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**FEBRUARY IS WORLD  
UNDERSTANDING MONTH**



## EDITORIAL

### A dangerous idea offers hope for girls in Afghanistan



More than 400 girls, including these seven-year-old best friends, attend the Zabuli Education Center outside Kabul. Razia Jan (far right), a U.S. Rotarian who returned to her native Afghanistan, opened the school in 2008. Photo Credit: Photo courtesy of Razia's Ray of Hope Foundation

In 2005, Razia Jan came up with a dangerous idea: to start a free private school for girls in her native Afghanistan. The Taliban were using extreme violence to keep girls from learning. In 2008, the year she opened the school, terrorists in the country -- armed with bombs, poison gas, guns, grenades, and acid -- killed 149 teachers, students, and employees in Afghan schools.

But Jan did not intend to let terrorists stop her. She approached Afghan Ministry of Education officials and persuaded them to donate a piece of land in a village 30 miles outside Kabul. Today, the Zabuli Education Center is in its sixth year and has a roster of more than 400 girls in kindergarten through ninth grade.

Without the school, many of the students never would have had the chance to receive an education. "I can feel a change happening in these girls and in this community," says Jan, who moved back to Afghanistan after building a successful tailoring business in Duxbury, Massachusetts, USA. "Knowledge is something nobody can steal from them."

The Rotarian magazine talked with her about her experience launching the school.

#### *The Rotarian: What made you return to Afghanistan to start a school for girls?*

**JAN:** I had seen the conditions and how badly the girls were treated. I had to do something. I thought, "There are no schools for girls here. Why not build one?" At that time, I was the president of the Rotary Club of Duxbury, and we decided to hold a fundraiser. We raised \$65,000 in one night. This was in 2005. In 2008, we held two events featuring Khaled Hosseini, author of the novels *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, which helped us raise more than \$120,000. The place where we decided to build the school was a community of seven villages, a poor area, and they had never seen a girls' school. My hope was that this school could help break the cycle of poverty.

#### *Did you encounter any resistance?*

**JAN:** When I first came to this village, a man came up to me and stared at me strangely. He said, "Sister, why are you standing here? Please go inside and sit with our women and have a cup of tea." I replied, "I'm going to build this school. And I'm going to be standing here to build it. You have to get used to it. I don't think I'm going to sit inside."

That was one of the first times a woman had challenged these men. The day before we opened the school, more men approached me. This time, there were four of them. "I hope you realize you still have a chance to change this school into a boys' school," they said to me. "Boys are the backbone of our community." I replied, "Unfortunately, you are all blind. I want to give you some sight." They turned around, and I never saw them again.

***What changes has your school brought about in the girls and in the community?***

**JAN:** One of the first things we do is to teach the girls how to write their father's name. Then they take it home to show their parents. The fathers have come up to me, crying: "These girls can write my name, and I can't." That is a big moment. I have proved to the men of these seven villages that this is the best thing that's happened for their daughters -- to become educated. The girls are more independent. They can talk to their father or talk to their mother and share their opinions. They can speak for themselves now. We were having a discussion in class one day and one of them stood up and said, "You shouldn't worry about what the world thinks." They couldn't say this before.

***What does the future look like for these girls?***

**JAN:** I don't want their education to end here. I would like them to go to college, but I see the difficulty in that. Next year, when the oldest girls reach 10th grade, I want to have a plan to extend their education by building a computer science center or a nursing facility. I will bring education to them if they can't attend college. I will continue to give them as much freedom as I can, and a place in society where they can speak out. Gently but surely, we will give them a more promising future.

By Megan Ferringer. This story originally appeared in the December 2013 issue of The Rotarian

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## MEETING OF 13 FEBRUARY 2014

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### ATTENDANCE

**Membership:** 28  
**Present:** 18  
**Make Ups:** 2  
**Apologies:** 2  
**Attendance:** 74%

**Visitors:** Matthieu Snaith, Austin Cook-Lindsay & Geraldine Nicol.

Schools present:

Grassy Park High: Safiyah Sabodien, Charmaine Ray, Ilse Robinson, Luke Topass

Heathfield High School: Suzette Rademan, Mrs Priscilla Rodkin, Mikayla Peterson

Springfield Convent High: Jenny Le Roux, Abbigail van der Westhuyzen

Wynberg Boys' High School: Melwa Mambwe, Sergio Alves

Wynberg Girls' High School: Shirley Harding, Nelia Roux, Lisa Abrahams

Attendance to Biffy 0813259570 or [aecon.e@mweb.co.za](mailto:aecon.e@mweb.co.za).

The loyal toast was done by Stephen. Francois toasted the club of The Rotary club of Kapiti in NZ. Taken from the flags. Must be one of the oldest flags on our wall. Where the emblem is supposed to be is just a little hole. The grace was recited by Graham G.

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### SLOTS

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**Jackie:** For Dave - 22 Feb is the Rotaract Fun Day and we will be doing a stall. Dave will organise the activity but needs helpers for hourly slots. A list was sent around.

**String:** The Argus is just about upon us. String needs to know who will be available to work with the usual braai afterwards at the Barnard's. A list was sent around. Austin is yet to experience a real braai.

**Biffy:** Attendance figures are required for the meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> at Perivale School. Bring own drinks. R40 per person for meal. A list was circulated.

Community Services meeting at Biffy's house on Mon 17 Feb at 6pm. All welcome.

**Pam:** Proms posters available in 2 sizes. Please obtain from Pam after the meeting and put up on Mon 17 Feb. Everyone is needed to work on both nights. Please free up your dairies.

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## MINUTES

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Each of the schools introduced themselves.

Then DGN Geraldine Nicol, Chair of Youth Services in our district addressed all those present. Geraldine gave a good from-the-heart talk on the work of the youth in the district and what is available for the youth to be involved in. She also touched on the benefits to the youth of the programmes that are run.

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## PRESIDENT'S QUOTE

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I've seen better days, but I've also seen worse. I don't have everything that I want, but I do have all I need. I woke up with some aches and pains, but I woke up. My life may not be perfect, but I am blessed.

Lessons learned in life.

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## PROGRAMME

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<b>February 2014</b>	<b>Committee: Barnard, Bird, Hovstad, Michalowsky, Wetmore, Jackson, Schonegevel</b>
19 February	Wynberg Rotaract meeting
20 February	Wendy Dias "Anti-Counterfeiting and Security." NB At Perivale Junior School.
23 February	Rotary International birthday (109 this year)
26 February	Retreat Rotaract meeting
27 February	Normal meeting / speaker TBA.
<b>March 2014</b>	<b>Committee: van Wyk, Gowdy, Overbosch, Todd, Murphy, Klotz-Gleave, van Niekerk</b>
3 March	Board meeting
5 March	Wynberg Rotaract meeting
6 March	Business meeting
9 March	Argus Cycle Tour
12 March	Retreat Rotaract meeting
13 March	Normal meeting/Rotaract Birthday – speaker TBA
15 & 16 March	Proms
19 March	Wynberg Rotaract meeting
20 March	Normal meeting – speaker TBA
21 March	Human Rights Day / Public holiday
26 March	Retreat Rotaract meeting
27 March	Normal meeting – speaker TBA
28 March	School holidays start
<b>April 2014</b>	<b>Committee: Knight, Bredenkamp, Cleveland, Munday, Howard, van Eeden, Du Plessis</b>
2-4 April	Rotary Family Health Days
2 April	Wynberg Rotaract meeting

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3 April	Business Meeting
7 April	Board meeting / School term starts
9 April	Retreat Rotaract meeting
10 April	'Wine Tasting – Truths and Lies': Dennis Gowdy and Fred Kuys
11-13 April	Interact Camp – <u>WRC on duty on Sat 12 April</u>
16 April	Wynberg Rotaract meeting
17 April	Normal meeting – Stephen Twittering around the Place !!! Tweet Tweet !!!
18-21 April	Easter
23 April	Retreat Rotaract meeting
24 April	Normal meeting – Mercy Ships
27 April	Freedom Day
28 April	Public holiday
29-30 April	School holidays
1 May	Workers Day public holiday / No meeting
1-4 May	District Conference

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## DUTY ROSTER

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<b>DUTY</b>	<b>20 February</b>	<b>27 February</b>	<b>6 March</b>	<b>13 March</b>
Sergeant	Schreiber	Barnard	Todd	Cleveland
Attendance Officer	Danckwerts	Danckwerts	Danckwerts	Danckwerts
Wynpress Editorial	Jackson	James	Klotz-Gleave	Knight
Minutes for Wynpress	Cleveland	Wetmore	Danckwerts	Wetmore
Compilation of Wynpress	Danckwerts	Cleveland	Wetmore	Danckwerts
Door Duty	Schonegevel	Du Plessis	Gavin	Klotz-Gleave
Grace	Howard	Jackson	van Niekerk	Schonegevel
Loyal Toast	Gowdy	Hovstad	Howard	Jackson
International Toast	Cleveland	Du Plessis	Bird	Bredenkamp
Speaker Introduction	Murphy	TBA	TBA	TBA
Speaker Thanks	Todd	Gavin	Schonegevel	van Niekerk

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## JACKPOT:

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Geraldine drew Biffy's name out of the box. Biffy only found the 11 ♦. Ag shame. The kitty grows and the pack diminishes! Biffy then drew the name of Sergio Alves for the attendance prize.

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## TAILPIECE(s)

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22 Adult Truths (from young Gordon who we hope will come out of hibernation soon):

1. Sometimes I'll look down at my watch three consecutive times and still not know what time it is.
2. Nothing stinks more than that moment during an argument when you realize you're wrong.
3. I totally take back all those times I didn't want to nap when I was younger.
4. There is great need for a sarcasm font.
5. How the heck are you supposed to fold a fitted sheet?
6. Was learning cursive really necessary?

7. Map Quest really needs to start their directions on # 5. I'm pretty sure I know how to get out of my neighborhood.
8. Obituaries would be a lot more interesting if they told you how the person died.
9. I can't remember the last time I wasn't at least kind-of tired.
10. Bad decisions make good stories.
11. You never know when it will strike, but there comes a moment when you know that you just aren't going to do anything productive for the rest of the day.
12. Can we all just agree to ignore whatever comes after Blu-ray? I don't want to have to restart my collection...again.
13. I'm always slightly terrified when I exit out of Word and it asks me if I want to save any changes to my ten-page technical report that I swear I did not make any changes to.
14. I keep some people's phone numbers in my phone just so I know not to answer when they call.
15. I think the freezer deserves a light as well.
16. I wish Google Maps had an "Avoid Ghetto" routing option.
17. I have a hard time deciphering the fine line between boredom and hunger.
18. How many times is it appropriate to say "What?" before you just nod and smile because you still didn't hear or understand a word they said?
19. I love the sense of camaraderie when an entire line of cars team up to prevent a jerk from cutting in at the front. Stay strong, brothers and sisters!
20. Shirts get dirty. Underwear gets dirty. Pants? Pants never get dirty, and you can wear them forever.
21. Even under ideal conditions people have trouble locating their car keys in a pocket, finding their cell phone, and Pinning the Tail on the Donkey - but I'd bet everyone can find and push the snooze button from 3 feet away, in about 1.7 seconds, eyes closed, first time, every time.
22. The first testicular guard, the "Cup," was used in Hockey in 1874 and the first helmet was used in 1974. That means it only took 100 years for men to realize that their brain is also important.

### **Poem of the year**

The computer swallowed Grandma, Yes, honestly it's true!  
She pressed 'control and 'enter' And disappeared from view.  
It devoured her completely, The thought just makes me squirm.  
She must have caught a virus Or been eaten by a worm.  
I've searched through the recycle bin And files of every kind;  
I've even used the Internet, But nothing did I find.  
In desperation, I asked Mr. Google My searches to refine.  
The reply from him was negative, Not a thing was found 'online.'  
So, if inside your 'Inbox,' My Grandma you should see,  
Please 'Copy, Scan' and 'Paste' her, And send her back to me.

This is a tribute to all the Grandmas & Grandpas, Nanas & Pops, who have  
been fearless and learned to use the Computer.....  
They are the greatest!!!

We do not stop playing because we grow old;  
We grow old because we stop playing ..

NEVER Be The First To Get Old!