

**Rotary**  
Club of  
Charlotte



# THIS WEEK'S SPEAKER

September 14, 2021

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### Foundation Joe Morris

### Programs Elly Clary



## Patricia Shafer, “A Woman with a Mission”

By Suzanne Bledsoe

Patricia, Chief Catalyst of Mothering Across Continents, Senior Fellow, Peace Education-Alliance for Peacebuilding, Rotary Positive Peace Activator and member of our club was motivated to pursue her passion for peacebuilding through education and awareness by a talk she heard at a Rotary meeting about ten years ago. James “Lubo” Mijak, one of the Lost Boys of Sudan, had settled in Charlotte and with the help of many in our community, earned a bachelor’s degree at CPCC, and after visiting his home country for the first time in six years, decided that he wanted to start a school there and give children in war torn south Sudan educational and personal growth opportunities. Enter Patricia. Long story short, through much collaboration and hard work, including successful fundraising efforts, project “Raising Sudan” was born and the first school among many was built.

As most of you know, promoting peace is one of the tenets of Rotary International. Rotary members around the world sponsor service projects, support peace fellowships and scholarships, and act to tackle the underlying causes of conflict, with a vision of implementing lasting change. Patricia, upon joining our Rotary Club, is a 2012 graduate of the Rotary Peace Institute program, having earned the designation of Rotary Peace Scholar. Her work with Mothering Across Continents, NewGen Peacebuilders and other related organizations have benefited greatly from her efforts to address conflict arising from poverty, discrimination, lack of access to education and unequal distribution of resources. She travels frequently to South Sudan and other countries to provide hands on support.

Co-founded by Patricia and launched in 2013, NewGen Peacebuilders is a global peace education program for high school and college students designed to provide education about peacebuilding, through programs that help them learn and understand peace-related frameworks and apply planning and management skills to solutions and projects that promote peacebuilding.

Next Tuesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> is International Peace Day. YPA, Youth and Peace in Action, will kick off its inaugural livestream virtual event, providing online training for students and service clubs for participation in peace projects. Note that this training is available for Rotarians in Zones 33 and 34 at no cost.

Visit the website [www.youthpeaceaction.org](http://www.youthpeaceaction.org) and learn more!

\*A recording of the program is available here: <https://vimeo.com/605264416>  
Ms. Shafer's introduction begins at 19:30 minutes.