

President Frank's E-Express

FEBRUARY 2001 ISSUE



Message from President Frank



THE PATH OF PEACE



This month, we commemorate a very special anniversary - the birth of Rotary on 23 February 1905, known as World Understanding and Peace Day. During Rotary's 96 years of existence, we have accomplished milestones in service that even founder Paul Harris could not have envisioned during his lifetime. We have provided educational opportunities for thousands of international scholars, provided health care to tens of thousands of needy people, and made possible the immunization of millions of children against the crippling disease of polio. In less than the span of a century, we have forged a powerful force for peace, built on the foundation of service.

To me, the magic of Rotary is its internationality. The incredible diversity of our organization is its greatest asset, and it is what distinguishes us from other organizations. Through international programs such as Youth Exchange, Group Study Exchange, the Ambassadorial Scholarships program, Matching Grants and World Community Service, we are able to expand our reach of service.

Such service is the first step on the path to peace, because peace is rooted in the health and happiness of a nation's people. It is difficult to have peace when children go hungry, when parents lack a livelihood, when a country goes to war. I believe that Rotary can make a difference, even if it is one child at a time, one community at a time. One of our greatest programs is World Community Service, which matches clubs and districts in need of assistance. Today, thanks to the Internet, clubs can contact other clubs and districts around the world in order to carry out a joint project. You can publicize a project in need of a partner by posting it on the Project Registry, via the World Community Service Resource Task Force, at www.frankdevlyn.org/wcs/register-project.htm.

Other great resources are the Projects Fairs, which help match clubs in need of a partner. These gatherings are invaluable in linking people who want to take action and meet face-to-face. One shining example is the first international Projects Fair held last May in Eastern Europe, organized by Halina Stepien, WCS chair of District 2230 (Belarus, Poland and Ukraine). This event, held in Kielce, Poland, attracted 100 participants and featured 107 projects. These fairs put the "action" into Rotary service, by helping to bring clubs together.

Rotary also has been successful in advancing international understanding and peace through our joint health initiatives with the United Nations and its agencies. Indeed, people have often compared Rotary to the United Nations, with its great diversity and striving to achieve a common good. Our greatest partnership to date has been working with the World Health Organization, UNICEF and other groups to eradicate polio. We are on the threshold of achieving this great dream - to see polio wiped out in our lifetime. With your continued support and vigilance through the PolioPlus Partners program, we plan to celebrate our historic victory over polio in the year 2005 - Rotary's centennial.

This month, I encourage you to Create Awareness and Take Action through the programs of Rotary to bring peace to the world. It may sound like a monumental task, but it is achievable in small steps. By taking these small steps, you will continue a noble journey that began with one man - Paul Harris - nearly a century ago.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank J. Devlyn".

Frank J. Devlyn
RI President, 2000-01





Rotarians discuss service and extension in Africa at RI conference

More than 500 Rotarians from 43 nations convened in Cape Town, South Africa, last week to explore service and membership extension opportunities in Africa, a continent faced with a host of problems, including disease, poverty, illiteracy, famine and war.

The historic week began on 24 January with a Rotary Foundation Seminar, followed by a Rotary Institute and culminating with the 26-28 January African Presidential Conference.

“We want this Presidential Conference to be meaningful because we want to make a difference - to help make a better Africa by working with Africa,” RI President Frank J. Devlyn told attendees at the Medicina Conference Centre, the venue of the event.

Echoing that sentiment, RI President-elect Richard D. King promised to convene one of the two PolioPlus Summits, planned for Rotary year 2001-02, in Africa “to emphasize the need to finish the job” of eradicating polio worldwide by 2005. The wild polio virus remains endemic in about 10 African nations.

“When we talk about challenges, Rotary sees the situation as an opportunity to serve, and Africa needs your services,” said keynote speaker Conrad Sidego, chairman of the Community Chest of the Western Cape, South Africa. He called Rotary “the catalyst to challenge all Africans to get involved and volunteer.”



President Frank receiving a copy of a book on South Africa from African Presidential Conference Chairman Tony Serrano.



A Rotarian making a contribution to a discussion at a session

A recurring theme was that education is the key to addressing many of the continent’s worst problems, such as HIV/AIDS, poverty and related population issues.

Many aggressive Rotary-sponsored literacy and education initiatives already are underway. In Cape Town, District 9350 has just been approved for a five-year 3-H grant from The Rotary Foundation to expand its successful Concentrated Language Encounter (CLE) pilot project which has trained 130 primary school teachers at seven schools since 1998. The expanded project will reach 240,000 students in 1,200 area schools by 2005.

Conference Chairman Antonio Serrano of the Rotary Club of Bedfordview, South Africa, cited other examples of Foundation support throughout Africa, including funding for women’s empowerment projects in East Africa; US\$500,000 for a child-spacing program in Nigeria; and \$500,000 for a tuberculosis control project in South Africa.

Such ongoing activities should serve as a starting-point for stepped-up efforts, said RI Vice-President Lou Piconi, who led a group of Rotary volunteers to Nigeria for a five-day polio-immunization drive prior to the conference. “Africa is a continent too long forgotten - we need to do more,” he said.

Dr. Ebrahim Samba, WHO's regional director for Africa, provided a status report on polio eradication on the continent. He acknowledged the challenge presented by the chronic warfare that plagued Eastern and Central Africa, but noted the campaign's "success in convincing the belligerents to lay down their arms so that the children can be immunized."

The WHO regional chief also cautioned against complacency in the African nations where the polio virus has been checked. "The polio virus has no passport and needs no visa," he said. "So people, maintain vigilance. With polio anywhere in the world - anywhere - no country is safe."

Highlighting the musical link between Africa and Spain with entertainment by the Flamenco de Africa musical group, a conference party at the Cape Town Civic Centre provided the perfect environment for Rotarian fellowship. A project fair featuring mainly health-related projects offered opportunities for Rotary clubs to find partners for international service projects.



President Frank and a group of African Rotarians pose for a photo during a conference break.



Registration for European Presidential Conference going on

The European Presidential Conference, slated for 11-13 May 2001 in Vienna, Austria, will be the perfect occasion for Rotarians from all over the region and beyond to explore the challenges and opportunities faced by Rotary and Europe.

Taking place in the heart of Europe, this RI meeting will focus on ways to strengthen the quality of Rotary membership and service, as well as to determine Rotary's role in defining human rights and duties in the context of rapid social change in the region. Professor Rita Levi Montalcini, a Nobel laureate in medicine, has been invited to address participants on this topic.

According to RI President Frank J. Devlyn, the changes in Europe are mirrored in Rotary. "Vienna is part of a newly expanded district that embraces five nations, one of many such districts in Europe," he said. "The conference provides a wonderful opportunity to discuss how this new model of administration can encourage cooperation and support Rotary growth and effectiveness, while respecting cultural autonomy."

Reflecting the 2000-01 Rotary theme: Create Awareness and Take Action, topics to be discussed at the conference include innovative ways to increase job opportunities; working successfully with Matching Grants; Rotary Volunteers and Humanitarian Grants; and strengthening the quality of Rotary membership and action.

President Frank and other senior Rotary leaders will exchange views with participants on wide-ranging Rotary-related issues in the open-forum format sessions, a popular feature at RI meetings.

To increase the effectiveness of clubs and districts external communications, a public relations workshop will be held just prior to the conference on 11 May. A project fair will give clubs and districts the ideal forum to share their service experience and expand the impact of their projects across the world.

A networking and fellowship lunch and a conference banquet (US\$50 a ticket) featuring local entertainment will be among the social activities aimed at giving Rotarians opportunities to network and to renew old friendships and strike new ones.

Due to space limitations, it is important that those who wish to attend the conference register early. Registration fees are US\$175 for Rotarians and guests and \$75 for Rotaractors, and include the conference plenary and discussion sessions, four coffee breaks and one lunch. The onsite registration fee for Rotarians and guests will be \$225. Room rates for single and double occupancy at the Hotel Inter-Continental Wien are ATS 2,903.42 per night.

Registration forms and further information on the conference can be obtained from the International Meetings Division by fax: 847-866-9239; telephone: 847-866-5202; e-mail: lammys@rotaryintl.org; from the Meetings section of the RI Web site at <http://www.rotary.org>; via the RI faxback service at 800-510-8726; or by writing to RI Registration Department, IM300, One Rotary Center, 1560 Sherman Ave. Evanston, IL 60201, USA.

Washington, D.C., club hosts Rotarians at Presidential Inauguration

More than 350 Rotarians and guests across the United States and the rest of the world joined RI President Frank J. Devlyn and Gloria Rita, his wife, on the U.S. Presidential Inauguration Day (20 January 2001) in Washington DC to commemorate the swearing in of the country's 43rd president. Held at the National Press Club, the five-hour non-partisan event was hosted by the Rotary Club of Washington D.C. and Rotary District 7620.

Located just two blocks from the White House and along the parade route, the Press Club gave all who attended a vantage point to watch the Inaugural parade.

Governor-elect Betty Jo Tompkins of District 6890 noted; "The reception was simply fantastic, offering great fellowship, wonderful food, and the opportunity to visit with old friends and meet new ones."

"Such hospitality is characteristic of the Washington Rotary Club and the Rotarians of this District," said Governor Thomas Kwako of District 7620. "Washington is a world-class center for fostering partnerships between global organizations and RI with a view to expanding Rotary's international outreach to people in need. This inaugural reception is yet another opportunity to highlight the unique attributes that Washington, D.C., provides to Rotary worldwide."

While watching the Inaugural activities on big screen television sets, Rotarians and guests feasted on a full buffet, and a variety of hot and cold refreshments, all of which was made possible by the generous support of five Washington Rotary-related sponsors.

For some Rotarians, the opportunity to travel to the nation's capital and witness the presidential transition was nothing short of historic. "In the same way that the United States undergoes a peaceful and democratic change of leadership, we as Rotarians are fortunate to have outstanding leaders and an orderly transition from one president to the next. I was very honored to spend this historic day with our own First Family of Rotary," said Governor David Hergert of District 5440.

Ambassador Ljubica Acevska of Macedonia, a member of the Rotary Club of Washington, D.C., was one of numerous foreign Rotarians and members of the Diplomatic Corps in attendance. She was impressed with the day's historical significance and stated that the event "brought home to me the



President Frank (third from left) and Gloria Rita, his wife, (far right) with guests at the Open House reception hosted by the Rotary Club of Washington, D.C., USA, for Rotarians who traveled to the US capital to witness the inauguration of President George W. Bush.

importance of Rotary as a non-partisan voice for service around the world."

The international flavor of the event was further highlighted during a presentation of a special plaque to President Frank, prepared by Jorge Bransburg, the immediate past president of the Rotary Club of Once, Argentina. The plaque featured the current Rotary theme, "Create Awareness & Take Action," as well as the 1910 version of the Rotary Wheel.

President Frank drew the names of three raffle winners each of whom received a "Getaway Package for Two," courtesy of the Wyndham City Center Hotel, provided by the hotel's General Manager, David Rossman, a member of the Washington D.C. club.

The club's president, David Hamod, noted, "This was such a great fellowship event that it should be institutionalized for future generations of Rotarians and their friends."

"We're already making our reservations at the National Press Club for next time around," quipped club member Werner Fomos, a sponsor and organizer of the event.

RI President addresses World Volunteer Conference

RI President Frank J. Devlyn made a keynote address and chaired a panel at the IAVE (International Association of Volunteer Efforts) World Volunteer Conference in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, on 14-16 January.

At the event where Rotary was featured as a model volunteer organization, President Frank's keynote speech highlighted the efforts of Rotary's millions of volunteer members who are committed to community, international and vocational service and to helping those who do not share their good fortune.

"Hundreds of thousands of Rotarians worldwide engage in hands-on volunteering – they read to schoolchildren, mentor youngsters, build parks and playgrounds, repair the homes of the elderly, host international exchange students...and much, much more," he said. "In addition to volunteering in their own communities, hundreds of Rotarians volunteer their skills abroad every year for four to eight weeks at a time, at the invitation of Rotary clubs in the host country."

Demonstrating a leadership role in examining volunteer issues, the RI president chaired a panel developed and hosted by RI on 16 January. Featuring presentations by senior Rotary leaders and high-ranking executives of the international NGOs Civicus, Centres for Social Markets and

NetAid.org, the panel offered solutions to the challenges of volunteer recruitment and mobilization, gaining a community's trust, and encouraging local ownership of sustainable projects.

RI Director Mario Grassi, one of the four panelists at the session, highlighted the unique ways Rotary volunteers have rallied communities across the world to eradicate polio and to take action on issues ranging from reproductive health to literacy, despite local political strife, civil unrest and religious differences.

Honored as a keynote presenter at a youth forum, and participating in an interactive workshop dialogue between young people and adults, Past RI President Bill Huntley reiterated Rotarians' commitment to young people, citing Rotary-sponsored programs and activities that empower youth and encourage mentor relationships. He presented RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards), Youth Exchange, Interact and Rotaract as great examples of Rotary's commitment to the development of youth across the world.

District governors from The Netherlands provided outstanding on-site support and helped with the Rotary exhibition featured at the conference.



President Devlyn recognizes world leaders for polio eradication support

Former U.S. President Bill Clinton and Queen Beatrix Wilhelmina Armgard of The Netherlands recently received bronze statues of a Rotary volunteer immunizing a child against polio from Rotary International. The statues are replicas of the large sculpture that stands outside RI World Headquarters.

On 10 January, RI President Frank J. Devlyn visited the U.S. White House to present the award in recognition of the almost US\$540 million that the U.S. government has contributed toward polio eradication. Accompanied by Past District Governor Bernard Ableman of Wilmington, Delaware, and District Governor (7620) Thomas L. Kwako of Bethesda, Maryland, the president met with Mickey Ibarra, assistant to President Clinton and director of intergovernmental affairs, who accepted the award on then President Clinton's behalf and expressed deep appreciation to the RI contingent for the critically important work being done by Rotarians worldwide.

The following week, President Frank presented the statue to Queen Beatrix Wilhelmina Armgard of The Netherlands in recognition of the near US\$50 million contribution by the Dutch government to accelerate polio immunization efforts.

"On behalf of 1.2 million Rotary volunteers worldwide, I am honored to present this statue in recognition of Holland's ongoing commitment to polio eradication," said Devlyn. "As we stand on the brink of victory over polio, contributions like this are urgently needed as war and poverty threaten our ability to vaccinate every child."



Mickey Ibarra, assistant to U.S. President Bill Clinton, accepting an award of a bronze PolioPlus statue on the former president's behalf from RI President Frank as DGs Kwako and Ableman look on.

Rotarians assist quake victims in India, El Salvador



There has been an encouraging response from Rotarians locally and internationally to the plight of the survivors of deadly earthquakes in El Salvador and India in January.

The earthquake in India's Gujarat State struck on 26 January, claiming tens of thousands of lives, and leaving 150,000 injured and a million homeless. "We decided that the most urgent and immediate need was to erect temporary shelters for the homeless," said Vikram Sanghani, President-elect of the Rotary Club of Rajkot Midtown, India, and coordinator of the aid team that visited the severely damaged town of Morvi. Working with affected residents, Rotarians have set up 600 tents, with an additional 1,000 scheduled for delivery.

Rotarians were among the first relief groups to arrive on the scene at Bhuj, one of the hardest hit cities in the area, when a seven-person team made up of doctors and an environmental consultant from the Rotary Club of Anand Mid Town visited 44 hours after the quake. The team partnered with medics from the local medical college to treat 200 casualties in the first two days. Another team went to the small village of Mokhana, bringing tents, utensils, clothing and food for the 300 families there.

Collaborating with other non-governmental organizations, Rotary clubs in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, have helped set up a camp outside the city where a free kitchen has been organized to feed some 5,000 survivors there. Dr. Shashank Rathod, governor of District 3050, is also helping to coordinate the efforts of a six-member medical team from Malaysia.

Members of the Rotary Clubs of Derby and Cotswolds, England, are sending more than 1,000 Aquabox water purification systems and standard humanitarian aid to Gujarat.

The Rotary Club of Norman, Oklahoma, USA, donated US\$750 to University of Oklahoma's Indian Student Association's earthquake relief fund.

In El Salvador, Rotarians worldwide continue to deliver aid to survivors of the 13 January earthquake that left 700 residents dead, some 4,400 injured and more than one million victims. The Rotary clubs of El Salvador joined forces to set up an emergency committee and centers to receive emergency relief supplies, and to open a bank account where donations can be made.

To reduce the risk of spreading infections, 10 Rotary clubs from Guatemala are contributing funds to cover the cost of renting portable toilets for victims of the quake. The 10 clubs pooled their resources to convert a building into a quake shelter. Also, Guatemala City Rotaractors secured more than 23,000 liters (6069 gallons) of water to be sent to the victims.

The Rotary Club of Gilford, New Hampshire, USA, donated money to pay for four solar-powered water purification systems that can help supply fresh water for 200 to 300 people daily. The club's donation also will buy some 140 water purification systems for individual homes. The Rotary Club of Teignmouth, Devon, England, released funds to buy enough Aquabox water filters to provide 100,000 liters (26,385 gallons) of clean drinking water, and the Rotary Club of Asuncion, Paraguay, sent blankets.

Rotary clubs, districts and individuals who wish to contribute to relief efforts in El Salvador and India can obtain more details from the notices of disaster published in the A Look Inside section of the Rotary Web site at <http://www.rotary.org>.



Convention Proceedings offers record of Buenos Aires meeting

Rotarians who want a lasting record of their experiences at the 2000 RI Convention in Buenos Aires, Argentina, may now order a copy of the 2000 Convention Proceedings. The 110-page book gives an official account of the plenary sessions, including the text of speeches, attendance figures, and photographs of convention scenes and events.

Copies of the English-only publication (#032-00EN) may be ordered through RI's Publications Order Services Section by telephone: 847-866-4600 or fax: 847-866-3276. Cost is

US\$4.95 a copy. Gratis copies of the Proceedings are routinely sent to immediate past district governors, current district governors and other past and present RI officers.

Past district governors may request a gratis copy from Joani Orr in the Publications Department at RI World Headquarters by fax: 847-866-9732; e-mail: orrjo@rotaryintl.org or mail: One Rotary Center, 1560 Sherman Avenue, Evanston, Illinois 60201, USA.

President Frank meets with European Rotarians, visits ancestral town

During a European trip he made in mid-January, President Frank J. Devlyn met with Rotarians in Denmark, the Netherlands and Sweden, and visited a Danish town where he traces part of his ancestry.

Speaking at an inter-city Rotary club meeting in Amsterdam, President Frank thanked Dutch Rotarians for their membership development efforts and for the outstanding World Community Service projects they are implementing with the Doctors Bank of the Netherlands.

While addressing Rotary club meetings in Copenhagen, Denmark, and Malmo, Sweden, the RI president urged

Rotarians to Create Awareness and Take Action about social issues such as avoidable blindness and creating jobs for the disabled. Also, he met with Youth Exchange students from Mexico, currently studying in Scandinavia.

President Frank's European trip gave him an opportunity to visit the Danish town of Odense, from where his maternal great-grandfather Niel Mortensen emigrated to the United States and eventually to Mexico. "I went to city hall where about 500 people welcomed me warmly," he said. "It was a moving experience."

A Challenge from RI President Frank Devlyn

Rotary International offers a number of award programs to encourage Rotarians and Rotary clubs to recognize outstanding achievements. Stressing the importance of these awards, RI President Frank J. Devlyn challenges every district governor to CREATE AWARENESS by promoting these awards to their Rotary clubs and ensuring that every club has an entry for the Public Relations Award and Significant Achievement Award.

Similarly, clubs are challenged to TAKE ACTION by participating in each of these award programs and informing their governor of their achievements. An entry from every club would represent exemplary motivation and accomplishments in 2000-01. President Frank emphasizes that these awards provide an excellent opportunity for clubs to undertake projects related to the 2000-01 Task Force objectives and they should submit them to their respective governors. The nomination process for these two awards is determined by the district governor.

As a special challenge to clubs and district governors, President Frank would like to award the 2000-01 Presidential Citation for Rotary Clubs to every Rotary club worldwide. The activities outlined are closely related to the 2000-01 Rotary theme — CREATE AWARENESS, TAKE ACTION — and the citation is designed to highlight these focuses. The president strongly believes that all clubs can qualify, but each club must review the criteria, complete the activities, and apply in order to be recognized. Also, there is a special recognition for governors whose districts enjoy 50 percent or more club participation in the citation program. President Frank wishes to recognize every governor with this honor, but first, governors and clubs must CREATE AWARENESS AND TAKE ACTION!

Please contact your district governor if you are interested in submitting a nomination for any of the following awards. Nominations for all of the following awards must be signed by the district governor and forwarded to RI prior to the deadlines below.

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This award recognizes outstanding community service projects carried out by a single Rotary club. To be eligible, the project must involve a majority of the club members in hands-on (not monetary) service. The award is presented to one Rotary club per district. Nomination forms for the Significant Achievement Award are sent to district governors. District nominations must be received by RI Headquarters no later than 15 March 2001.

RI PUBLIC RELATIONS AWARD

Developed to highlight the excellent public relations efforts undertaken by individual Rotary clubs, the RI Public Relations Award is presented to one Rotary club per district. To be eligible, the PR campaign must take place between 15 March 2000 and 15 March 2001 and be aimed at an external (non-Rotarian) audience. Nomination forms for this award

are sent to district governors. District nominations must be received by RI Headquarters no later than 15 May 2001.

2000-01 PRESIDENTIAL CITATION

The 2000-01 Presidential Citation is an excellent tool for organizing your club's service calendar. To qualify, clubs must complete certain activities between 1 July 2000 and 1 April 2001. The certification forms are due to RI Headquarters by 13 April 2001. Brochures (900IA) and Certification forms (900IB) are available from RI Order Services (847-866-4600) for US\$.30.

For information about criteria and eligibility, and to obtain nomination forms, visit the Rotary Web site at <http://www.rotary.org> or contact RI Recognition Section (PD230) by telephone: 847-866-4494; fax: 847-328-8554; e-mail: programs@rotaryintl.org or mail: One Rotary Center, 1560 Sherman Avenue, Evanston, IL 60201, USA.

President's schedule

RI President Frank J. Devlyn began the month attending the District 5300 Foundation Dinner in Pasadena, California, USA, on 2 February. He then visited with Rotarians from the Rotary Clubs of Mexicali, Mexico, and Yuma, Arizona, USA, on 3 February, and an inter-city meeting in Tijuana, Mexico, on 4 February, before going back to California for the 75th anniversary of the Rotary Club of Coronado on 5 February.

On 6 February, President Devlyn visited the Rotary Club of Memphis, Tennessee, USA. He then traveled to Oklahoma, USA, to visit the Rotary Club of Tulsa on 7 February, followed by the Annual Banquet in Oklahoma City on 8 February. On 9 February, he was in Houston, Texas, USA, for a workshop and conference on Rotary expansion in Russia.

He will be in Evanston, Illinois, USA, for the Executive Committee meeting on 10 February and the RI Directors meeting on 10-15 February. He then flies to Anaheim, California, for the Trustees meeting on 16-17 February; the International Assembly, 17-24 February; the International Institute, 17-20 February; and the Districting Committee meeting, 18-23 February.

President Devlyn ends the month in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, for the Integrity Award Dinner on 28 February.

RI ANNOUNCES NOMINEES FOR PRESIDENT, DIRECTORS

RI President Frank J. Devlyn has declared Bhichai Rattakul to be the sole nominee for president of Rotary International for 2002-03. No other nominations were filed by the 1 December 2000 deadline.

A member of the Rotary Club of Dhonburi, Thailand, Rotarian Rattakul was selected by the Nominating Committee for President of RI. He will be elected at the June 2001 Convention in San Antonio, Texas, USA, and will succeed Richard D. King, the incoming 2001-02 president, on 1 July 2002.

Also in San Antonio, new RI directors from eight zones will be elected to two-year terms that begin 1 July 2002. Of those, six candidates selected by zone nominating committees are assured of election. They are: John G. Thorne, Rotary Club of North Hobart, Tasmania, Australia (Zone 8); Samuel A. Okudzeto, Rotary Club of Accra, Ghana (Zone 10); Gennaro M. Cardinale, Rotary Club of Firenze Brunelleschi, Italy (Zone 12); Omar Steindórrsson, Rotary Club of Keflavik, Iceland (Zone 16); John Michael Pinson, Rotary Club of Killeen-Heights, Texas, USA (Zone 26); and J. David Roper, Rotary Club of Martinez-Evans, Ga., USA (Zone 34).

The directors-nominee for Zone 3 (Japan) and Zone 31 (USA) will be determined by postal ballots, with results expected in early March.

PROMOTING GLOBAL PEACE

A look at the calendar reminds us that 23 February does double duty as Rotary's 96th anniversary and World Understanding Day. It provides an ideal opportunity to extend January's theme, Rotary Awareness, by informing the local media about Rotary's history, emphasizing the organization's role in promoting peace and understanding worldwide. It's also a good time for Rotarians to reflect on how effectively their own club and district projects contribute to the goal of world peace.



President Frank's Electronic Express is a monthly newsletter containing updates on the work of 2000-01 RI President Frank J. Devlyn. Each month, the newsletter will keep Rotarians abreast of President Frank's travels and schedule as well as any important messages the president wishes to communicate. President Frank's Electronic Express is available for download in Personal Document Format from President Frank's Web site at <http://www.frankdevlyn.org>