have done in the past, we will shortly be calling for volunteers to provide the Weekly Topic – a list of dates will be circulated so get ready to choose a date that suits you.

## EVENTS AND PROJECTS

**PRESIDENT JEAN SINGH'S INDUCTION DINNER WILL BE HELD AT THE GATEWAY HOTEL ON WEDNESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2015.**

Of all the events that clubs have during the year this is one of the most important ones. Just a pity that all our members will not be near enough to the venue to attend but for those who are, please diarise this date.

We will be sending out more details shortly calling for numbers and when we do, please respond promptly. We may also need a few Durban members to volunteer hosting for the night for members who stay close enough to attend but too far to travel home after the dinner.

## GLOBAL GRANT 1418817

Proceeding according to plan

## GLOBAL GRANT 1527880

Proposal now completed and is ready for authorisations and submission.

**GoToMeeting – 19h00 to 20h00**

19<sup>th</sup> May

2<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> June

**DURING THE WEEK PRECEDING THE GTM, the log on code will be sent BY EMAIL to each member.**

## ADVERTISING

### IN ROTARY AFRICA MAGAZINE

Have you ever considered advertising your products or services in the Rotary Africa Magazine? Or do you know of a business that may wish to do so?

You can obtain the 2014 Advertising rates on the Rotary Africa website @ [www.rotaryafrica.com](http://www.rotaryafrica.com)

### PRESIDENT IRENE'S PAGE



Dear Fellow Rotarians

We are a few days late but we hope all our E-Club Mothers had a wonderful day and were appropriately spoilt.

Mother's day! Why do we celebrate this day? Yes, to honour our Mothers and thank them for the loving care and guiding our children from baby to teenagers and young adults to enable them to cope with the challenges of the world and to teach them to live a harmonious and fulfilled life. Our children are the lucky ones. There are millions of children who don't have these benefits. It is up to us Rotarians to make a difference by creating an environment for these children to not only survive and have food on the table but to be able to go to school and later on acquire life skills to make a living.

I was delighted when our member, David Tilling, invited me to the official opening of the computer centre run by the Steve Morris project in conjunction with Lifeline. (In the next edition of OUTA SPACE David will tell you more about this project). We also met the first group of graduates who had completed their basic computer literacy course. It was heart warming to see the smiling faces and eager commitment to carry on learning to improve their skills to assist them to gain employment.

Why is YOUTH SKILLS DEVELOPMENT so important? One of the nine central challenges identified by the National Development Plan is that too few people work, with youth unemployment statistics in South Africa sitting at 38%. Skills and enterprise development is critical in preparing the youth for career and entrepreneurial opportunities that will help break the cycle of poverty.

Our Club members have realised this and are addressing this need. Through our various projects and grants we contribute to the decrease in the number of unemployed youth by providing quality and gainful tutoring and facilitating skills acquisition towards gainful employment opportunities.

Yes I know we have the Skills Development Act in South Africa and if you are an employer you pay your monthly levy. By definition, 'The funds are to be used to develop and improve skills of employees', and I emphasise 'employees'. What about the unemployed unskilled youth? In real life it is up to the business community, Institutions, NGO'S and community orientated organisations like ROTARY to fill the gap. We are indeed grateful to our overseas partners because without their financial help, we could not make a sustainable impact on our communities.

On this note the usual advice -

**HAVE FUN BEING A ROTARIAN**

*Irene*

**Message on a leaflet:**

**IF YOU CANNOT READ, THIS LEAFLET WILL TELL YOU HOW TO GET LESSONS**



Rotary Global History  
Fellowship

Extract from

## RGHF's OUR FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER #159

Dear Rotarian

A great initiative by the Rotary Foundation Trustees to review the new grant model introduced under the Future Vision Plan.

TRF Trustee John Kenny has appointed an independent committee of four past RI Presidents, and they are inviting sharing of experiences and feedback on the Areas of focus and the District and Global Grants.

PRIP Bill Boyd will serve as the Chair and his thoughts are "What is encouraging is that we are getting messages from Rotarians which because they are in narrative form are

thoughts that would not be revealed in a survey. There is a mountain of work ahead but the constant thread is that the changes were worthwhile but we can make them better".

Such inputs and experiences from Rotarians world over will help make improvements and ensure that the Rotary Foundation continues to Do Good in the World in the best possible way.

RGHF's Team OFN requests its readers to send their suggestions. Additional details in this issue.

Rotary regards,

Jeetendra Sharma

Editor in Chief - RGHF's Our Foundation Newsletter



Jeetendra Basudeo Sharma,  
Editor in Chief

**"OUGH" CAN BE PRONOUNCED IN EIGHT DIFFERENT WAYS.  
THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE CONTAINS THEM ALL:**

A rough-coated, dough-faced ploughman strode through the streets of Scarborough, coughing and hiccupping thoughtfully.

## The Rotarian Conversation: Dan Pallotta

Should nonprofits spend like for-profits? Dan Pallotta says yes.

The way you think about charity is wrong. That's according to Dan Pallotta, a man on a mission to free nonprofits from the belief that spending money on anything other than programs – whether it's advertising, risky ideas, or staff salaries – is immoral. He's spread that message to millions of people with a popular TED Talk (viewed more than three million times) and two books. The first book, *Uncharitable: How Restraints on Nonprofits Undermine Their Potential*, includes the story behind the sudden demise of his own company, Pallotta TeamWorks, which created the AIDSrides and three-day walks for breast cancer. They raised millions, but the company folded after being dropped by a big client, partly because of the cost of the events. His newest book, *Charity Case: How the Nonprofit Community Can Stand Up for Itself and Really Change the World*, explains his plan to give nonprofits the same economic freedom and access to capital as for-profits, as a way to encourage big ideas and risk-taking. He founded Advertising for Humanity, a full-service brand agency for the nonprofit sector, and started the Charity Defense Council, an advocacy group working to give this sector a voice. When it comes to solving the world's problems, he says we face double-standards that give the for-profit sector "a Ferrari, and nonprofits a bicycle." Contributing editor Vanessa Glavinskas spoke with Pallotta from Los Angeles.

**THE ROTARIAN:** You gave a popular TED Talk. During your 18 minutes, you say we need to give charities the same tools and permissions as the for-profit sector, or they will have no real chance of solving the world's problems. Why?

**PALLOTTA:** The main issue is one of scale. The social problems are gigantic in scale. In 2013, 1.5 million adults and children died of AIDS[related causes]. Poverty affects 15 percent of the U.S. population. In Africa, 175 million people are chronically malnourished. Then you have well-meaning organizations like the Red Cross and World Vision, and they're doing \$4 billion to \$5 billion a year [in revenue] – meanwhile, Apple is doing \$40 billion a quarter. The only way these organizations are going to grow is to increase public awareness of the work they do. And they need access to capital to create that kind of awareness. We need organizations that are of the scale of Apple and Google to tackle these problems.

**TR:** What's holding them back?

**PALLOTTA:** They cannot invest in their growth because all the money that comes to them is in the form of donations, so that's their only financial instrument. Institutional funders don't want donations spent on anything other than programs, by and large. Governments don't want their contracting money spent on anything other than programs, with a pittance for administrative costs, and individual donors want 100 percent of their money to go to programs. So there's no capital left over for growth. Meanwhile, Twitter does an IPO and generates billions of dollars in capital for its growth. If there's no access to capital, it's like a fire that doesn't have oxygen – it can't breathe and won't grow. If you look at the breast cancer three-day walks that we created, we needed \$350,000 to launch those. It wasn't easy to find that \$350,000. But look what it turned into – it turned into \$200 million. When you make it difficult to access \$350,000, you make it difficult to create \$200 million success stories. Meanwhile, look at what happens in Hollywood – they place big bets on ridiculous new movie titles. The nonprofit sector has never placed anything remotely close to a \$150 million bet on a new fundraising idea. **Imagine if Rotary International had \$150 million to spend specifically on some new fundraising idea. It's unfathomable.**

**TR:** You mentioned the breast cancer three-day walks, which raised millions for the cause. To promote them, you didn't hang up fliers – you took out full-page ads in major newspapers. Why is advertising important for nonprofits?

**PALLOTTA:** Because you're competing with other advertisers for the consumer's dollar. L'Oréal spends more than \$1.5 billion on advertising to try to get women to buy more cosmetics. But for every 479 messages in a person's day, there's something like one message for a health and human services cause. Charities are not just competing with other charities; they're competing with all the things that consumers can spend their discretionary income on.

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**TR:** And nonprofits don't think of it that way?

**PALLOTTA:** In the nonprofit sector, we spend months around a conference table debating what the message should be on our website. Meanwhile, nobody looks at the website because we don't advertise the Web address to anyone. We have to free up more money and find sources of capital that will allow nonprofits to compete with the for-profit sector. You see what happens when there's a natural disaster – the tsunamis, Hurricane Katrina – everybody knows about it. Why does everybody know about it? Because it's on the news cycle over and over for a week or two, and there's a massive swell of donations to that cause. Why? Because people are aware of it. You have all that free media in the form of NBC Nightly News and CNN and Fox.

**TR:** How do nonprofits find the money for an ad campaign? How do you start?

**PALLOTTA:** Well, you start slow. You start by testing things. And then you gain confidence and find out what works, and you start to spend more. Where do you find the capital? Maybe it comes in the form of a major donor, a major contributor who "gets it" and will allow their funds to be used for that purpose. I think we need to set up special capital funds for nonprofits. We need venture fundraising funds that nonprofits such as Rotary can take their ideas to, and the fund can invest in them.

**TR:** There's an ingrained mentality that to be good stewards of donations, the vast majority must go directly to programs. You say that's because people confuse morality and frugality. What do you mean?

**PALLOTTA:** We've been trained to think that it's our fiduciary duty to keep costs down and maximize the amount of money going to programs. Anything else is immoral. Anything else is unethical. But I think it's our fiduciary duty to make the biggest difference possible. And if that means we need to funnel money not into programs, but into something that can grow revenue so we can do more good, it's not only our fiduciary duty, it's our moral duty. But we've been taught the opposite. **Right now, in the interest of funding programs in the short-term, we are annihilating our potential to fund programs on a much bigger scale in the long-term.**

**TR:** Is part of the problem that many nonprofits market themselves as having low overhead?

**PALLOTTA:** Yes. And, in the long-term, it's killing nonprofits and sending the conversation backward. There's a tension right now, because the BBB Wise Giving Alliance, Charity Navigator, and GuideStar issued a joint press release in 2013, saying overhead is not the only thing [to consider in judging nonprofits]. But then there's a temptation on the part of savvy marketers to tell donors that 100 percent of the money goes to the cause.

**TR:** Right, the three prominent charity-rating organizations are shifting their model to emphasize judging nonprofits on impact rather than low overhead. Have you seen this change the conversation?

**PALLOTTA:** No, you've had 30, 40 years of relentless indoctrination by the watchdog agencies, the media, and state attorneys general, teaching everyone to ask about overhead. Now, I'm glad [the organizations] said that, but there's an enormous amount of work to do to get people to know that they did.

**TR:** Why is it your mission to get the word out?

**PALLOTTA:** You do what the universe wants you to do. It's my path. When I was in college, I learned about hunger and wanted to do something, so I did a bike ride for hunger. I'm gay, and when my friends began to develop AIDS, we created the AIDSRides. My mom is a breast cancer survivor, so we created the breast cancer three-day. Then we went out of business for the most ridiculous reasons, and I thought, "I have to write a book about these ridiculous reasons." And then people said, "We like your book, but how do we get everyone to know?" So now I'm focused on getting everyone to know. It's just one foot in front of the other.

**TR:** So, how should charities be judged?

**PALLOTTA:** They should not be judged simply. They should not be judged in five minutes. People should take the time to know the charity they are going to support in the same way that many take the time to research the politicians they are going to vote for. In the course of long-term analysis, people should be asking three fundamental questions: What are your goals? What progress are you making toward those goals? And how do you know?

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**TR:** One of Rotary's goals is to eradicate polio. We've made great strides, but hit a difficult point now that 99 percent of the world is polio-free. Also, for many people, polio is no longer a problem that affects their day-to-day lives. How do we inspire donors to help finish the job?

**PALLOTTA:** The chance that polio could come over here on an airplane is not the reason we should contribute. The reason we should contribute is the suffering of that one person who does have it. Who leaves a job 99 percent done? We didn't go 99 percent of the way to the moon. Rotary International has a chance to tell one of the first total eradication success stories. Let's get behind that. That's an inspiring story to tell.

**TR:** Who needs to take the lead to change our mentality when it comes to judging charities? The nonprofits? The funders?

**PALLOTTA:** Both. That's why we created the Charity Defense Council – to change the way the public thinks about charity. Nobody has taken that on. That's not the role of the independent sector. That's not the role of the Council on Foundations, that's not the role of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. There was a huge vacuum there. The Charity Defense Council is going to do anti-defamation work, it's going to do public education work, it's going to do legal defense work, it's going to actually organize the sector. And we have a great advisory board now: We have the head of the Nature Conservancy, United Way, Kiva, Goodwill, Share Our Strength, and others. In the next 12 months, you're going to start to hear a lot more about us.

**TR:** You say we don't want our generation's epitaph to read "We kept overhead low," but rather "We changed the world." But first, do you really think you'll be able to change how people think about charity?

**PALLOTTA:** How can you change the way the public thinks about charity? Well, you make that your goal. When I look at the way public attitudes have changed about gay people in my adult lifetime, I know that it's not impossible to change people's minds about charity. After all, we're in the business of change. — *Vanessa Glavinskas*

## **New Rotary year will bring updated funding model**

The Rotary Foundation's funding model goes into effect on 1 July. Although much will remain the same, project sponsors will now have to contribute an additional 5 percent for cash contributions made to The Rotary Foundation for global grant applications submitted on or after 1 July, to offset processing and administrative costs. We're updating the online grant application tool to automatically calculate the 5 percent and to show the total amount required to fund the project. Paul Harris Fellow recognition points will be awarded on the full cash contribution, and charitable tax receipts also will reflect that amount. The additional 5 percent is not matched by the Foundation. It also isn't required for contributions sent directly to a project's bank account; however, such contributions don't generate Paul Harris Fellow recognition points, nor will the Foundation issue tax receipts for them.

**The Object of Rotary and the Core Values are probably not seen and read often enough by Rotarians and future Rotarians** *Editor*

## **OBJECT OF ROTARY**

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

*First.* The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

*Second.* High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

*Third.* The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;

*Fourth.* The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

The RI Board has agreed that the four explanatory statements in the Object of Rotary are of great and equal significance and are actions that must be taken simultaneously.

## **CORE VALUES**

Rotary adopted the core values in 2007 as part of the Rotary Strategic Plan, understanding that these five values are fundamental traits of being a Rotarian.

Since their adoption, the core values have been reaffirmed by the Board and are strongly supported by Rotarians throughout the world. Rotary International's core values are:

- Service
- Fellowship
- Diversity
- Integrity
- Leadership



## Banish meeting boredom: 13 tips for better meetings

By: [Gemma Falconer 25th February 2015](#)

As you would imagine, working for an online meeting provider means that we attend a fair few meetings. We've had a lot of practice over the years and I'd say we've got a pretty good idea of what makes a brilliant (and painful) meeting.

Following a ton of research and a survey to meeting users, we've put together the ultimate [everything-you-need-to-](#)

[know-about-meetings eBook](#). In that eBook, we look at the essential steps a meeting organizer should take before, during and after a meeting to make it simply awesome. Here's an overview of those tips:

BEFORE your next meeting:

### **Establish an objective – and stick to it!**

Successful meetings have a clear purpose or aim in mind. What key decisions need to be made? What actions need to be taken during the meeting? If you can't define what this is, you're not ready to call the meeting.

### **Choose your people carefully**

Be thoughtful when inviting people to your meeting – you're probably not the only person making demands on their time. It's only too easy to end up with a calendar full of back-to-back meetings without pause for thought (or comfort breaks or lunch!). And, of course, while there's no visible cost to you for their time, there's a financial cost to the company and an opportunity cost to your colleagues in terms of their own workload. Just because Outlook defaults to 30 minute slots doesn't mean you have to book meetings by the half hour. Consider whether you're asking for an hour to discuss something that could be covered in 45 minutes or less.

### **Set the agenda**

For smaller meetings, a handful of bullets covering the key points you want to address will generally suffice. Only more formal meetings with a bigger and more varied attendee list will usually call for a more structured approach. The important point is: have an agenda and send it out before the meeting (and no – five minutes earlier does not qualify as “before”). That way, people will know what to expect, come prepared and the schedule will prevent the meeting from descending into a free-for-all.

### **Knowledge is power**

Meetings can get a bit political sometimes, particularly if there's an important or contentious issue at stake, so it doesn't pay to fly by the seat of your pants. In advance of the meeting, email or speak to each individual participant and ask “what is your main goal for the meeting?”. Don't send out a group email or BCC – you want to establish one-to-one trust. Once you've received everyone's replies, you'll know who in the room will have a similar view or interests, helping you to run the meeting more effectively and manage any conflicts.

### **Run through pre-flight checks**

Managing the meeting process is about more than simply inviting people, ensuring they can attend, and organising the practicalities. You can help maximise everyone's time by assigning meeting roles and communicating your expectations of each assignee upfront. Good roles to have are a facilitator, a note-taker and a timekeeper. Ensure anyone (including yourself) who's presenting or sharing information has prepared their supporting materials or presentations with time to spare.

And for online meetings, make sure that you're familiar with the tool you're using – open up the meeting room 5-10 minutes early so you can switch on your webcam and check your positioning, select your audio (whether that's VoIP or telephone) and shut down any instant messenger or email applications if you'll be utilising screen-sharing. CONT ON PAGE 12

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### **Good housekeeping**

It's a good idea to establish some meeting protocols, such as whether people should ask questions during or at the end of a presentation. It's also helpful to remind people of the importance of starting and finishing on time. Having to recap for the benefit of late arrivals is disruptive and wastes further time.

DURING the meeting:

### **Orchestrate the discussion**

Running a meeting is like conducting an orchestra – you need to guide the conversation, maintain the tempo and ensure no single voice drowns out everyone else. That means keeping an eye out for people who are being too passive – sitting back, fidgeting or otherwise distracted – as well as those who are too enthusiastic and hogging the conversation. If it's a team meeting, consider rotating responsibilities around the workgroup. This not only rings the changes but can also help individuals to develop their skills because each will bring a different style or contribution to a given role. It will also make the meeting more interesting for all those attending

### **Appoint a timekeeper**

You can't always keep a meeting short, but you can help it run to time. In smaller meetings, the leader usually acts as moderator, too. However, you may want to nominate someone else as time-keeper, so you can focus on the agenda rather than the discipline. They should make sure the meeting stays on track for each agenda item and inform everyone when only five minutes remain on the current item.

### **Keep your mind on the money**

Going round in circles? You can flag up the 'cost to decide' with a simple, spreadsheet-based tool like [The Meeting Meter™](#) to track the true cost of group discussions. You could make it visible during the meeting, to help the workgroup be more economical with their conversation. Or encourage participants to consider whether it's worth dwelling on an issue, by informing them how much 'money' has already been spent on that particular agenda item.

### **Minutes shouldn't take hours**

The minutes provide a vital reference point when a meeting's outcomes impact other activities or projects, and keep everyone on the same page. But minuting doesn't have to be an arduous task. The main thing is to capture the essence of the discussion, e.g. ideas, feedback, agreements and decisions, next steps planned, action items and progress checks.

AFTER the meeting:

### **Follow up appropriately**

After the meeting, fine-tune the minutes – even if they're just bullet points. Circulate by email, and don't forget to include those unable to attend on the distribution list. You could also enhance those minutes by including a link to the recording if you hosted an online meeting and you recorded the session – some people like to hear the whole discussion so they get a better picture of what exactly was discussed.

You'll also need to continue to manage team communications to ensure everyone stays informed of progress and is aware of their responsibilities or action points, and any deadlines. Here's to better meetings!

**All sounds so easy! Our GoToMeetings could perhaps do with a lot of fine tuning. For starters not everyone is comfortable with the time of 7 to 8pm. Would 8 to 9pm be any different? Or 6 to 7pm?**

**Although some members may not agree, there is a real need for someone else to take over the presenter role. Rotary means ROTATING so please give that some serious thought.**



## Grace and Hope Found Amid the Destruction of Nepal Quake

By DONATELLA LORCH

APRIL 26, 2015

Rescuers searched for survivors of the earthquake at the site of a collapsed temple in Katmandu, Nepal.

Credit Omar Havana/Getty Images

KATMANDU, Nepal — There hasn't been a day in the

two years I have lived in Nepal that I haven't thought about earthquakes. They were, in many ways, my obsession.

Katmandu sits on a major geological fault, and the Big One has been long overdue. My husband always tried to get me to laugh it off. "Earthquakes aren't like pregnancies," he said. "They don't have due dates." Besides, we had lived through three small quakes. No big deal.

But I prepared. We packed "go bags," and put them downstairs, upstairs and outside in the garden. A tent, rain gear, blankets and so on. My Nepalese friends sometimes made fun of me. My friend Sasha reminded me that some things were beyond our control. If it was my karma, she would say, it was my karma.

On Saturday, about 11:45 a.m., my 10-year-old son Lucas and I were driving down a steep hill on our way to a pizza lunch at the Roadhouse Cafe in Patan, a city known for its rich cultural heritage just across the Bagmati River from Katmandu. At first, I thought that we had blown a tire, or maybe that a motorcycle had hit us from behind. Then I lost control of the car as it was tossed right and left as if by rolling waves.

### [A Nepal Landmark, Before and After the Earthquake](#)



I lost track of time. Women ran across the road screaming. A nearby wall collapsed. A motorcyclist fell from his bike. I stopped in the middle of the road, turned off the engine and unlocked the doors. I told my son to lean over and cover his head as best he could. "It's an earthquake," I told him, and noticed my hands were shaking.

The rest of the day was fuelled by adrenaline. I managed to drive

home, navigating around broken bricks scattered on the roads and houses that had collapsed. My husband is away on a business trip, but our dog, a Rhodesian Ridgeback, was waiting anxiously at our gate. The house was intact. To be safe, though, I began moving emergency gear outside, as far away from it as possible. Running upstairs to fetch our passports, an aftershock almost threw me to the ground. It felt like a huge tree cracking overhead.

In the evening, Lucas and I walked down our street and into a village, the oldest community of ethnic Newars in the Katmandu Valley, a place where goats often live on the ground floor of homes and women wash their pots and their hair on the stoops. Making our way along the town's narrow, medieval paths, we passed building after building that had collapsed. Residents, police officers and Nepal Scouts were digging through the debris with their hands, trying to rescue those who had been buried. Others were setting up temporary shelters in any open space. Blankets and cushions were laid out in the middle of roads.

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Neighbours were helping neighbours. Those with motorcycles were ferrying cheap plastic canvas for tents from shops that remained open. Many people stopped us, and asked if we needed food or water. Several invited us to spend the night with them.

This is why I love Nepal. People here help one another because they know the government often can't. They reach out to one another, and they persevere. They open their shops, because what else can one do when the world is upside down?

On Sunday morning, I drove through the city on a motorcycle with a Nepali friend, my son sandwiched between us. The government has declared a national emergency, so the roads were largely empty, just a few motorcycles and some packed buses. The city was a vast camp, with tents in every open space.

We visited the Pashupatinath Temple, one of the holiest shrines of the Hindu faith, first erected on the banks of the Bagmati River more than 1,000 years ago. It had not suffered too much damage, but in the back, spilling out of the cremation area onto a main path, was a row of corpses covered in saffron sheets. Extra cremation pyres had been set up, but it was not enough.

Casualties were especially high in the ancient city centres of Katmandu, Patan and Bhaktapur, with their narrow warrens and tall, thin buildings built cheek to jowl. Many died in traditional mud-brick homes that they had built themselves.

Even animals appear traumatized. Our dog won't leave my side and tries to force his way into our tiny tent. The city's huge flocks of crows — in happier times, residents have jested that this place should be named Crowmandu — have been on edge, freaking out with each aftershock.

I first came to Katmandu in 1983 as a backpacker and returned while working on a master's degree in Indic studies. My husband's job brought me back once more. A population boom had transformed the Katmandu Valley, its three cities now home to 2.5 million residents. We found a place with horrific air pollution, traffic that never seems to move and garbage everywhere. Yet my son and I have been happy here. The quirky, cynical, self-deprecating humor of Nepalis charmed me from the first day.

This is a city with a living history and a living religion. Where else could one see a Hindu shrine or a Buddhist chaitya on almost every street? Where else can one live surrounded by so many ancient temples and stupas that are listed as Unesco heritage sites — and eat at restaurants serving cuisine from everywhere in the world?

Within 40 seconds on Saturday, everything changed. The Durbar Squares in Katmandu and Patan where tourists thronged — ancient plazas graced with temples and fountains opposite the old royal palaces — had been reduced to rubble, with only a few structures left standing. One of my favourite shrines, famous for its white domes and four giant, fearsome brass dragons with talons raised, is now a pile of cracked red bricks and dust.

Those who survived know they are lucky. Lucky that this did not happen during the frigid winter or monsoon season. Lucky that the quake hit in daylight rather than at night, when more people would have been indoors and casualties would have been worse. Lucky that it was a Saturday, when children were not in schools, most of which are shoddily built.

Saturday night, my son and I lay in our tent pretending to be on a camping adventure as a series of rumbling aftershocks shook the ground. With each one, we listened as screams of fear echoed in the darkness. I lit a lamp and trimmed my son's fingernails. I couldn't think of anything else to do, and I couldn't sleep.

My heart aches for Nepal and what has been lost. But I am buoyed by the generous spirit of its people. My son and I know that life here will get worse in the days and weeks ahead as fuel and water run low. But we also know we are in this together.

**And now we are once again OUTA SPACE**