

社長文告



扶輪青少年交換——我們這個月所慶祝的許多年輕人計畫之一——引導我真正參與扶輪。我和我太太蘇珊娜 Susanne 在我加入扶輪不久後開始接待交換學生，那個經驗讓我從敝社一位普通社員，變成真正的扶輪人。現在，扶輪青少年交換是一項家族傳統，而且是很重要的：過去 24 年來，我們總共接待過 43 名學生！

從那開始，我們對這項計畫熱愛到除了在自己宅接待學生之外，還協助舉辦學生夏令營。在一次營隊中，我結識了克莉絲汀·李奇登 Christine Lichtin。她當時是德國的高中生，她父親是我扶輪社的前社長。為了在擁抱改變的這一年度中嘗試新的事物，我把這個通常保留給扶輪社長的空間，交給克莉絲汀，讓她分享她的故事：

我第一次接觸扶青社大約是在 13 年前，我那時和蘇珊娜及豪格一起參加青少年夏令營的烤肉活動。豪格轉頭對我說：「你為何不去扶青社看看？你會認識許多很棒的年輕人，共聚一堂，一起開心改變世界。」

幾年後，在我就讀特里爾大學 (Trier University) 時，我想起他說的話，決定試試看。那已經是 8 年多前了，至今我還在。一旦你加入扶青社，就不要想要退出。扶青社陪著我到每個地方，從特里爾扶青社開始，然後在我到義大利波隆納讀書那一年也加入當地扶青社。到基爾 (Kiel) 念碩士時，我參加當地的扶青社，接著就業後又來到漢

堡 - 阿斯特爾托 (Hamburg-Alstertal) 扶青社。每個扶青社都有各自的特色及重點，可是都有相同的內在服務動力。

目前我在我扶青社擔任資深顧問的角色，我真的很喜歡。我把扶青社放在心中，它塑造了我的價值觀，甚至在我興趣改變的過程。有一天，彷彿感覺到這種轉變，蘇珊娜敲我的房門，向我介紹一個位於漢堡及我家鄉莫爾恩 (Mölln) 之間的年輕、現代的扶輪社。這個由蘇珊娜協助創立的漢堡連線網路 (The E-Club of Hamburg-Connect) 扶輪社透過網路辦理例會，氣氛輕鬆自在。社員年齡各不相同，一切似乎都很適合，因此我想為何不試試看？畢竟，時間很寶貴，應該要儘可能充滿歡樂；其餘的就順其自然。

現在我身處兩個世界——扶青社的光榮社員及扶輪社社員。我個人一個小小的目標是在這兩個平行時空之間建立橋梁。我們所有人成為扶輪家庭一部份的理由都非常相似。

憑著堅持不懈才說服克莉絲汀加入扶輪，可是努力是值得的。我們有責任為青少年計畫的參加者及扶青社社員投入這種付出，把他們留在扶輪家庭裡。我希望她的故事有讓各位受到激勵。要確保有更多像克莉絲汀這樣的年輕人能夠體驗到扶輪為我們及我們服務對象開啟機會的許多方式，就端看我們每個人怎麼做。

柯納克 HOLGER KNAACK
國際扶輪社長



克莉絲汀·李奇登
漢堡 - 阿斯特爾托扶青社，漢堡連線網路扶輪社

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE — one of the many programs for youths and young adults that we celebrate this month — was my path into true engagement in Rotary. My wife, Susanne, and I began hosting exchange students soon after I joined, and the experience helped me go from simply being a member of my Rotary club to being a true Rotarian. Now Rotary Youth Exchange is a family tradition, and a strong one: Over the past 24 years, we have hosted 43 students!

From the start, we loved it so much that, in addition to hosting students in our home, we became involved with the program by helping to organize student summer camps. During one such camp, I met Christine Lichtin, who was a German high school student at the time and whose father is a past president of my Rotary club. To try something new during this year of embracing change, I am turning this space, normally reserved for the president of Rotary, over to Christine so she can share her story.

My first contact with Rotaract was about 13 years ago, when I was with Susanne and Holger at a barbecue for the summer youth camp. Holger turned to me and said: "Why don't you visit a Rotaract club? You'll meet a lot of great young people who come together to have fun and to make a difference."

A few years later, when I was at Trier University, his words came back to me and I decided to give it a try. That was more than eight years ago, and I'm still at it. Once you are in Rotaract, you just don't want to get out. Rotaract has accompanied me everywhere, starting with the Trier club and then on to a club in Bologna, Italy, during the year I studied there. When I was in Kiel for my master's

degree, I got involved with Rotaract there before landing at the Rotaract Club of Hamburg-Alstertal as I began my career. Each of those clubs has its own identity and focus, but all have the same intrinsic motivation.

I am now taking on a senior advisory role in my Rotaract club, which I really enjoy. I carry Rotaract in my heart, and it shapes my values, even as my interests evolve. One day, as if she had sensed this evolution, Susanne knocked on my door, wanting to introduce me to a young, modern Rotary club located between Hamburg and Mölln, my hometown. The E-Club of Hamburg-Connect, which Susanne helped charter, holds e-meetings, all of them very relaxed and personal. With members of different ages, everything just seemed to fit, so I thought, why not try it out? After all, time is precious and should be filled with fun whenever possible; the rest happens by itself.

Now I am in both worlds — a proud member of Rotaract and a Rotarian. And my small personal goal is to build a bridge between these two parallel worlds. All of us have very similar reasons for being part of the Rotary family.

It took some persistence to persuade Christine to become a member of Rotary, but it was well worth the effort. It is our duty to put in this kind of effort with youth program participants and Rotaractors so we can keep them in the family of Rotary. I hope you were inspired by her story. It's up to each of us to ensure that more young people like Christine can experience the many ways *Rotary Opens Opportunities* for us and for the people we serve.

HOLGER KNAACK

President, Rotary International



Christine Lichtin
Rotaract Club of Hamburg-Alstertal, Rotary E-Club of Hamburg-Connect