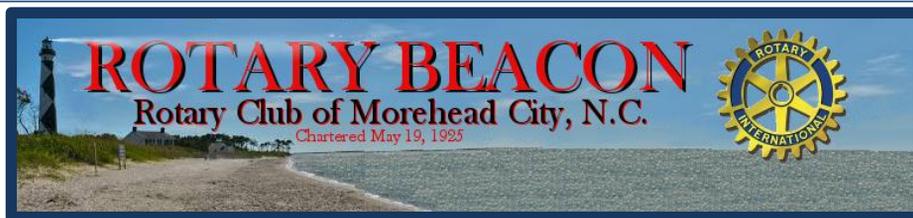




John R. Scibal
District Governor
2016-2017



John F. Germ
RI President
2016-2017

March 23, 2017

Rotary Motto: Service Above Self

District 7730, Club Number 6167
<http://rotarymhc.weebly.com/>

Stigma and Superstition

Hunted for body parts and isolated by fear, Tanzanians with albinism find safe futures with help of Rotary, Sister Martha



Selected text from
News and Features 06-Mar-2017

<https://www.rotary.org/en/rotary-helps-tanzanians-albinism>



Over the last decade, these superstitions have led to a wave of grisly albino killings, dismemberments, and even grave robberies. At least 76 Tanzanian albinos have been murdered; 72 others have survived attacks, often with severe mutilations.

Better known as Sister Martha, the 54-year-old Rotary community advocate is one of her country's most prolific campaigners for the rights of people with albinism, the often-misunderstood, inherited condition characterized by abnormally light skin, eyes, and hair, limited vision, and extreme sensitivity to the sun.

Mganga, an albino herself, has spent three decades helping those with the condition get an education, protect themselves from harmful ultraviolet rays, and fight pervasive myths and stigmas, including false beliefs, propagated by rogue witch doctors, that albino body parts can bring good luck or fortune.

For all the horrors of the killings, she tells the group, albinos face an even greater danger from the sun. Because albinos have low levels of melanin, the pigment that gives skin, hair, and eyes their color, they lack adequate protection from the sun's ultraviolet rays, a reality that is often deadly in an equatorial country like Tanzania.

On this day, Mganga is part of a team of facilitators taking part in a Rotary-supported community workshop, convened under a plastic tarp with a small group of elders from this village of about 10,000.

The discussion, meant to educate locals on albinism's causes, debunk its many stigmas, and promote the well-being of the albino community, has already touched on the condition's genetics, the recent attacks, and the many dehumanizing myths.

Albinism is a curse brought on by evil spirits, one villager says he was taught as a child. It's the result of an African woman sleeping with a white man, says another. "Albinos do not die," says a third. "They simply disappear."

For all the myths, the science of albinism is actually simple. People with the condition are born with a mutation to one of several genes involved in the production of melanin.

Refer to the above Rotary news and features article for full news.

Happy Birthday

John Nelson Mar 28



[Ace of Spades](#)

\$519.00



Rotary Month Designation & Program Schedule

March

Water and Sanitation Month

Mar 2..... David Bradley

Mar 9..... Jim Chalk

Mar 16.... Darden Eure

Mar 23.... Shelby Freeman

Mar 30.... Jim Garner

April

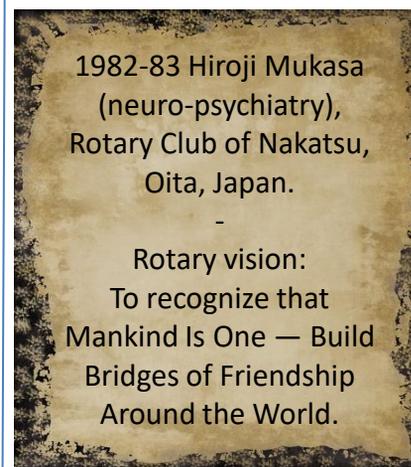
Maternal and Child Health Month

Apr 6.....MCAS Visit Rick Johnson

April 13.. Stanley Harrell

Apr 20.... George Henderson

Apr 27....Earl Lewis



1982-83 Hiroji Mukasa
(neuro-psychiatry),
Rotary Club of Nakatsu,
Oita, Japan.

Rotary vision:
To recognize that
Mankind Is One — Build
Bridges of Friendship
Around the World.

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