



LIVING AND LINKING

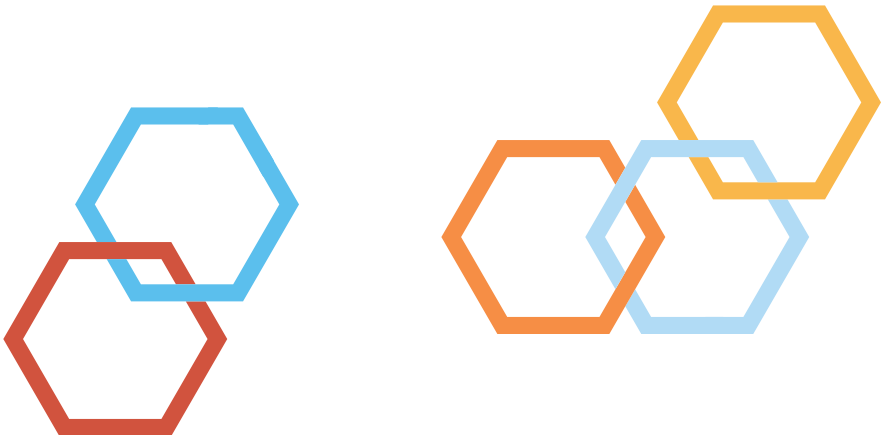
Your Piece of Peace

Some Peacebuilding Basics for the Family of Rotary

Revised

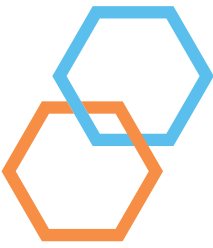
“Except life itself, there is probably nothing that men cherish as much as peace.”

— Past RI President Richard L. Evans —





Every child deserves a fair opportunity at life.
The sun should rise for **every child**.



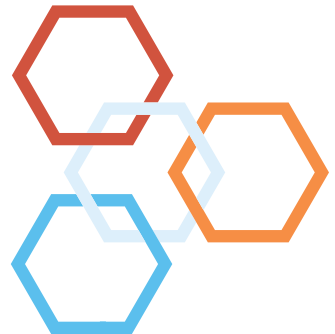
INTRODUCTION

While in Honolulu for the Rotary Global Peace Forum in 2013, I awoke one morning to a beautiful Hawaiian sunrise with the words “You may not be responsible for world peace but you are responsible for your piece” occupying my consciousness. The words seemed to come from a source outside of myself. They’re true for me. They seem true for you.

An essential element of the mission of Rotary International is to **empower Rotarians** to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace. The purpose of this little booklet, along with the Enrichment Materials at the end and the companion Rotarian Action Group for Peace Project Manual, is to provide a **vision and a toolkit** to help Rotarians more effectively do that and **address the very serious and growing problem of division and polarization** in the world today.

The approach of this booklet¹ is to **simplify** in order to get some basic principles, project ideas and **action** in place as quickly and easily as possible. The Enrichment Materials then build on the basics and provide more depth to this simplified peacebuilding strategy. The Project Manual provides detail on specific peace projects and suggested resources and contacts to help put the projects into action. Together they help **build a foundation upon which lasting peace can be built.**

Rather than being a checklist of things to do, the intent of this booklet is to provide some basics to stimulate your thinking and commitment to take action regarding what you can do (i) to help maximize the peacebuilding impact of every Rotary project your club undertakes in all six areas of focus and (ii) to more impactfully and rewardingly live “your piece of peace”.



1. © Rotary Peace Fellow Brian Farr J.D., 2017-18 Chair, Rotarian Action Group for Peace. Richard L. Evans Fellow, Brigham Young University.

Chapter 1: Simplify.

In simplifying, there are three measures that are critical in addressing root causes of violence and building sustainable peace.

Simplify 1: Individual Responsibility and Integrity

When my daughter was diagnosed with cancer for the third time in her young life, she decided to try to use it to bless the lives of others. Before she left home for each chemotherapy or radiation treatment and each doctor's appointment she would pray she would be able to find someone she could help or lift in some way. Without fail, opportunities would present themselves. That is, until nearly her final treatment.

As she was lying on the table for that radiation treatment, she was feeling disappointed that she hadn't found anyone to help that day and wondering why. Then the surprising thought came to her "It's the radiation therapist that needs your help today." When the therapist reentered the room, my daughter spoke the words she felt impressed to say. The woman burst into tears about some heavy burden she had been bearing alone. Sweet communication followed. Both women left uplifted.

Every person has the power to make the world a better and more peace-filled place or a worse place for those around them. The more people (i) appreciate and embrace that power, (ii) feel responsible to exercise it in positive ways, (iii) expand their vision as to how they can do that more powerfully in their homes and communities, and (iv) act on that vision, the more peace will prevail. As noted at the outset,

PEACE PRINCIPLE: You may not be responsible for world peace, but you are responsible for your piece/peace (i.e. your piece of world peace and your own inner peace).

The challenge for us is to burn that principle into the hearts and minds of every person on the planet – or at least as many as possible in **all sectors of society and at all levels of leadership.**



Never let it be forgotten that ultimately peace resides not in the hands of governments but in the hands of the people.

– King Hussein of Jordan –

Simplify 2: Respect and Fairness

Our Rotary District recently joined with our local interfaith organization to host a glass art exhibit featuring stained glass art pieces that incorporate shards of glass from houses of worship that were destroyed or badly damaged in Europe during World War II. [See <https://ksltv.com/402578/remembered-light>]. When we told visitors that one of the purposes of presenting the exhibit was to address the growing problem of division and polarization in the world, almost every one of them lit up and began to nod in agreement and say that it was a major concern of theirs as well.

An observant security guard near the back of the exhibit overheard visitor's conversations that followed as they viewed the exhibit. Of the many conversations that focused on deep concerns for division and polarization, almost all blamed the problem on someone else. Very few considered that they or their own group or political party might be contributing to the problem or playing into it.

One of the biggest impediments and threats to peace in the world today is the tendency of people to disrespect, disregard, belittle, shame, or vilify anyone that disagrees with them – even to accuse them of being motivated by animas, hatred, and bigotry – when the other person often just has a difference of opinion or just sees the world differently. Often, those that accuse others of hatred and bigotry are the perpetrators of the hatred and bigotry.

While working at Pew Global Research a PhD friend of mine noticed:

PEACE METRIC: “Lack of respect for freedom of belief and other basic rights and needs of others is one of the principle markers for violence in a society.”(Brian Grim, *The Cost of Freedom Denied*.)

The problem is currently compounded by data mining and internet algorithms that profile internet users and then feed them the news and other content the algorithm determines the user wants to hear. This “silo-ing” of individuals increases their vulnerability to being stirred to division and violence against others and diminishes the richness of the public square.

Throughout history there has been no shortage of those that exploit that vulnerability by stirring up contention and division for their own political, business, and other selfish purposes. In our time, the internet, social media platforms, data mining and internet algorithms give them additional tools to sow division and further their selfish interests.



If peace is ever to prevail, we must temper the politics and business of division and make them less rewarding. We've got to somehow "inoculate" people against disrespecting, dehumanizing and vilifying others and against other rationalizations that override inborn traits of empathy and cooperation and make people vulnerable to being stirred to polarization and violence. As a threshold, we must build respect and at least a reasonable degree of fairness. Both are essential to peace.

Simplify 3: Intergroup Cohesion and Community

One of the great blessings of my life has been to come to know, respect, and love great people of other faiths, ethnicities, nationalities, persuasions and cultures. It has been deeply enriching, uplifting, and inspiring to learn of their goodness, example, friendship, courage, perspectives, and beliefs and to work together for the common good. It's also a key to building community and peace.

PEACE METRIC: "Intergroup cohesion is the top indicator of peace in a society."
(Institute for Economics and Peace)



Rotarians understand this. Being catalysts in building those connections in our communities and the world is central to our Rotary objective of "advancing world understanding, goodwill, and peace." We need to step up our game.

All humans are born free and equal
in dignity and rights.
They are endowed with reason and
conscience and should act towards one
another in a spirit of brotherhood.

– U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 1 –

Chapter 2: Unify.

To unify is to bring together in common cause; to become one in fellowship and action. That's our challenge - to bring people everywhere together in the common cause, action, and fellowship of peace.

One of the greatest powers to bring people together is the power of what is shared in common. **The key is to focus more on what unites than on what divides.** Difference should not be allowed to eclipse the good that is shared in common.

Especially powerful are **Shared Identity, Shared Values, and Shared Goodness.**

Unify 1: Shared Identity

People the world over are much more alike than they are different. Every person on earth is 99.9% genetically identical to every other. All have the same basic needs, hopes, and fears. We all feel the same pain. We shed the same tears. *"We all bleed the same."* (Alex Boye)



I recently met an inspirationally wise Israeli mother whose beloved son had been taken from her at a relatively young age by a sniper's bullet. Speaking of her sons' warmth and kindness she said *"The sniper didn't kill David because he was David. If he had known David he could never have killed him. If you don't know, you fear or you hate."*

She and several hundred Palestinian and Israeli parents who, like her, have lost a child to the violence in that part of the world are part of The Parents Circle, a group that is working toward reconciliation. They are joined by others from both sides of the conflict who have lost a parent or other loved one.

A Palestinian spokesperson for the organization whose beautiful daughter Abir was killed in 2007 at the tender age of ten said, *"I miss her everywhere, every day. She*

is my daughter.” He explains the work of The Parents Circle with these words “Our main power is our pain. Because it’s indescribable pain, you want to prevent any other family from tasting this bitterness.” In the words of Army Chaplain Fredrick McDonald (who collected the stained glass shards mentioned above) “It’s not just a matter of after a battle hearing that 8,000 people were lost. They were 8,000 individuals that were important to others.”

Respecting the humanity of the other is foundational to peacebuilding. In the words of David’s mother, *“Until you see the humanity on the other side you can’t possibly ever give up being right. And this is a big problem. We’re so busy being right.”*

Recognizing and remembering that **we are all part of the same human family** can activate the inborn traits of empathy, social interaction, problem-solving, collaboration, and fairness and be a powerful force for building respect, resolving conflict² and building peace. See Enrichment 1: [The Peacebuilding Power of Shared Humanity](#).

Moreover, you simply cannot experience the full depth and richness of your own humanity without honoring the humanity of others.



Unify 2: Shared Values

The culminating event of our community’s annual Interfaith Season (mid-January to mid-March) is an evening of sharing sacred music and dance. The purpose of Interfaith Season is to “build love, harmony, and understanding among people of all faith traditions, belief systems, and cultures.” At the Sacred Music night a few years ago a Buddhist children’s group ended their performance with the following recitation (while the words were projected on huge screens at the front of the venue):

**I am a link in Amida’s Golden Chain of love
that stretches around the world. I will keep
my link bright and strong.**

2. To put things in perspective, conflict is not necessarily a bad thing unless it is allowed to divide and polarize. While most people do not seek to have conflict in their lives and would avoid it if they could, a certain measure of conflict seems to enter the lives of all. While it is important to try to minimize conflict, at least equally important is how conflict that does occur is managed and resolved. When resolved in positive ways it can even lead to growth of the human spirit, to more respectful relationships, and to more caring, connected community.

I will be kind and gentle to every living thing,
and protect those who are weaker than myself.

I will think pure and beautiful thoughts,
say pure and beautiful words, and do
pure and beautiful deeds.

May every link in Amida's Golden Chain
of love be bright and strong, and may
we all attain perfect peace.



When the children finished the recitation, the woman next to me
leaned over and said *"I had no idea Buddhists believe that.
That's a beautiful thing to believe."*

After a lifetime of negotiating and attempting to implement peace treaties Uri Savir,
a lead negotiator in the Oslo Accords, laments "few things are more archaic than
today's peacemaking strategies." He observes that since "societies and governments
act according to the dominant values and myths of the day", peacemaking "must
address a society's beliefs and ideals at its roots." He concludes "peace cannot simply
be the domino effect of other processes – **PEACE MUST COME FIRST.**"

Savir goes on to explain the necessity of creation of a "peace ecology" which he
describes as "a transition from a psychological and cultural environment of war to one
of peace, **based on common values, tolerance, and coexistence.**" Savir stresses
"common values are key."³

Shared values build social cohesion and unity within groups and between groups
– within communities and between communities – within nations and between
nations. **Shared values are foundational to a culture of peace** (the "peace
ecology" urged by Savir) and increase the sense and power of shared identity
referenced in the preceding section.

To construct, reinforce and cement a solid foundation upon which peace can be
built (one of the key objectives of this booklet) it is **critical to increase awareness
of and appreciation for shared values.** [See Enrichment 2 for an example.](#)

3. *Peace First*, Uri Savir, pp.2, 6, 8, and 64.

Unify 3: Shared Goodness

A treasured friend who grew up in Pakistan once told me a pedagogical story that has deep meaning in his life. It is of a small boy that noticed his little brother playing by an electrical outlet. The boy had the impression that he should move his brother away from the outlet but thought to himself “he’ll be okay” and did not act on the impression. Two minutes later his brother was dead.

At that point my friend looked me squarely in the eyes and pointing at me said with a powerful voice *“If that had happened to me I would re-live that moment every single day of my life - and the lesson is clear, if you have an impression to do something good, DO IT NOW!”*

That is the hallmark of his life. He has dedicated his professional life to serving critically ill children as head of anesthesiology at a Shriner’s Hospital for children. He is a leader in the local Islamic community and has donated countless hours helping resettle refugee families from war-torn countries. He has served our community in many other ways. He is an absolute inspiration!

There are good people all over the world from all races, ethnic groups, religions, beliefs, nationalities, etc. (More than a million of them are Rotarians.) No group has a corner on the market of goodness.

Recognizing and harnessing Shared Goodness is a powerful force for peace that should be part of our approach. “Somehow the world is hungry for goodness and recognizes it when it sees it. There’s something in all of us that hungers after the good and the true. (Desmond Tutu)

Increasing awareness of, appreciation for, and commitment to the good that is shared in common (especially Shared Humanity, Shared Values, and Shared Goodness) **provides the most-sure foundation upon which to unite and build sustainable peace. It is the greatest hope for humanity.** That’s our opportunity and challenge - individually and collectively.

**Together, we see a world where people unite
and take action to create lasting change –
across the globe, in our communities,
and in ourselves.**

– Rotary International Vision Statement –

Chapter 3: Engage.

Peace is not a spectator sport.
It requires the efforts of all.

– Past RI President Charles “Chuck” Keller –

Engage 1: Infuse with Empowerment and Responsibility

Many people are concerned about the state of the world but are not sure what to do about it. Empower them by expanding their vision of what they can do and of their responsibility to do it. Empowering people helps them accept personal responsibility and become more naturally and energetically engaged.

Empowering people and building personal responsibility can be as simple as having them read this booklet or getting them to think about the “your piece of peace” quote. Consider putting the following quote (or at least the first part of it) on the back of your business and Rotary cards, spreading the quote every other way you can think of, and getting others to do the same.

You may not be responsible for world peace,
but you are responsible for your piece/peace.

Your piece of world peace and your own inner peace.

More fully live your piece of peace.

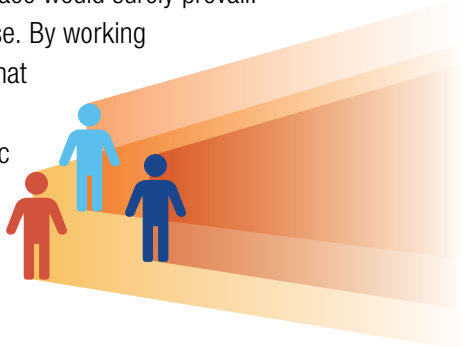
See how at rotarianactiongroupforpeace.org

If everyone lived their piece of peace, peace would surely prevail.

The cumulative impact would be immense. By working and linking together to make it happen that impact is magnified exponentially.

“Focused, determined, enlightened public opinion is (one of) the most potent force(s) in the world.” (Robert Stewart)

Ultimately, peace resides in the hands of the people – all of the people.



Engage 2: Inoculate and Enhance

If peace is ever to prevail we've got to find a way to inoculate people against violence and its precursors – against belittling, demonizing, and dehumanizing others - and to enhance respect, fairness, and intergroup cohesion. **The key is to overcome ignorance and arrogance through education and interaction.** Both are intertwined. Each enhances the other.

A starting point for education (inoculation) can be as simple as getting people to stop and consciously take note of Shared Humanity, Shared Values, and Shared Goodness (perhaps by reading this booklet). It's much harder to demean and vilify another person or group when you first stop and recognize the many ways they are similar to you. Listening to understand builds empathy and respect. Interaction can be as simple as working together to meet a community need, breaking bread together, or making sure membership in your club is reflective of the demographics in your community.

Be a catalyst in inoculating against division, polarization and violence and in building respect, fairness, and intergroup cohesion.



Engage 3: Resonate, Motivate, and Embrace

Resonate. In trying to engage others, it's important to recognize that different people resonate with different approaches (some faith-based, some humanist-based, some nature based, some peace science based, and so forth.). Failure to recognize and respect that fact can lead to quibbling and division - even among would-be positive voices. Invite and encourage people to arrive at principles of **Shared Humanity, Shared Values, Shared Goodness**, and other principles of peace by whatever path resonates the most with them and brings them to the principles most powerfully.

For peace to prevail, people of goodwill of all stripes need to band together. In a world where it often seems that everyone thinks they have the answer, it's easy to overlook the fact that others may also have a piece of the answer. Together we have the answer. **Together we ARE the answer.**

To be most effective we need the strength of all positive voices linking and standing together in a powerful way that exposes the weakness and error of negative hateful voices. See Enrichment 4: *A Battle for Hearts and Minds*.

Motivate. Peace activist Paul K. Chappell notes there is shared human hunger for (i) purpose and meaning, (ii) belonging, (iii) self-worth, and (iv) explanation (people want to understand). The urge to satisfy those hungers of the human spirit can be powerful. Chappell notes that if you give a person enough purpose and meaning they will willingly give up food and safety, suffer deprivation and physical hardships of all kinds, and even be willing to die for a cause (like protection of family, faith, country, or freedom.)⁴ The promise of satisfaction of those hungers can be a powerful generator of loyalty to a cause and a motivator to action.

Keep that in mind as you plan your peace projects. Find ways to increase every person's sense of belonging. **Build their self-worth. Give them purpose, meaning, and explanation.**

The principles of this booklet are designed to help do that. Establishing an atmosphere of individual responsibility, respect, fairness, and connection goes a long way in satisfying the hunger for self-worth and belonging. Efforts to build peace are powerfully enhanced when the incomparable power of Shared Values and wisdom is harnessed in providing purpose and meaning. Shared Identity and Shared Goodness help satisfy all three, i.e. (i) purpose and meaning, (ii) belonging, and (iii) self-worth.

Consider other things that might motivate people in your area to accept responsibility and take action. **A couple of possibilities to stimulate your thinking are:**

- **Some people are motivated by the futility and terrible waste of war and violence.**
- **Most people want a better world not only for themselves but even more powerfully for the children and grandchildren of the world – especially their own. Motivate them to help “make the sun rise for every child” – to give every child a fair opportunity at life.**

Build peace using whatever motivates people to peace in your part of the world. Help fill these shared human spiritual hungers in positive ways. See Enrichment 5: *Finding Purpose & Meaning*.



4. *A New Peace Paradigm: Our Human Needs and the Tangles of Trauma*, p. 2, Paul K. Chappell, Nov. 2, 2017. www.peaceliteracy.org.

Embrace. It is one thing to read this booklet and quite another to embrace its principles and make them more fully a part of daily life. We encourage you to do so - as part of your piece of peace. To assist you we've attached the "My Piece of Peace Pledge" as Enrichment 6. **Fine-tune it to fit what resonates the most with you and to your own vision and commitment of what you will do to more fully live your piece of peace.** Then print it out and hang it on your wall or put it somewhere else that you can review it regularly (like with your day planner or saved on your mobile devices). Make it part of your daily life.



Help start a community-building and peacebuilding movement in your locality and globally by getting as many Rotarians and others as possible to embrace the pledge. Encourage them to encourage as many others as possible to join in. **Link your efforts. Help make it "go viral".**

For other simple ideas to stimulate your thinking about implementation of the principles in this chapter see Enrichment 3: *Ideas for Engagement* and the *Rotarian Action Group for Peace Project Manual*.

**Peace is not a spectator sport.
Get in the game. Play to win.**

NOTES:

Chapter 4: Your Rotary Piece

4.1: The Club is the Hub - Every Rotarian a Peacebuilder

Make your club the hub of peacebuilding activity in your community. Help maximize Rotary International's impact in building peace in the world and more powerfully implement the Rotary Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution area of focus by making your club a Peacebuilder Club. **Be part of a growing network of Peacebuilder Clubs that will change the world.** See how at rotarianactiongroupforpeace.org (Click on "Peacebuilder")

4.2: Maximize the Peacebuilding Impact of Every Rotary Project

Hopefully it's obvious that every Rotary project in all 6 areas of focus builds peace. Every time we meet a need and help build local capacity for people to solve their own problems we increase stability and build peace. Every time we get people working together for the common good – especially when helping the oppressed or less fortunate – we create the potential to build community and peace. For every project you help plan, take a few minutes and see if by applying the principles in this booklet and its Enrichment Materials you can create a bigger impact. Things like:

- Watch for opportunities to engage people that would not normally participate – including non-Rotarians. Help them to get outside themselves, grow in knowledge and understanding of the other, and feel the deep satisfaction of *Service above Self*.
- If possible, invite people of different ethnic backgrounds or faiths that would not normally associate with each other to participate in the project. Be a catalyst in helping them to learn something about each other and build understanding and friendship.
- Watch for opportunities to implement the principles of this booklet as part of the project.



4.3: Raise the Profile – Build Rotary

Spread the Rotary motto and 4-Way Test everywhere you can, to everyone you can, and in every way you can. Teaching people to embrace *Service above Self* is just what's needed to counter selfishness and greed in the world (one of the major root causes of violence). **The 4-Way Test is a more powerful addition to the community and global ethical standards than most people realize.** Even Rotarians may not fully appreciate its strength. Consider how it lines up with critical elements of peace above.



ROTARY'S 4-WAY TEST

PRINCIPLES OF PEACE

1 INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

Of the things we think, say, and do . . .

2 INTEGRITY

Is it the TRUTH?

3 RESPECT

Is it FAIR to all concerned?

4 INTERGROUP COHESION

Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Invite people to join Rotary and your peacebuilding activities. If they decline, let them know that, while we'd love to have them join Rotary, these are great principles to live by whether they join Rotary or not.

Increase public awareness of Rotary's peacebuilding power and activities by conducting a peace conference, planting a Peace Pole, sponsoring a student peace art or peace video competition, and so forth. Invite community participation (not just Rotarians). Engage other organizations as cosponsors. Link together. Maximize publicity for the activity. Tie it to your local peace initiatives and this booklet. Get maximum impact for your efforts. See the RAGFP Project Manual for details.

NOTES:

Chapter 5: Live Your Piece of Peace

5.1: Start With What You Know

Take a few minutes to stop, take a few deep breaths, and look at life through the peacebuilder lens. Picture yourself as a peacebuilder. **Envision what you will do to build more peace in your home, your school or workplace, and your community.** How will you be more proactive in building peace in all those places? How will you respond to daily frictions, conflicts, division, polarization, and other challenges that disrupt peace? What about finding more peace in your own life?

If you stop and think about it, you already know some things you can do to make the world around you better and more peace-filled. Write them down. Step up. Accept responsibility. Put them into action. Live your piece of peace.



NOTES:



5.2: Become Even Better

To be respectful of your time we've tried to keep this booklet as brief as possible while targeting some key aspects of peacebuilding. There are some big concepts squeezed into a very small amount of text. The focus has been on stimulating thinking and on getting to more-impactful action as quickly and easily as possible. There is more richness for those who take time to think about the content, thoughtfully read the Enrichment Materials (one a day or week suggested), go back and read the booklet again, and then adapt it all to local circumstances.

Since you are a Rotarian, we know you are already impacting your community and the world for good. We salute you and thank you for that. We hope this little booklet has stimulated some thought about how you can do even better and have even more impact. Other resources that may be helpful are on our website at rotarianactiongroupforpeace.org and at the [Rotary Peace Academy](#) as explained below.

5.3: Lead Out

We all influence those around us for good or ill. Whether those we influence are many or few, we can each contribute to bringing out the best in ourselves and those around us – or bringing out the worst. More peace and happiness is found by bringing out the best.

In the final analysis, peacebuilding is about
people-building and community-building.
It's about bringing out the best in both.

If we each live our piece of peace and help others do the same, together we'll help make the "sun rise for every child" and build the communities and world we all yearn to see and, with or without intention, build ourselves and our own sense of fulfillment and peace in the process.



Engage your world.



Help make the sun shine for every child.

EPILOGUE:

Taking it to the Next Level – Building a Culture of Peace

Peace has been defined simply as “the existence of peaceful cultural beliefs and norms.” That’s the target. That’s the end-game. That’s our objective. That’s what we’ve got to do if lasting peace is ever to prevail – build peaceful cultural beliefs and norms (normal social behaviors). We need to focus on that objective at the outset and stay focused on it through every stage of our efforts.

This epilogue focuses on doing that by (i) setting forth a working definition of peace to unify our efforts, (ii) addressing the critical issues of Structural Peace, and (iii) making suggestions for establishing local and global Standards of Peace.

What Peace?

It is said that the word “peace” means something different to everyone. While that may be true, it would seem there are also elements of peace with which most people would agree. To unify and focus our efforts, it seems helpful to have at least a working definition of “peace” that incorporates the metrics and principles of this booklet. Some common elements and aspects of peace for such a definition are:

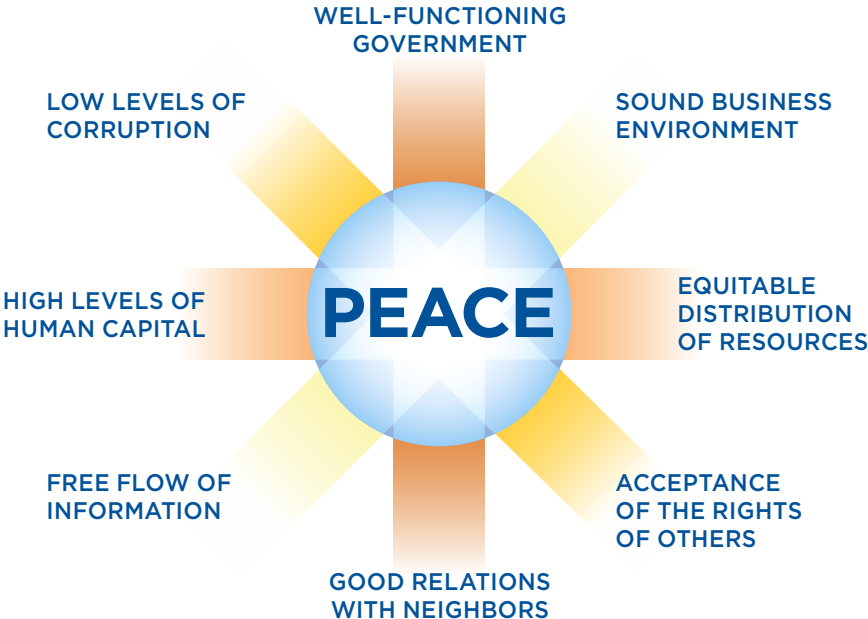
- Peace includes an absence of hostilities, violence (verbal and physical), harsh and hateful feelings, and fear of violence. It includes the presence of respect and at least a reasonable degree of fairness.
- Peace is more complete and enduring when it includes harmonious relations and a condition of mutual concern, goodwill, friendship and love in which members of a community actively and constantly promote one another’s good. (Daniel Philpott). At its best, peace includes conditions that allow for full development of the human spirit and potential – especially for children.
- Peace is a process – a dynamic process of becoming. It must be learned by each generation anew. It begins in the heart and in the home. It is strongest when built upon a widely-accepted morality of peace and endures only if a society wills it.
- Individual peace includes a growing inner tranquility that can exist even in the midst of turmoil. Such peace comes largely from moving ever closer to harmony within (i.e. integrity); with nature; with others, and with the source of wisdom, love, and light.

Send us your thoughts on what you would add. Include a short story or example if you like. We'll publish as many as we can through RAGFP's social media - spread out in a weekly or daily posting. We'll also collect them as a resource on our website and may publish them in a booklet if warranted. Send us your positive peace stories and thoughts to contact@rotariansforpeace.org.

Structural Peace

The Eight Pillars of Positive Peace. To build lasting peace, principles and values of peace (including specifically those mentioned above) must be woven into the structures and institutions of society.

The Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) has identified **8 Pillars of Positive Peace**. Each pillar is an important part of a culture of peace. Each pillar is stronger when built upon the foundation of a global morality of peace and permeated by the principles herein.



POSITIVE PEACE

The presence of attitudes, institutions and structures that create and sustain peaceful societies.



NEGATIVE PEACE

The absence of violence or fear of violence.

Of course, none of us can do all of those alone. But we can all come to understand them, embrace them, and do our part to make them happen. And, we can each pick one or two things from the list that particularly resonate with us and make doing something about them be part of our own individual piece of peace. If everyone picks a piece that resonates with them, working together we can accomplish them all.

Great training in the 8 Pillars of Positive Peace is available online at [The Rotary Peace Academy](#) which has been created as a joint project of Rotary International and IEP. Take the training as soon as you can. Build your understanding and capacity to build peace. Make it part of your piece of peace.

Building Community & Global Standards of Peace

Contribute to building “peaceful cultural beliefs and norms” in your community/country by increasing awareness of peaceful values that are shared by the various groups that make up your community/country. You can start with the shared values listed in [Enrichment 2](#). Fine-tune them, if necessary, to reflect the shared values of people living in your geographical area. Build on them. Engage the goodwill of business, government, faith, and other leaders in defining the shared values and making them widely known. Spread them everywhere you can, to everyone you can, and in every way you can. Use local fora like public bulletin boards and banners, community newspapers, etc. Create a website. Use social media of every form. Draw attention to it through school peace art or video contests, peace poles, and in other ways.



AS A FIRST STEP, you may choose to set your sight a little lower and focus just on standards of civility. An example entitled A Call to Civility is attached as [Enrichment 7](#). Fine-tune it to fit the values in your community. Get it endorsed by community leaders. Spread it in all the ways mentioned in the prior paragraph.

Help us develop a Global Standard for Peace

Give us your feedback on the draft in Enrichment 2. *What's missing? What should be added or taken away?* Send feedback to PeaceStandards@outlook.com.

And finally, some takeaways:

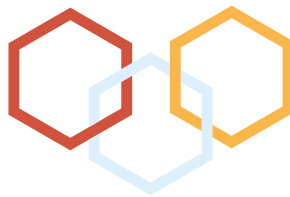
Individually:

1. **Make a commitment. More fully live your piece of peace daily.**
(If you are not already trying to do so).
2. **Help others expand their vision and more fully live their piece of peace. Encourage them, in turn, to help others do the same.**
(Remember, getting them started can be as simple as a brief conversation or sharing the link to the online version of this booklet and encouraging them to read it. Sharing can be through social media or by giving them a card with the link.)
3. **Join the Rotarian Action Group For Peace and help link all those “pieces of peace” in a golden chain of peacebuilders (and love) that stretches around the world.**

Collectively:

4. **Engage your club as a RAGFP Peacebuilder Club.**
5. **Maximize the peacebuilding impact of every club project in all six areas of Rotary focus.**
6. **Link peacebuilding efforts with other organizations and individuals. Work together to build sustainable peace.**

Live and Link Your Piece of Peace



Help Build the Peace
We All Yearn for and Cherish

ENRICHMENT MATERIALS

Access Enrichment at rotarianactiongroupforpeace.org

[Enrichment 1: *The Power & Necessity of Shared Humanity*](#)

[Enrichment 2: *An Example of Shared Values*](#)

Enrichment 3: *Ideas for Engagement (To Stimulate Your Thinking)*

Enrichment 4: *A Battle for Hearts and Minds*

Enrichment 5: *Finding Purpose and Meaning*

Enrichment 6: *The “My Piece of Peace” Pledge.*

[Enrichment 7: *A Call to Civility*](#)

Enrichment 8: *Three of the Most Important Questions of Our Time – Who Fills the Box? With What? & How?*



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This little booklet has been reviewed and made better by the comments of too many people to mention. Special thanks to each of them. Special mention is made of Rotary Peace Fellow Patricia Shafer and Kim Rusch of NewGen PeacebuildersSM for contributing the linking concept and design elements of the booklet.

How wonderful it is that nobody
need wait a single moment before
starting to improve the world.

– Anne Frank –

