

April 2025: Protecting Our Environment

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Cruising With A Purpose - Anchored in Service, United by Purpose

By Michael J. Rabara

5230 District Governor

As I reflect on our incredible journey aboard the **Navigator of the Seas** for District 5230's 2025 Conference, my heart is full of gratitude, pride, and renewed inspiration. DISCON 2025 wasn't just a meeting of Rotarians—it was a celebration of our shared purpose, a powerful demonstration of our values, and an unforgettable adventure that brought us closer as a family of service.

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For more information about the newsletter issue or to submit an article, contact Nick Grim and Merritt Wiseman at editor5230@gmail.com.

Please note all articles or event info must be submitted by the 20th of each month to make next month's issue.



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Elevator Speech - Environment

"In April, Rotary shines a spotlight on our planet with Environment Month—a time to take action for a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable future. Rotary clubs around the world are planting trees, cleaning up communities, and advancing solutions to environmental challenges. By working together, we're not just protecting nature—we're building a healthier world for generations to come."

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Empowered Women, Empowering Communities

By Merritt D. Wiseman



5230 Newsletter Editor

The spirit of strength, resilience, and community came to life at the **Women's Empowerment Resource Fair** in Visalia — a gathering that truly lived up to its name. Held for the first time at the **College of the Sequoias**, this landmark event brought together women from all walks of life to connect with

resources, inspiration, and each other.

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Bridging Worlds, Building Peace: Reflections from the RI ICC Summit & Presidential Peace Conference

By Ilge Gulsev Karancak

Rotary Club of Monterey Cannery Row



Istanbul Welcomes Global Rotary Leaders with Open Arms

For four unforgettable days, **Istanbul** became the heart of global peacebuilding, hosting two transformative events — the **2025 Rotary International Presidential Peace Conference and the Rotary ICC Summit**. From **February 19-**

22, 2025, over **1,000 Rotarians from 90 countries** came together, bridging cultures, sharing ideas, and building a vision for peace in a world that needs it more than ever.

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Preparing Leaders, Inspiring Change: Far West PETS 2025

By Brinet Mullen Greenlee

5230 DGE



Each year, Rotary President-Elects from across the western United States gather for one transformative weekend of leadership development, connection, and inspiration—and **Far West PETS 2025** did not disappoint. This training seminar brought together hundreds of incoming club presidents from multiple

districts, all preparing to lead with purpose and passion in the coming Rotary year, and to Unite for Good!

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Carmel By The Sea: Celebrating 75 Years Of Service From the Heart of Carmel

By Mark John Grandcolas

More than 200 people attended the Carmel by the Sea club's 75th anniversary Gala celebrating 75 years of caring, giving, and doing - all for those who need it most!

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Rotary Club of East Fresno Hosts Uzbekistan Team

By Marilyn Behringer



The Rotary Club of East Fresno recently hosted a six-member delegation from Uzbekistan. The purpose of their visit was to study water resource management. What better place to do that than California? The trip was sponsored by the Congressional Office for International Leadership under the United Nations' One World Program in cooperation with Rotary International. The delegation was composed of Uzbekistan professionals ranging in age from 24 to 58. Most of them had careers that dealt with water resource management, and most of them spoke some English. The delegates were all housed in the homes of East Fresno Rotary members. Past presidents Gary Dunn and Marilyn Behringer planned and led the seven-day study tour.

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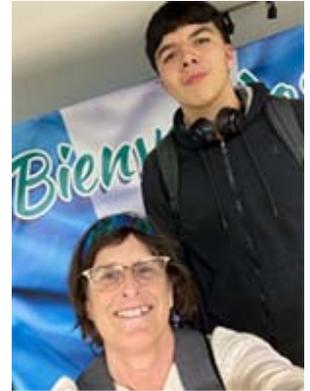
Guatemala Project

By Debbie Hale

**PDG, 5230 International Service Chair
Salinas Steinbeck Rotary Club**

When I was 17 years old, my French teacher did something that changed my life: she offered me the chance to go on an exchange with a French family for two weeks. As one of two children in a single parent family, I would never have been able to make this trip without her assistance. For the cost of a plane ticket, I was able to visit Paris, the French Riviera and the Alps! We did have to host two 14-year-old boys (ugh) at our home in Santa Clara County, but that was a small price to pay for the chance to eat real croissants, visit historic Roman ruins, and meet real French people. Because of this trip, I grew a heart for international experiences.

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Growing Rotary, Growing Impact: Membership and Engagement in April's Environment Month

By Rebecca Moser



PDG, 5230 Membership Chair

Pictured: PDG Becky working with an Interactor at the Women's Empowerment Resource Fair! Thank you for your model of service above self. That's how to engage, and drive membership!

As we celebrate **April's Rotary International theme—Environment Month**—it's the perfect opportunity to reflect on how membership and engagement play a vital role in our ability to protect and preserve our planet. Just as our environment thrives with diversity, so does Rotary. The more diverse our members, the stronger our collective ability to tackle the pressing issues of today, from climate change to sustainability.

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Pollinate the Planet: Rotary's Role in Environmental Stewardship

By Bruce D. Mackey

PDG, 5230 Foundation Chair

April is Environment Month on the Rotary International calendar. When discussing "The Environment" lots of folks instantly believe "there's nothing I can do... the problem is too big... too complex... too much for someone like me to make a meaningful impact..." Big problems can feel paralyzing. It's easy to look at



the scale of environmental challenges and think, 'What difference can I make?' But the truth is, you don't have to do everything—you just have to do something. And that something, no matter how small, is where real change begins.

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Honoring the Phenomenal Women of Rotary – A Tribute for International Women's Day and Environment

By Belinda I. Daguio



5230 Polio Plus Chair

Since March 8th was International Women's Day, I couldn't go too far into April without taking a moment to honor the phenomenal women of Rotary. This month, as we also recognize Rotary's focus on the environment, it feels especially fitting to spotlight women who not only lead but nurture, protect, and serve both people and planet with unwavering passion.

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