



The Rotary Club  
of Ventura-East

# The Breeze

Editor: Jeff Hata  
Volume LIII, Number 7

Rotary Club of Ventura-East • Official Newsletter and Bulletin

Publisher: Jeff Hata  
August 13, 2015

## Programs

Program Chair: Joe Strohman / Ken Kagan / Alison Thompson / Tom Hashbarger

### August 13, 2015

Rubicon Theatre Company

### August 20, 2015

TBA

### August 27, 2015

D.G. 5240 Jim Bell - District Governor's official visit

### September 3, 2015

Randy Friedman - Ventura County Animal Services

### September 10, 2015

Interview -

### September 17, 2015

Husam Hishmeh - Onsite:Hishmeh Enterprises

### September 23, 2015

Joint Meeting with Downtown - Offsite Ventura Botanical Gardens

### October 1, 2015

Jessie Hawkins - United Way of Ventura County

## Fundraisers

### Poinsettia Sales

Delivery Date

December 3, 2015

for information on fundraisers go to:

[www.RotaryVenturaEast.org](http://www.RotaryVenturaEast.org)

## Avenues of Service Meetings

Club Service TBD

Vocational Service TBD

Community Service TBD

New Generations August 26, 2015 6:00 pm  
Conference Call (213) 992-5290 PIN 01623

International Service TBD

Marketing TBD

Membership TBD

## Club Events

### Important Dates

Ventura Chamber Family Day (BBQ Team).....Aug. 22  
District Governor Jim Bell's Official Visit.....Aug. 27  
District Conference.....Oct. 2 - 4  
Moorpark Beer Festival (BBQ Team).....Oct. 10  
Moorpark Civil War Reenactment (BBQ Team).....Nov. 7 - 8

## Raffle Scholarship Donor

August 6 - Todd Juvonen

## Greeter

August 6 - Carol Marquez-Olson

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## Web Addresses

[www.RotaryVenturaEast.org](http://www.RotaryVenturaEast.org) • [www.VenturaRotaract.com](http://www.VenturaRotaract.com)  
R.I.: [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) • District 5240: [www.rotarydistrict5240.org](http://www.rotarydistrict5240.org)

## Presidents Message ...



**Bruce McGee**  
President 2015-2016

Greetings from President Bruce  
Last week we enjoyed an update from Go Care Director Jeannette Perez who also received a PHF award. In addition our past Rotary exchange student Indiana Altimirano reported on Go Care and her experience as an exchange student . Thanks to Michelle Cekov and Pam Lindsay for making that happen.

This week our program is David Comden on Ventura Hillside Conservancy, this is a great topic that is perfect for inviting guests.

Our tables are all full each week now, so let us know if you are bringing guests please.

Remember K.R. Ravindran Rotary International President's message this year "Be a gift to the world", sure it is heady stuff but it starts in our backyard. Think about what you can be doing to make our club and community better and get involved.

See you Thursday.

### **VENTURA EAST ROTARY 2015-16 BOARD GOALS**

We will strive to hit these goals, please review and commit to them

1. GROW MEMBERSHIP FROM 44 TO 64
2. DEVELOP AN ON-BOARDING AND MENTOR PROGRAM FOR NEW MEMBERS
3. HAVE FUN
4. DEVELOP A CULTURE OF LEADERSHIP TO GROW INVOLVEMENT AND SHARE THE LOAD
5. INCREASE COMMUNITY SERVICE FREQUENCY TO HAVE FUN AND GROW MEMBERS
6. FUNDING-DOUBLE POINSETTIA SALES , REVAMP BBQ TEAM THIS YEAR

Serving with the best,  
Bruce McGee

## 2015 - 2016 Club Board of Directors

|                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Bruce McGee.....     | President          |
| Husam Hishmeh.....   | President Elect    |
| Dave Anderson.....   | Past President     |
| Tom Hashbarger.....  | Secretary          |
| Alison Thompson..... | Treasurer          |
| Dick Gallagher.....  | Sergeant at Arms   |
| .....                | Director 2013-2016 |
| Laura Shannon.....   | Director 2013-2016 |
| Todd Juvonen.....    | Director 2014-2017 |
| .....                | Director 2014-2017 |
| Tim Blackwell.....   | Director 2015-2018 |
| .....                | Director 2015-2018 |

### Avenues of Service Directors

|                    |                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Husam Hishmeh..... | Club Service          |
| Joe Strohmman..... | Vocational Service    |
| Nicole Kreutz..... | Community Service     |
| Jeff Hata.....     | Youth Service         |
| Judy Hoag.....     | International Service |

### Rotary International Officers

|                            |                                    |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Paul P. Harris.....        | Founder of Rotary                  |
| K.R. Ravindran.....        | President, Rotary International    |
| Jim Bell.....              | Governor, R.I. District 5240       |
| John Weiss.....            | Governor Elect, R.I. District 5240 |
| .....                      | Governor Nominee District 5240     |
| Rich Abbott.....           | P.D.G. 2006-2007                   |
| Jane McClenahan.....       | P.D.G. 2007-2008                   |
| Anil Garg.....             | P.D.G. 2008-2009                   |
| Luz Maria Ortiz-Smith..... | P.D.G. 2009-2010                   |
| Deepa Willingham.....      | P.D.G. 2010-2011                   |
| Wade Nomura.....           | P.D.G. 2011-2012                   |
| Frank Ortiz.....           | P.D.G. 2012-2013                   |
| Jack McClenahan.....       | P.D.G. 2014-2015                   |
| Loretta Butts.....         | P.D.G. 2015-2016                   |

### The Four Way Test

First ... Is it the TRUTH? Second ... Is it FAIR to all concerned? Third ... Will it build GOOD WILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS? Fourth ... Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?



**Be a gift to the world**

# Meeting August 6, 2015

*Reported by Jeff Hata*



*Carol Marquez-Olson greeted and introduced guests and visiting Rotarians today!*

Carol Marquez-Olson for greeting and Joe Strohman for taking attendance.

Midge Stork gave our Inspirational Message.

Carol Marquez-Olson introduced guests and visiting Rotarians.

Guests of the club were Bill Crookston and Juan Mendoza. Guest of Joe Strohman was his daughter Hannah.

John Borneman led us in a song.

Bill Spellman reported that the Fair Parade would be on Saturday at 10. Please be there around 10 and we would like to have a good turnout.

Harriet Clune gave our joke of the day. Harriet then passed out Poinsettia order forms and asked that everyone get out and do their best to sell! Judy has a committee of 5 people this year, but we all need to contribute.

Alison Thompson told us about future programs.

Club Service - Husam Hishmeh asked the club if there would be interest in doing a 3 day cruise to Ensenada. John Masterson has put together some info.

Membership - Tim Hughes reminded us about the membership materials he has put together and asked that

Past President Jim Word rang the bell and invited everyone to get their lunch, guests and visiting Rotarians first.

Midge Stork announced that our raffle prize 2 adult and 2 childrens tickets to the Fair donated by Todd Juvonen. Juan Mendoza also donated a painting he created as an additional raffle prize.

Ken Kagan led us in the Flag Salute. Past President Jim thanked

we all think about inviting qualified people to come visit and possibly join.

Tim Hughes reminded us that August is Membership Month. The number 1 reason why people join Rotary is to form new friendships and do good things in the community.

Carol Marquez-Olson said she joined Rotary because she thought it would help her grow her business but she soon found out that doing good things in the community is what kept her in Rotary.

Vance Thompson joined because he was a young man who owned his own business and found it stimulating to be around business people who were motivated to do more then just make money.

Vocational Service - Joe Strohman spoke about the Rotary Employee Ethics award. Joe would like to receive some nominations.

Midge conducted the raffle and the winner of the painting was Harriet Clune. The winner of the Fair tickets was Wendy Pazen.

August Birthdays: Harriet Clune, Bill Spellman and Daryl Crusier. Jim and Alberta celebrated 37 years of marriage!

Past President Jim recognized everyone who was not wearing their Rotary Pin for \$5.

Happy \$'s: Rafael Canton & Harriet Clune

Our speaker was Barbara Hinton.



*Harriet Clune gave our Inspirational Joke of the day!!!*

---

## Did ya know???

*The ABC's of Rotary by Cliff Dochterman*

*1992-93 President*

*Rotary International*

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## RECREATIONAL AND VOCATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS

From stamp collecting to wine appreciation, the hobbies of Rotarians are as diverse as the membership itself. Yet, among the more than one million Rotarians worldwide, an amateur-radio enthusiast or a chess player is bound to find others who share the same passions. But Recreational Fellowship members share more than just their common interest in sport diving or Esperanto; they share an interest in fellowship and service and in promoting world understanding. As such, it's no wonder that the International Skiing Fellowship

*ABC's, cont'd on page 4*

of Rotarians donates the profits from ski events to The Rotary Foundation or that the Flying Rotarians help ferry medical personnel and supplies.

One has only to look at the types of Vocational Fellowships to recognize how they differ from their recreational counterparts. With Rotarians united by their shared professional interest in such fields as Hospital Administration and Finance/Banking, it's obvious that Vocational Service is as important a concern as international fellowship to the members of these groups. Members exchange technical information and seek opportunities to employ their expertise in service not just to their own communities and countries, but to their professions as well. For example, the Ophthalmology International Vocational Fellowship organized a professional seminar on the subject of eye surgery in developing countries.

## Announcement

The following  
has been proposed as new member of  
the Ventura-East Rotary Club:

Name: Bill Crookston  
Classification: Retired  
Proposer: Bruce McGee

Any objections to this person becoming a member of our club should be brought to the attention of the President, President-Elect or any Director within ten (10) days of this publication.

Publication Date: July 30, 2015

### Rotary Club of Ventura-East

Post Office Box 3012  
Ventura, California 93006

info@RotaryVenturaEast.org

#### Clubs Nearby ...

|                     |                                       |           |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Ventura-South       | 12:00 pm                              | Monday    |
|                     | Wedgewood Banquet Center              |           |
| Santa Paula         | 12:00 pm                              | Monday    |
|                     | The Glen Tavern Inn                   |           |
| Ojai West           | 7:00 am                               | Tuesday   |
|                     | Soule Park GC                         |           |
| Camarillo Breakfast | 7:00 am                               | Tuesday   |
|                     | Spanish Hills GC                      |           |
| Oxnard              | 12:10 pm                              | Tuesday   |
|                     | Courtyard by Marriott                 |           |
| Fillmore Sunrisers  | 6:45 am                               | Wednesday |
|                     | Varies, go to their website           |           |
| Ventura             | 12:00 pm                              | Wednesday |
|                     | The Derby Club                        |           |
| Camarillo           | 12:00 pm                              | Wednesday |
|                     | Camarillo Center for Spiritual Living |           |
| Oxnard Sunrise      | 7:30 am                               | Thursday  |
|                     | Tomas Cafe                            |           |
| Fillmore            | 12:05 pm                              | Thursday  |
|                     | The Fillmore & Western Train          |           |
| Ojai                | 12:00 pm                              | Friday    |
|                     | Soule Park GC                         |           |

#### Jeff Hata

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#### Rotary Club of Ventura-East on social media ...

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# THE LOST GIRLS OF SOUTH SUDAN AND THE ROTARIAN WHO FOUND THEM



*Groenendijk and younger kids take a break from jumping on the center's trampoline. Staff say it's her energy that holds Confident Children out of Conflict together. Photo Credit: LuAnn Cadd From the August 2015 issue of The Rotarian*

The girls were alone. Their families were dead, or gone, or lost in the broken landscape of southern Sudan. They had nowhere to turn, and no one to turn to. Some lived in the market, others in the cemetery. When Cathy Groenendijk saw them, she couldn't help herself. She offered them tea, then some food, then a place to sleep in her guesthouse.

"In the morning, we would sit together and talk about what had happened the night before," Groenendijk remembers. "And what I heard I could not believe. I could not believe it."

One girl's father had died, and after the funeral, she never saw her mother again. She was living on the streets with some other kids when four men started chasing them. The other girls were faster. She fell behind and was caught and raped by all four men. Groenendijk knew a doctor who repaired the physical damage, saving her life.

Another three girls, ages eight, six, and one, lived with their mother, but they all slept in the open. Groenendijk helped them build a tarped shelter, but the hot sun ate it away. One night, a man snuck in and tried to assault one of the girls. After that, Groenendijk let them sleep on her veranda.

This was in 2006. A peace accord had been signed the year before, ending a 22-year civil war and paving the way for the independence of South Sudan. But the region was still broken in many ways. While the story of its "lost boys," who traveled hundreds of miles on foot to reach safety during the war, is well known, little has been written or said about the girls who stayed behind, and who were just as lost.

Groenendijk was born in eastern Uganda, where her father grew coffee and bananas on

*Sudan, cont'd on page 6*

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## Weekly Raffle

Today's raffle prize was 2 adult tickets and 2 children's tickets to the Fair graciously donated by Todd Juvonen. GOC Juan Mendoza also donated a painting he painted to the raffle.

Our lucky winner of Juan's painting was Harriet Clune and Wendy Pazen won the Fair tickets.

Thank you to Todd Juvonen and Juan Mendoza for your generous donations and congratulations to Harriet and Wendy.



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Vice President  
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the family farm. She had three brothers and seven sisters, so when she was three years old, she was sent to the capital, Kampala, to live with an aunt. After secondary school, she went on to study nursing.

“When I was in Kampala,” she says, “I used to take the food that was left from our kitchen in the training school and give it to the children who were without food. It was a very, very bad time under Idi Amin, and after.”

It was a time of war, suspicion, and fighting. Between 1971 and 1979, about half a million people died under Amin’s dictatorship. Another 300,000 died under Milton Obote before he was deposed in 1985.

When she finished nursing school, Groenendijk got a job at a hospital in the north of Uganda. “There were so many militias and armed groups, especially among the northern tribes,” she says. “Even after the war, there were militias who were never fully disarmed. They were always fighting.”

Not long after she arrived, she met a young Dutch missionary named Wim, who worked with a relief organization called ZOA that aids people trapped in conflict and disaster zones. The two fell in love, got married, and for 10 years remained in Uganda, mostly in Karamoja, the remote northeast corner of the country.

In 1993, the couple went to the Netherlands. Shortly after they moved, the genocide in Rwanda began to unfold. An estimated 800,000 to 1 million people were killed in 100 days. When the violence subsided, a colleague at ZOA asked if Wim and Cathy would be willing to go to the country. Groenendijk would run a health program, and Wim would do agriculture and food security work in the town of Nyamata, south of Kigali. One of the most devastated areas, it’s now the site of a genocide memorial, at a church where 10,000 people who had gathered for protection were murdered.

Five months after the killing stopped, the couple arrived in Nyamata. Seeing how many children had lost their parents, they took in two foster children – girls who had lost their families. The girls still visit, and one will graduate from college this fall.

“The organization had little money to plan something positive for the children, like a party, to share together, to bring kids together,” Groenendijk says. “So I did a lot of children’s programs, in addition to working.”

In 1998, ZOA asked Groenendijk if she would help establish a health program in Sudan, which, on the map, was the largest country in Africa. In reality, though, it had never been much of a country at all. The south and the north were very different, and since 1955, animist and Christian groups in the south had been fighting for independence from the primarily Muslim north.

During the first war, which lasted until 1972, more than half a million people died. The south gained some autonomy, but when oil was discovered there in the late 1970s, war broke out again. From 1983 until 2005, an estimated two million people were killed; four million more fled to other countries or to camps for internally displaced people. In a country of 12 million, no one was unaffected.

When Groenendijk and her husband arrived in 1999, the fighting was still intense. They lived in rebel territory, in a village called Katigiri. “There were areas with no medical care at all,” she remembers. “Many people were dying.” They’d lived in conflict zones before, but this time was different. Planes bombed areas that had relief operations. “When we first arrived,” Groenendijk says, “we were bombed as were driving. Every house had foxholes, and when you heard planes flying over, you got out of the house and into the foxholes. We also had one large bomb shelter for everybody, but if a bomb landed on that one, there would be many casualties. So we used several foxholes to spread the risk.”

Sudan, cont'd on page 8



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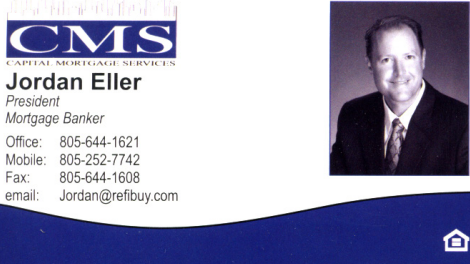
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**Rotary Club of Ventura-East, Membership List**  
**100% Paul Harris Fellow Club**

District 5240

Chartered May 23, 1963

|                                   |                                |                                   |                                 |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Albee, Lee .....                  | Retired                        | Polito, Ron .....                 | Commercial Real Estate          |
| Anderson, David .....             | Architecture                   | Potts, Cari Ann .....             | Attorney                        |
| Blackwell, Tim .....              | Insurance                      | Shannon, Laura .....              | Wholesale Pet Supply            |
| Borneman, John .....              | Songleading                    | Spellman, William J., D.D.S. .... | Prosthetic Dentistry            |
| Burgh, Jeff .....                 | Government                     | Stewart, Richard E .....          | Banking, Real Estate Loans      |
| Canton, Rafael, M.D. ....         | Psychiatry                     | Stork, Midge, CFP, CSPG .....     | Financial Planning, Investments |
| Cekov, Michelle .....             | Non-Profit                     | Strohman, Joseph, Jr. ....        | Business Law                    |
| Clune, Harriet .....              | Real Estate Management         | Swan, Thomas .....                | Investment Advisor              |
| Corliss, Andrew .....             | Broadcasting                   | Thompson, Allison .....           | CPA                             |
| Cruser, Daryl .....               | Insurance                      | Thompson, Vance, CLU, ChFC .....  | Insurance, Financial Planning   |
| Debbas, Natalie .....             | Honorary Member                | Widders, Monte L. ....            | General Law                     |
| Eller, Jordan .....               | Banking, Mortgage Lending      | Word, Jim .....                   | Department Store                |
| Emch, James H., C.P.A. ....       | General Accounting             |                                   |                                 |
| Gallagher, Devere L. (Pete) ..... | Automobile Servicing           |                                   |                                 |
| Gallagher, Richard .....          | Stock & Bond Sales             |                                   |                                 |
| Gray, Bill .....                  | Property Management            |                                   |                                 |
| Hashbarger, Tom .....             | Health Services                |                                   |                                 |
| Hata, Jeff .....                  | Printing                       |                                   |                                 |
| Hicks, William .....              | Domestic Automobiles, Retail   |                                   |                                 |
| Hishmeh, Husam .....              | Restaurateur, Franchisee       |                                   |                                 |
| Hoag, Judith .....                | Real Estate Sales, Residential |                                   |                                 |
| Hoag, Will .....                  | Honorary Member                |                                   |                                 |
| Hughes, Tim .....                 | Real Estate Sales, Residential |                                   |                                 |
| Juvonen, Todd .....               | Financial Services             |                                   |                                 |
| Kagan, Kenneth .....              | CPA                            |                                   |                                 |
| Kreutz, Nicole .....              | Banking                        |                                   |                                 |
| Ludes, Rocky .....                | Honorary                       |                                   |                                 |
| Lynn, Robert .....                | Jewelry                        |                                   |                                 |
| Marquez-Olson, Carol .....        | Travel Agency                  |                                   |                                 |
| Marsh, Sam .....                  | Secondary Education            |                                   |                                 |
| Masterson, John A. ....           | Foreign Automobiles, Retail    |                                   |                                 |
| McGee, Bruce .....                | Wholesale Foods                |                                   |                                 |
| McGee, Kathy .....                | Education (Retired)            |                                   |                                 |
| Norman, Richard M. ....           | Trial Law                      |                                   |                                 |
| Noville, Robert .....             | Civil Engineering (Retired)    |                                   |                                 |
| Pazen, Robert L., O.D. ....       | Optometry                      |                                   |                                 |
| Pazen, Wendy .....                | Office Management              |                                   |                                 |

*Sudan, cont'd from page 6*

For nearly five years, she ran the ZOA health program in Katigiri. She made sure health workers were trained, medicines delivered, new health units opened, and transportation arranged for patients. All the while, the bombs kept coming as the war dragged on. When the danger and stress grew unbearable, the couple went back to Rwanda.

In 2005, a peace accord was signed and the fighting stopped. A date was set for a vote on independence. Groenendijk thought of the people she knew there, especially the children who'd lost so much. In 2006, she and Wim decided to return.

Now people were flooding into Juba. In the future capital of the world's newest country, everything had to be built from scratch, including Rotary clubs. Michael Elmquist had been a Rotarian in Kastrup, Denmark, for more than 20 years when he arrived in Juba in 2008 to work for the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He could see that the area could benefit from Rotary's work. The country had only 200 miles of paved road. Barely 2 percent of children completed primary school. Infant and child mortality rates were among the highest on every ranking. Everything needed to be restored: families, villages, lives.

"Once in Juba, I realized that the whole country of Sudan [before South Sudan became independent] had only one Rotary club, and that was in Khartoum, over 700 miles away," Elmquist recalls. "I felt I could not live for three years without access to a Rotary club."

He started to round up prospective candidates. But because few people in Juba knew much about Rotary, most of the initial recruits were expatriates. And because the streets didn't have names, people listed their addresses as "the big house with the yellow roof opposite Equatoria Hotel." Nonetheless, Elmquist soon found the required 20 people. The Rotary Club of Juba was chartered in 2010, bringing the number of Rotary clubs in a country almost twice the size of Alaska, to two.

After she and her husband moved to Juba, Groenendijk started working for an NGO called War Child, but grew frustrated with the slowness of a big organization. She needed to keep pace with the brothel owners who were recruiting girls. So she started her own organization, offering what she had. First, she gave the girls tea, then one meal. Friends would help out.

"For two years," she says, "I was providing tea and one meal, which was better than nothing. Some of the kids had never had a meal apart from scavenging and eating leftovers from restaurants. Once a week, I would buy a proper meal for all of them."

She started going door to door, asking for funding. Help started to trickle in. As volunteers and donors appeared, her organization started to take shape. She called it Confident Children out of Conflict (CCC).

Elmquist heard about her work and invited her to join the Rotary Club of Juba. She accepted. "When they saw what I was doing," Groenendijk says, "they used every opportunity to support us. A lot of credit goes to Michael. I went there and showed pictures of a girl who had been raped, to show what was happening in Juba. After that, a lot of people started paying attention to what we were doing."

"The job she's done looking after these children has just been amazing," Elmquist says. "You can't believe the difference in the young girls who come in. They don't talk, they don't know how to hold a knife or fork or anything. And she trains them and gets them to school. She gets them dressed. She saves them from prostitution, which would be their only source of income."

Soon Groenendijk started looking for a piece of land. Eventually, she bought some property and built a dormitory that could house about 40 girls. She hired a small staff.

The Juba club continued to support her work, along with other rebuilding projects in South Sudan – which became an independent nation in 2011. At one fundraising dinner, the club auctioned drawings done by the girls at Groenendijk's center and raised \$3,000 for CCC, as well as an orphanage in Juba.

Today, almost 40 girls and a few boys live at CCC, which also issues reports on child prostitution in Juba and the plight of the city's 3,000 street children. It is not an easy transition for those she takes in – some girls have run away, overwhelmed by structured life. But many more stay. After about a year, Groenendijk says, they get used to living in a house, sleeping in a bed. They learn how to settle disputes without fighting. With time and patience, she helps them adjust. Where the social fabric has been torn, she does her best to mend it. In addition to educating those living at the center, CCC pays school fees for about 600 children around Juba. A few have even gone to Uganda for further schooling. One, named Esther, is at one of the best schools in that country, with plans to become a doctor.

CCC is a lively place. The girls sing and drum before going off to school in the morning, and again when they come home. Hannah Rounding, a British NGO consultant staying at the center, says Groenendijk's energy and enthusiasm holds it all together: "The girls love her. Everybody calls her mummy. When she's been away and comes back, the place goes wild. All the girls are so excited – they're jumping and cheering and clapping."

"Cathy is a bright personality. She's immediately endearing, from the first time you meet her," says program manager John Fenning. "I was blown away by her capacity to love and care for all the children. It's rewarding, and such a privilege, to be involved in that kind of work, and to see the difference you can make in these children's lives."

One evening in the middle of December 2013, the girls heard gunfire. Fighting had broken out between followers of the president, who is ethnic Dinka, and the Nuer vice president, whom the president had accused of planning a coup.

They girls were nervous – only the youngest had never known war. The fighting in Juba went on for days, then slowed while it raged on in other states. At least 50,000 people have been killed and another 1.6 million displaced, in what is now being called the South Sudanese Civil War. Some of the girls have been sent to an orphanage in the city of Yei, seeking safety farther south.

The rest stay with Groenendijk. Together, in a nation of unease, they keep singing, learning, and living under her watch, until they are strong enough to be on their own.

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