

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY ROTARACT CLUB COMPLETES FIRST DISTRICT PEACE CONFERENCE



By Roxanne Suratgar,
Capitol Hill Rotary Club

The first in a series of events on youth and peace sponsored by Governor Barton Goldenberg, the Georgetown University Rotaract Club organized the District's first Peace and Conflict Resolution Conference on the Georgetown University campus on November 2, 2019. Working with the Rotary Club of Capitol Hill's Roxanne Suratgar and James Horseman, Rotaractors Alessandra Maluf, Kate Fin and Clara Ortega created what we hope was the first event on the important subject of peace. The program was opened by Governor Barton and Josephine Olsen, Director of U.S. Peace Corps. Director Olsen set the theme for the day and then moderated a panel of returning Peace Corps volunteers and Rotary Peace Scholars discussing the positive influence that the Peace Corps and Rotary have had on their careers and everyday lives.

The symposium continued with a diverse array of speakers discussing the different meanings of peace, such as: economic growth as a means to sustainable peace; religious freedom and the democratic process; peace analysis as a means to understand conflict and conflict resolution; and the importance of record keeping through photography of the diaspora of refugees.

The District was also honored to have the presence of the Her



[Above] Members of the Georgetown University Rotaract Club pose after their successful 2019 Peace and Conflict Resolution Conference

Excellency Ambassador Vlora Çitaku (Ambassador of Kosovo to the United States) who spoke of her experiences as a refugee and the importance of finding a path to reconciliation. Ambassador Çitaku was interviewed by Rotary Club of Capitol Hill member and RID Peter Kyle about her voice in her country's peace initiatives. Ambassador Çitaku is a member of Rotary in Kosovo.

Major contributors also included PDG Ray Streib and the Rotary Club of Glen Burnie for organizing the Afternoon Cheesecake Reception, and President Daniel Fischer and the members of the Metro Bethesda Rotary Club for their financial and logistical support.

YOUTH CONFERENCES

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Nearly 400 guests attended opening night for World Press Photo Exhibition 2019, and since then, there has been a steady stream of visitors viewing the stunning exhibition. DC Rotary Club Day was one recipient of this good fortune, attracting an audience for the moving harp player, 10-year old Sarah Ramson, inspirational talk

by Margaret Dimond, and the in-depth interview that *New York Magazine* reporter Olivia Nuzzi had with 2019 Photo of the Year Winner, John Moore.

A goal for our Club's participation in this year's World Press Photo was to ensure we introduce new audiences to the DC Rotary Club, and we are accomplishing that through interesting programming and the DC Rotary Club members who attended DC Rotary Club Day and brought guests: Lisa Cohen, Nicole Forrester, Lynn Holec, Mimi Kanda, Irene Koerner, Natalie Korytnyk Forrester, May O'Brien, Maria-Nelly Pavisich, and Nancy Riker, the afternoon's Adopt-A-Photo host. You have our warmest thank you.

