



# Monthly Club News Spotlight

## UNITE FOR GOOD

UNITE FOR GOOD



### Events

December 19th

[Monthly PI Meeting](#)

January 5th

[DG Executive Team Zoom Mtg- Lt Gov, AG, AOS, PI, Mem. Foun.](#)

January 7th

[Bi Monthly District Leadership zoom Mtg: Presidents are invited](#)

January 10th

[Travel to Cambodia- Jan10- Jan19, 2026 - Register by Aug31, 2025](#)

January 10th

[Community Safe Car Park](#)

January 10th

[Los Altos Club Climate Action Summit : January 10th, Los Altos](#)

January 13th

[Monthly TRF Meeting of 2025-26](#)

January 13th

[Annual D5170 Youth Service Mid-Year Meeting](#)

January 14th

[District Climate Action Committee Monthly Zoom Huddle](#)

January 14th

[Community Service Projects Committee](#)

January 15th

[District International Service Committee Mtg](#)

January 17th

[Fremont Citywide Textile Recycle & Reuse Initiative](#)

## If You Would Like Your Club ezStory Published . . .

By Brenda Swiney on Tuesday, September 9, 2025

### Rotary District 5170 DACdb Club ezStory Guidelines (For email broadcast and posting on the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month)



Club ezStory

#### Purpose

Clubs are encouraged to use the DACdb ezStory tool to share stories about their events and activities. These stories allow us to showcase Rotary's impact, invite community participation, and inspire collaboration with other clubs.

#### Requirements for District Publication

To be featured in the **District Club News Bulletin** (sent on the 15th of each month), your ezStory must meet the following guidelines:

[Read More](#)

## Holiday Cheer! Santa Cruz Sunrisers ring the bell for the Salvation Army Kettle

By Camilla Boolootian



### Santa Cruz Sunrise Rotary Rings in the Season—Literally!

**Capitola, CA — December 6** — On Saturday, December 6, members of the **Santa Cruz Sunrise Rotary Club** put the *ring* in fundraising during the annual **Salvation Army Holiday Bell Ringing** event—and they did it with style, spirit, and a little showmanship.

Stationed in front of **Nob Hill Foods in Capitola**, Rotarians volunteered in one-hour shifts to keep the kettle (and the holiday cheer) flowing. But this year, something magical happened: **newly inducted Rotarians** decided to turn their entire hour into a performance. Yes—music, energy, smiles, and a whole lot of joy.

The result?

- **Bigger smiles**

- **Bigger crowds**
- **Bigger donations**

Their enthusiasm inspired shoppers to dig deeper into their pockets, helping the Santa Cruz Sunrise Rotary location **outperform other bell-ringing sites that day**, raising **over \$800** for the

January 22nd  
[District Finance Committee Meeting](#)

January 24th  
[District International Service Committee Mtg](#)

January 24th  
[Gilroy Rotary - 100th Celebration](#)

January 30th  
[DYSC - Club Contest Commitment Deadline](#)

January 31st  
[District 5170 Mid-Year Leadership Celebration](#)

February 2nd  
[DG Executive Team Zoom Mtg- Lt Gov, AG, AOS, PI, Mem. Foun.](#)

February 7th  
[Pre-PELS](#)

February 10th  
[Monthly TRF Meeting of 2025-26](#)

February 10th  
[District Leadership Fellowship Meeting \(Bocce & Banter\)](#)

February 11th  
[District Climate Action Committee Monthly Zoom Huddle](#)

February 14th  
[Interact President's Winter Retreat](#)

February 19th  
[District International Service Committee Mtg](#)

February 26th  
[District Finance Committee Meeting](#)

February 28th  
[District International Service Committee Mtg](#)

March 2nd  
[DG Executive Team Zoom Mtg- Lt Gov, AG, AOS, PI, Mem. Foun.](#)

March 6th  
[DYSC - Last Day for Club Contests](#)

March 9th  
[DYSC - Start Joint Area Contests](#)

March 10th  
[Monthly TRF Meeting of 2025-26](#)

March 11th  
[ELC](#)

March 11th  
[District Climate Action Committee Monthly Zoom Huddle](#)

March 20th  
[DYSC - Last day for Joint Area Contests](#)

March 21st  
[Rotary Leadership/Fellowship Mtg - Southern Region Spotlight](#)

March 23rd  
[DYSC - Start Regional](#)

Salvation Army—one joyful jingle at a time.

### See the smiles and holiday magic:

Photo Gallery: <https://jonwinston.smugmug.com/Rotary/2025/2025-12-06-Salvation-Army-Bell-Ringing>

### Watch the performance that made generosity contagious:

Video Link: <https://jonwinston.smugmug.com/Rotary/2025/2025-12-06-Salvation-Army-Bell-Ringing/i-hqhjcJj/A>

[Read More](#)

## Los Altos Rotary: 2026 Climate Action Summit 01/10/26

By Sherry Auerbach

Date: January 10, 2026, 12:30 - 4:00 pm, Check-in begins at 11:45  
Location: Los Altos Community Center  
97 Hillview Avenue, Los Altos, CA



Although brought to you by the Los Altos Rotary Club, the event is open to all individuals and organizations focused on environmental sustainability. We are dedicated to finding proven and worthwhile projects that can be easily replicated. This is a forum to pursue opportunities for collaboration and networking with others sharing the same goals.

Last year, over 100 attendees came to the Summit to connect with individuals, businesses and organizations to learn about and cooperate on sustainability programs. This year's event will be bigger and even better!

We have a dynamite list of speakers. Please see the [2026 Climate Action Summit Website](#) for Speaker Bios, presentation topics, and registration information. Topics to be addressed include:

- How to Have a Zero-Waste Event
- California Pollinator Collaborative
- Community River Habitat Restoration
- And more!
- PLUS: Visit with Environmental Leaders and See Projects from around Northern California

We look forward to coming together to build a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable world—**one connection at a time**. We can't wait to see you there!

With warm regards,

Los Altos Rotary Climate Action Committee

[REGISTER NOW!](#)

## A December Message of Gratitude and Hope from Your Annual Giving Chair

By Timothy A. Lundell

### A December Message of Gratitude and Hope from Your Annual Giving Chair

District 5170 has long been recognized across the Rotary world as one of the **most generous** supporters of **The Rotary Foundation (TRF)**—consistently ranking among the Top 10 districts worldwide. Our reputation for impact is built not on a few large gifts, but on the collective heart of nearly 4,000 Rotarians who lead with compassion, vision, and purpose.

As every new Rotary year begins, we start again from zero—renewing our commitment to fund the life-changing work of The Rotary Foundation. And once again, this year, our District is on track to demonstrate extraordinary generosity. But we're not finished yet.

**Congratulations to the Rotary Club of Livermore, which is the 1st Club in D5170 to achieve the 2025-26 Foundation Banner Award for every member giving at least \$25 to The Rotary Foundation. See the latest Report as of 12-13-25. >>Click HERE<< Will your club be next? Rotary Club of Los Altos is almost there at 99%.**

**Your Gift Matters—And the World Needs Rotary More Than Ever**

## Contests

March 26th

[District Finance Committee Meeting](#)

March 28th

[District International Service Committee Mtg](#)

April 1st

[Bi Monthly District Leadership zoom Mtg: Presidents are invited](#)

April 3rd

[DYSC - Last Day for Regional Contests](#)

April 6th

[DG Executive Team Zoom Mtg- Lt Gov, AG, AOS, PI, Mem. Foun.](#)

April 8th

[District Climate Action Committee Monthly Zoom Huddle](#)

April 11th

[District Learning Assembly & Speech Contest & Business Meeting](#)

April 11th

[DYSC - Finals](#)

April 23rd

[District Finance Committee Meeting](#)

April 25th

[District International Service Committee Mtg](#)

May 4th

[DG Executive Team Zoom Mtg- Lt Gov, AG, AOS, PI, Mem. Foun.](#)

May 6th

[2025-26 District Business Leadership zoom Mtg: PE's are invited](#)

May 13th

[District Climate Action Committee Monthly Zoom Huddle](#)

A Smart Time to Give >> [CLICK HERE TO DONATE](#)<<

1. **Donations made before January 1st are tax-deductible for 2025.**
2. **Rotarians aged 70+ may benefit from making tax-free Qualified Charitable Distributions directly from an IRA**—a powerful way to support TRF **and** reduce taxable income.  
If you'd like help exploring the best giving option for your situation, we're here to assist.
3. Log into your [IGNITE APP](#) and Donate right from your Cell phone since it logs you directly into your account at [www.myRotary.org](http://www.myRotary.org)

[Read More](#)

## Pleasanton North "Success Beyond the Backyard" : 7 Neighbors Who Dared to Dream Big and Won

By Evan Shelan

### Author Evan Shelan Inspires Pleasanton North Rotary with Stories of Resilience and Big Dreams

**Pleasanton, CA** — Evan Shelan recently engaged and inspired members of the **Pleasanton North Rotary Club** with a presentation on his newly co-authored book, "[Success Beyond the Backyard: 7 Neighbors Who Dared to Dream Big and Won](#)" Looking for a Guest Speaker at your Club?

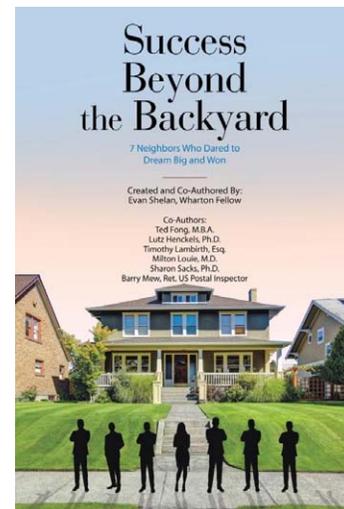
The book highlights the powerful journeys of seven accomplished individuals—a blind educational pioneer, a trial lawyer who overcame severe stuttering, an infectious-disease specialist who served through multiple pandemics, a trailblazing cybercrime investigator, and innovative entrepreneurs. Each story illustrates how everyday people turned significant challenges into opportunities through resilience, creativity, and strategic thinking.

"As these seven stories show, there's a universal truth about overcoming obstacles and achieving success that's easy to understand and learn from," shared Pleasanton North Rotary member Ron Sutton.

A **University of Pennsylvania Wharton Fellow** and **46-year Rotarian**, Shelan is available to speak at Rotary clubs throughout the district. Clubs interested in hosting this inspiring presentation may contact **Evan Shelan** at [EvanShelan@gmail.com](mailto:EvanShelan@gmail.com) or [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

*Inspiration, leadership, and purpose—right in our own backyard.*

[Read More](#)



## A Different Approach to Rotary Member Retention When...

By Mike Kane



- **A member or prospective member says, "My life just doesn't have time for Rotary."**

You are too busy: work, family, etc., have left you without the time you want to commit to weekly Rotary meetings.

You are moving: you can't attend meetings or activities at your former club, but want to stay connected to them, District 5170, and Rotary.

You have health issues: for reasons related to illness or mobility, you find it difficult to attend meetings.

You love Rotary, but need something different: you need a time-out from the "traditional" club format, but want to stay involved in Rotary in some way.

- **Perhaps a current member's interests in Rotary Service have changed, and they are thinking of resigning?**

Are the projects and fellowship of your club no longer in sync with your passions and interests?

Do you want to make personal decisions about contributing to making the world a better place, but need a different Rotary format to do so?

Perhaps you seek like-minded folks in your community who share your worldview or interests?

Are you looking to take on different local and international projects that are more aligned with your interests?

Do you want to stay or return to Rotary and explore new ways to participate in an internationally focused eClub?

[Read More](#)

## Rotary Club of San Jose 2025 Community Grant Recipients

By Matthew Braker

### Rotary Club of San Jose Awards \$215,000 in Capital Grants to 25 Community Organizations

**San Jose, CA** — The Rotary Club of San Jose proudly announced the distribution of **\$215,000 in capital grants to 25 nonprofit organizations**, strengthening programs that serve children, families, and vulnerable populations across Santa Clara County and beyond. Notably, **15 of the organizations are first-time grant recipients**, reflecting Rotary's continued commitment to expanding its community impact.

This year's grants were made possible through the generous support of Rotary Club members and Gala sponsors. The 2025 grant cycle was especially competitive, with **\$595,000 in funding requests received**, making funding decisions both inspiring and challenging.

"Supporting our community partners is at the heart of what we do," said the Rotary Club of San Jose. "The breadth and quality of applications this year demonstrated just how much good work is happening locally—and how critical these investments are."

Special appreciation goes to **Foundation Vice President Steve Prouty** for his leadership, and to the **2025 Contributions Committee** for their dedication and thoughtful review: Bonnie Bamburg, Brenda Swiney, Chelsey Souza, Daniel Nevis, Ginger Sotelo, Leah Schnoor, Sondra Gill, Stephanie Bielanski-Fehr, and Todd Trezell.

[Read More](#)

## Rotary Club of Morgan Hill; 2026 Vocational Grant Application Due 3-31-26

Friday, November 14, 2025



#### GRANT DETAILS:

The Rotary Club of Morgan Hill honors those that will play a pivotal role in creating a better life for our community through skilled labor. Darren Dean was a local tradesman and community leader who demonstrated that the Trades are a necessary component to our society.

#### FINANCIAL AID GRANT ELIGIBILITY \*

- Adults 17 years and older who live within the Morgan Hill Unified School District boundaries
- Provide a plan to attend a program or class, or how supplies or tools will be used.
- Provide two recommendations from either a teacher or employer.

#### WHAT IS ROTARY?

Rotary International is a global network of 1.4 million neighbors, leaders, and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change—across our globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

\* Family members of the Rotary Club of Morgan Hill are not eligible for this grant.

#### TIMELINE TO APPLY:

##### KEY DATES:

Submission deadline—March 31, 2026  
Applicant interviews—April 13-17, 2026  
Award recipients notified—April 30, 2026

##### FINANCIAL AID:

Individual awards are between \$250 and \$2000 and must be used within 12 months of receipt.

##### MORE INFORMATION:

Visit [morganhillrotary.org/deangrant](http://morganhillrotary.org/deangrant) to apply online or follow QR code below



Rotary Club of Morgan Hill, P.O. Box 283, Morgan Hill, CA 95038



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Rotary Club of Morgan Hill, P.O. Box 283, Morgan Hill, CA 95038

[GO TO APPLICATION](#) For Spanish Click >>>> [Read More](#)

**\*\*\* Special 2025 Price ends 12/31/25\*\*\* Multi District**

## Conference; Reno 2026



### DISTRICT 5170 CONFERENCE 2026-

- Just \$275 (Extended until December 31, 2025) then prices increase.

(Note: A \$50 cancellation fee applies to the conference registrations, Consistent with RI convention policy.) [Read More](#)

## Boost Club Visibility Across the District

By Herb L. Ritter III on Monday, September 1, 2025

**Exciting News from Rotary District 5170!**  
**Boost Your Club's Visibility with the New DACdb ezStory Feature!**  
[See Your Club's Stories in the NEW Club Spotlight Reel](#)

### DISTRICT & CLUB SPOTLIGHT REEL

With the implementation of the Club Spotlight Reel, we're thrilled to show how **ezStory** — a powerful new tool in DACdb — makes it easier than ever to share your club's impact and inspire others across the district!

### CREATING CONTENT FOR YOUR WEBSITE



- ezStory is how you add unique content to your DACdb website.
- It is the most powerful tool in DACdb when it comes to showing what's going on with your club.
- DACdb has excellent guidance available for showing how to create stories under the "Support/Learning" tab.

The newest Club stories will be displayed in the Spotlight Reel. [Read More](#)