

Unite for
Good

Rotary
District 7620



ROTARY 7620 NEWSLETTER

Stronger Together: August is Membership and New Club Development Month

Helen Keller once said, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." This timeless truth lies at the core of what it means to be a Rotarian.

Rotary is a global network of neighbors, friends, and leaders who take action to create lasting change—across the world, in our communities, and within ourselves. No one person can solve the world's biggest challenges, but together, we can—and do.

In Rotary, collaboration turns ideas into action. From eradicating polio to empowering young leaders, Rotary members pool their talents, resources, and hearts to make a difference. Whether it's building peace, supporting education, or promoting health, we go further when we go together.

When we encourage people to join Rotary, they're not just joining a club. They're joining a team of people who believe that unity, purpose, and service can transform the world. And we're proving it—every day.

Because together, we accomplish more.

Governor Mandy

August is Membership Month - Unite for good

UNITE
FOR
GOOD

Rotary

August is **Membership and New Club Development Month**, a time for Rotary leaders to focus on the lifeblood of our organization, our members. This year, the presidential message, Unite for Good, emphasizes the importance of solidarity and collaboration. This call to unity encourages members to come together because collective efforts can lead to significant positive change. Throughout August, [read inspiring blog posts](#) that tell stories of Rotary members collaborating with others to make lasting impacts. [Access valuable resources](#) that will help you strengthen your membership.

Welcome Barbara Jean ("B.J.") Chamberlain-Skinner, District Rotary Foundation Chair

Governor Mandy Warfield Granger has appointed Barbara Jean ("B.J.") Chamberlain-Skinner as the new District Rotary Foundation Chair (DRFC).

The DRFC's primary purpose is to support the District Governor in promoting The Rotary Foundation and its various programs, including fundraising initiatives and grant

opportunities. B.J. has over 30 years of legal and business management experience. With a J.D. from American University, her professional career was primarily with the global corporations of Accenture and EDS (currently HP) and included structuring, drafting and negotiating complex, domestic and international transactions. These outsourcing, management consulting, systems integration and reselling agreements ranged from \$250M to over \$2B.



Areas of legal expertise encompass regulatory compliance, data privacy, human resources, intellectual property and dispute resolution across industries and practices. Specific elements of legal support involve developing contractual alternatives, evaluating local law limitations, performing due diligence and leading complex contractual negotiations. Business support expertise includes analyzing customer requirements, drafting and presenting proposals, recommending risk mitigation strategies, deal shaping, and designing and communicating executive strategy.

B.J. is a past president of the Parole Rotary Club in Annapolis and the current President of the Parole Rotary Foundation. She actively participates in Parole's signature project, Books for International Goodwill (B.I.G.), that has distributed over 9 million books to international schools and libraries and domestic underserved communities. For District 7620, B.J. formerly was the Grants Committee Chair helping to promote, allocate and administer the District's Designated Funds. In support of the DRFC, the Committee advises on both community and Global Grants to maximize Rotary's impact throughout our District and the world.

2025-26 District DDF Awardees

CONGRATULATIONS to the following Rotary Clubs who have been approved for matching DDF for District 7620 community grants for Rotary Year 2025-26.

These applications were recommended for approval by the District Grants Committee. Members of the Committee - Patsy Ezell, Daniel Fisher, Mimi Kanda, Linda Lymas, Phil Reynolds and B.J. Chamberlain-Skinner - individually and then collectively, evaluated each submittal received by 31 May in accordance with the published Rotary International terms and conditions, District 7620 Evaluation Criteria and the Grants Guide. [Read More](#)

2025 Joint District Conference!



Join Us in Washington, D.C. for the [2025 Joint District Conference!](#)

Rotarians from Districts 7610 and 7620 are coming together in our nation's capital for a dynamic weekend of fellowship, learning, and fun—October 3–5, 2025.

Highlights include:

FRIDAY kicks off with a **Scavenger Hunt in the City**, a **Peacebuilding Workshop** with the Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution, a screening of the **State Organs** documentary followed by an expert panel, and the opening of our **House of Friendship**.

The evening continues with our **Welcome Mega Hospitality Suite**—enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres, libations, a live performance, and dress to impress for our **International Night to Unite for Good!**

SATURDAY begins with **mindful morning walks and yoga**, followed by inspiring **keynote speakers** and

engaging **breakout sessions** on topics like AI, Peacebuilding, Storytelling, and Youth Programs. Visit the **House of Friendship**, then roll up your sleeves for a hands-on **service project benefiting Friendship Place!**

Cap off the evening with **Dine Arounds** (\$) at curated local restaurants and another fun-filled night in our **Mega Hospitality Suite**, complete with sweet treats and Rotary-themed activities.

SUNDAY offers another round of **morning mindfulness**, keynote sessions, and a final visit to the **House of Friendship**. Wrap up your weekend with an optional group outing to a **Washington Spirit women's soccer game!**

And that's just the beginning—so much more awaits!

Register and learn more: [District Conference Website](#)

Book your stay: [Westin Conference Hotel](#)

Stay connected: [Join us on Facebook](#)

We can't wait to see you there!

Yours in Service,
Marilyn Nevy Cruz, District Conference Chair
E: mncruz10@gmail.com
C: (562) 303-4711

DC Rotary Foundation awards large grant to Christ House



On Thursday, July 24th, DC Rotary Club President **Donnie Shaw**, President Elect **Todd Miller**, and Past Club and Foundation President **Marilyn Nevy Cruz**, attended a van blessing at **Christ House** to celebrate their new van and the donors who made it possible. The Rotary Foundation of Washington, D.C. was one of two donors that made it possible. Their van is a vital part of their work, allowing them to transport patients for medical appointments outside of Christ House. As one of their staff noted, "Van rides are when the stories come out- when you really

get to know a patient. They're my favorite."



President Donnie Shaw noted, "We are a doing-group, not just a check-writing group" and Christ House noted, "we are the happy beneficiaries of that service, and grateful to be partnered with them."

The [DC Rotary Foundation](#) was established in 1922 and awards over \$200,000 in community grants in the Washington Metropolitan area every year. [Christ House](#) was one of their \$20,000 large grant recipients last year.

Twelve Non-Profits Awarded Rotary Club of Annapolis Foundation Grants

Twelve Non-Profits Awarded Rotary Club of Annapolis Foundation Grants

The Rotary Club of Annapolis is pleased to announce the recipients of the club's 2025 Foundation Grants program. This year, the Rotary club awarded \$29,500 in grants. The Funds are awarded to organizations that give hope, support, and a positive outlook for the people they serve.

The 2025 grant recipients are Annapolis Arts District, Anne Arundel Area Imagination Library, Anne Arundel Community Action Agency, Captain Avery Museum, Down Syndrome Association of Maryland, Girls on the Run, Let's GO Boys and Girls, Maryland Hall, Maryland Reentry Resource Center, Medicine with a Mission, Providence of Maryland, and SPAN, Inc.

The grant recipients reflect the diverse nature of non-profits operating in Annapolis and Anne Arundel County. Funds support youth programs, volunteer training, reentry services, emergency services, food pantries, and others. [Read More](#)

Olney Rotary Club Celebrates Remarkable Membership Growth and Community Impact

By Hande Apaydin on Saturday, May 31, 2025

Congratulations to the Rotary Club of Olney for an incredible milestone! On May 29, 2025, the club proudly inducted five new members—bringing even more energy and commitment to their vibrant community.



Under the inspiring leadership of immediate Past President Melinda Butterfield in 2024-25, Olney Rotary has achieved phenomenal growth. The club has expanded from 17 to 37 members, welcoming 20 new Rotarians and launching a satellite club at the Leisure World Retirement Community.

Beyond membership growth, Olney Rotary continues to make a significant impact through various community service initiatives. The club supports local organizations like Olney Help, providing essential assistance to families in need. Annual projects such as the Winter Coat Collection and Diaper Drive address critical needs within the community. Additionally, the club is enhancing public safety by installing automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in local shopping centers, ensuring timely emergency response capabilities.

This outstanding achievement is a testament to the club's dynamic spirit, inclusive approach, and dedication to service. Kudos to immediate Past President Melinda, President Mike, and all the amazing Olney Rotarians for setting a shining example of club growth and engagement in action!

Rotary Club of Annapolis Awards Scholarships to College Bound High School Graduates

The Rotary Club of Annapolis welcomed the four recipients of college scholarships and their parents to the Annapolis Yacht Club on Thursday, June 4, 2025, for a luncheon and presentation of awards. Each year, the club offers academic scholarships to graduating high school seniors attending local high schools. This year, the four recipients will receive \$2,500 each to help defray college expenses.



The recipients of the scholarships are: Eva Barratt, who recently graduated from Broadneck High School. She will be attending University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill. James Bates, who graduated from Annapolis High School and will be attending St. John's College in Annapolis. Dominic LiVecche, a recent graduate of Rockbridge Academy, who will be attending Texas A&M in College Station, TX on a ROTC scholarship. Jessica Reider, who graduated from Old Mill High School, who will be attending University of Maryland Honors College in College Park.

The Rotary Club of Annapolis congratulates the recipients of the scholarships for demonstrating a commitment to community service, as well as strong academic outcomes. [Read More](#)

Disaster Update – Catastrophic Texas Flash Floods

By Bob Grill, President, Disaster Aid USA; Paul Mahata, Co-Chair, District Disaster Relief Committee

District 7620 Disaster Relief Committee continues to coordinate with Disaster Aid USA to respond to disasters. We are addressing disasters almost year-round within USA and internationally. Currently, we are focused on the catastrophic Texas flash floods that devastated many small towns and campgrounds along the Guadalupe River. DAUSA deployed two teams from Louisiana and Texas for four days; and carried out debris cleaning, chain sawing, and mucking & gutting of flooded homes. More details are provided below. To support such relief work, money and supplies are always needed; and we request that you and your club consider donating money to DAUSA. Please visit the following link for online donation:

<https://disasteraidusa.networkforgood.com/projects/249980-texas-flooding>

Response to Catastrophic Texas Flash Floods: Flood waters swept across Central Texas, particularly devastating Kerr and Kendall counties. Some areas received over 11 inches of rain in just 3 hours, causing river levels to surge nearly 30 feet. The floods claimed 130+ lives, including children attending a summer camp; and 150+ people still remain missing. Over 250 people were evacuated by helicopter and boat. The entire community has been left without power, clean water, or access to major roads, prompting a major disaster declaration and a coordinated response involving FEMA, state agencies, and relief organizations.

District 7620 Disaster Relief Committee is actively coordinating with Disaster Aid USA. Some volunteers from Texas and Louisiana were deployed for four days and they did the following operations.

1. Debris Removal: Clearing fallen trees and wreckage to ensure safe access for residents and emergency services.
2. Mucking and Gutting: Assisting homeowners in the removal of mud, water, and damaged materials from their homes to prevent further deterioration.

3. Tarping Roofs: Providing temporary roofing solutions to protect homes from additional weather damage.
4. Point of Distribution, Supplies: Setup and manage PODs for emergency supplies and aid.



Deployment Details: On day one, a missing individual was located in DAUSA's operational zone, which underscores the importance and urgency of disaster relief work. DAUSA's mission involved clearing debris fields stretching over 100 yards from the river to the road, shuttling material to higher ground to create centralized piles for collection by FEMA. These piles had to be painstakingly picked apart, chain-sawed to FEMA-specified lengths, and sorted for compliance; critical to ensure federal debris removal process. The sheer volume and complexity of the tasks required 9+ skid steers, 3 excavators, multiple tractors with grapple buckets, and over 50 volunteers; including 12 to 15 trained chainsaw operators on busiest days.

In order for the Committee and the DAUSA to do this type of disaster relief work in the coming days and weeks, we encourage the Rotary clubs, and individual Rotarians and Rotaractors to consider donating money to DAUSA (a 501-c-3 organization, co-founded by PDG Bob Grill). Please visit the following link for online donation:

<https://disasteraidusa.networkforgood.com/projects/249980-texas-flooding>

Alternately, you may consider sending checks to: Disaster Aid USA, 9817 Lanham Severn Road, Lanham MD 20706. For any questions on this initiative, please feel free to contact Co-Chairs: Paul Mahata (Pmahata@verizon.net) and Steve Kemp (Stevekemp77@gmail.com).

Columbia Town Center Rotary - A New Literacy Initiative to Give Books to Kids

Columbia Town Center Rotary Club has a major initiative underway to increase literacy in Howard County. In addition to their community service work to help food-insecure children and families, they are now working hard to get books into the hands of all children, especially those in disadvantaged communities, to stimulate a love for reading and create lifelong learners.

It may be hard to believe, but many of the students in lower income families in Howard County have no books in their homes -- not a single book of their own. CTC Rotary wants to change that! They have 5 literacy-based projects underway to give books to kids starting with the Title I Elementary Schools in Howard County.





Signature Literacy-Based Projects: Birthday Books

Program, Little Free Libraries, Positive Vibes for Kids, Rotary Dictionary Project Dictionaries for 3rd Graders and CAC Summer Reading Program. [Learn more.](#)

Inviting you to help make a big difference in the lives of these kids. There are several ways to show your support.

- **Celebrate literacy and all it can do to change lives** at "Books Bubbles & All That Jazz" on **Monday evening, August 18, 2025, 6-9pm** at **18th & 21st Restaurant in Columbia, MD**. This will be a cocktail party style event, with delectable cocktails, delicious hearty appetizers, desserts and jazz music. The Emcee will be well-known WMAR-TV news anchor Jamie Costello. This event is entirely focused on raising money for our literacy projects. **Tickets and sponsorships** are on sale now at books4kids.givesmart.com.
- **Make a donation** online at books4kids.givesmart.com. No amount is too small to make a difference. Donations of \$250 or more will be recognized as Book Buddy Donors at the event. All gifts will be greatly appreciated.
- **Tell your friends** about this initiative and event.

To learn more about the **Columbia Town Center Rotary Club**, visit ctcrotary.org or follow them on [Facebook](#). Columbia Town Center Rotary Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization (EIN 20-2858354)

More Information about Signature Literacy Projects [Read More](#)

Olney Rotary's AED Project Featured in local paper

The Rotary Club of Olney's long-standing public safety initiative received well-deserved recognition in ***The Greater Olney News*** this month, spotlighting the Club's efforts to make lifesaving equipment more accessible in the community.

Thanks to a generous donation from the Olney Lions Club and a \$4,000 grant from the Olney Civic Fund, the club recently installed its **fifth Automated External Defibrillator (AED)** at the Village Mart shopping center. The AEDs, housed in weatherproof outdoor boxes, are placed in high-traffic shopping areas to ensure **24/7 emergency access** for cardiac response.

"This is a potentially life-saving device that, when applied quickly, can dramatically improve survival rates," said Club President Mike Weiner, who is also an EMT with the Sandy Spring Volunteer Fire Department.

The project began in 2016 and continues to expand. AEDs have already been installed at Ashton Village, Fair Hill, and other local centers, and additional sites are in development pending site approvals. The article also noted the club's partnerships and training efforts, including free CPR and AED instruction for the public.

To read more about the project or contribute to its continued success, visit www.olneyrotary.org.

The Greater Olney Public Safety

The Olney Rotary Club's Automated External Defibrillators (AED) project has taken another step forward by adding a fifth AED at the Village Mart shopping center.

Thanks to a "greatly appreciated" gift from the Olney Lions Club, Rotary President Mike Weiner said, the Rotary project of installing AEDs in outdoor weatherproof boxes at the shopping centers service Greater Olney got closer to its goal..

According to Weiner, the club is still seeking permission from the owners the Olney Shopping Center, the CVS center and the Roots center, which will round out the AED project. Additional locations being considered are the Olney Recreation Center and fields.

The Rotary Club of Olney received a \$4,000 grant from the Olney Civic Fund to purchase and install AEDs at Olney shopping centers.

The project started in 2016.

"This is a potentially life-saving device that, when applied to a cardiac victim, can dramatically increase the survival rate versus CPR only," said Weiner (pictured kneeling, at left), also an EMT with the Sandy Spring Volunteer Fire Department. "We are proud to have installed four mounted at the Ashton Village Shopping Center, Fair Hill and the Village Mart centers, and with this grant will allow us to complete the project in Olney."

Rotary is always seeking additional donations to place AEDs in strategic places for 24-hour access in the event of a cardiac emergency. Donations can be made online at <https://olneyrotary.org>.

The Rotary Club offers CPR and AED training.

Lions help Rotarians with public safety project



Rotary Club of Olney

District Governor Nominee Selected for 2027-2028



The Governor Selection Committee has selected Rose Cardarelli, M.Ed., MHA, Ed.D., FACHE, as the 2027-2028 District Governor Nominee. Rose is an internationally recognized author, educator, healthcare strategist, and humanitarian who brings people, organizations, and resources together to develop sustainable healthcare and education solutions. Her background in international cooperation, combined with her firsthand experience in civil society development in a variety of crisis/post-crisis settings, has made her an influential advisor to international institutions and governments worldwide. Her experiences are deeply rooted in her service in the U.S. Army as a Medical Service Corps Officer and in government as a Professor of Human Security.

Amir Kahn (Pikesville-Owings Mills) and Marilyn Nevy Cruz (Washington, D.C.) Received Major Awards

During the District Governor Installation and District Awards celebration on July 13, Immediate Past District Governor Nomie Hamid presented two major awards to recognize two of our fellow Rotarians and District leaders. **Amir Kahn** (Pikesville-Owings Mills) was awarded the **Rotarian of the Year** award (left) and **Marilyn Nevy Cruz** was awarded the **Service Above Self** award (right).



Congratulations to both of these Rotarians - and thank you for all you do for our clubs, districts, and Rotary as a whole!

Rotary Magazine: Rotary offers members assured avenues to leadership & professional development

By Sam Worley, Photography by Joshua Cogan [Excerpted]

Washington is nothing if not a networking town, which Ahmed Eltally knew even before he moved to the East Coast, looking to kick-start a career in international diplomacy. He had a vivid idea of how things might go: "Getting my suit and tie, going to think tank events, bumping into congresspeople in the street, drinking coffee at Starbucks." Then 27 years old, Eltally had recently completed a graduate degree in conflict resolution at Portland State University in Oregon and settled in New Jersey while he looked for work. He soon found a job in his field at an organization based in D.C. And he was ready to make some connections.

In uncertain economic times, Rotary offers members assured avenues to leadership and professional development

How to succeed in business ...

By Sam Worley
Photography by Joshua Cogan



Eltally eventually became president of his D.C. Rotaract club and is one person who's been able to take advantage of Rotary in this way. He has become director of education for the Ascension Rotaract Network that includes Rotary zones from a large area, and in 2023, he helped organize a Rotaract event on "career paths in the American foreign service," co-sponsored with Young Professionals in Foreign Policy. Eltally knew the types of panelists he wanted: senior diplomats across government agencies, the kinds of people that young employees would be fortunate to run into in, say, the State Department cafeteria. The challenge was finding them outside the leafy confines of Foggy Bottom, the D.C. cultural and diplomatic district.

Eltally had an idea: He tapped into a database called DACdb, which stands for District and Club Database, that allows users to search Rotary members by location and occupation. There, he made contact with Rotarians who were leaders at government departments and invited them to join the conversation. Organizing the event was a skill-building exercise in itself.

The name of the event, Beyond Cocktails and Cigars, pointed to a new way of doing business and, in this case, of asking questions, seeking feedback, and advancing careers. And maybe that's a good thing. Not everyone is into cocktails and cigars, anyhow.

MARILYN NEVY CRUZ was in a similar position as Eltally nearly a decade earlier — completely unfamiliar with Washington, D.C., when she moved from California in 2012 to pursue a career. "I had no family or friends. I knew no one," says Navy Cruz, today a federal public defender who works on death penalty cases. "So I googled 'community service organizations,' and that's where Rotaract popped up." Like Eltally, she rose through the ranks, becoming President of her Rotaract club and, later, President of the Rotary Club of Washington, D.C. Going from Rotaract to Rotary, Navy Cruz has served as a bridge between generations. She became a mentor to Eltally and others, but only after receiving generous mentorship herself from a president of the D.C. club. "She really took me, as the Rotaract President, under her wing, and started to build that mentorship — informal, because it wasn't forced," Navy Cruz recalls. "It was very natural."

The two didn't just talk about Rotary business. They became real friends, meeting for drinks or coffee, helping Navy Cruz navigate professional life. "At the time, I wasn't sure I wanted to go to law school," she remembers. "It was reviewing my statement of purpose, reviewing my speech performance, if I had a presentation at work. D.C. is such a small but important city in the country, and everybody is trying to move up to the next position." She laughs. "So, how to navigate that — that was really important, especially not being

from here."

Mentorship is "such a critical piece of what Rotarians have to offer," says Elizabeth Moody, a nonprofit consultant, Rotaractor, and former Rotary Scholar. But sometimes, Moody thinks, Rotary clubs put too much pressure on themselves to develop formal mentorship programs or match people by interests. In her D.C. Rotaract club, "we've generally tended to keep mentorship fairly informal, and it's worked well."

[Read More](#)



A Global Dialogue on Fostering Alliances and Service

A Global Dialogue on Fostering Alliances and Service: Rotary and IVLP Leaders from the Middle East and North Africa Unite
By Mariama Keita-Thiero

On July 15, 2025, just steps from the White House, something extraordinary happened.

Inside a quiet conference room at the Club Quarters Hotel, members of the **Rotary Club of Washington, D.C.** welcomed ten remarkable changemakers from the Middle East and North Africa, visiting through the [U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program](#) (IVLP). What unfolded over the next three and a half hours was more than a workshop; it was a living, breathing example of why we are Rotarians.



The theme of the session was an interactive program titled "Fostering Alliance", led by **DC Rotary Club member Mariama Keita-Thiero** and organized by the **Institute of International Education (IIE)**. Designed to cultivate cross-cultural dialogue and actionable collaboration, the session was a space where values came to life; voices, young and seasoned, intertwined with purpose.



President Donald L. Shaw exemplified Rotary's mission through his presence and his unwavering belief in bridging generational and geographic divides. Alongside him, Shelton Williams, May O'Brien, and Dr. Sam Hancock lent their wisdom, sharing stories of Rotary's legacy, global service initiatives, and the power of civic

engagement. Their contributions created a space of deep learning, one that felt both timely and timeless.



From Dialogue to Impact

[Read More](#)

Gaithersburg Rotary Club at the Rotary International Convention

By Kenneth D. Weiss on Thursday, July 10, 2025



Beating by far the average per club, the Gaithersburg Rotary was represented in the RI convention by three members and their spouses. The members were President Priscilla, Vice President Denise, and PR Chairperson Ken. Besides the exciting general sessions, they all enjoyed the immense House of Friendship, exciting special activities, and socializing after hours with other Rotarians.

Priscilla was impressed by the organization and the speakers in the full group meeting including the opening, general sessions, and closing. She was especially pleased when Bill Gates appeared on the screens and pledged to continue supporting Rotary's campaign to end polio.

Denise reported attending excellent workshops and being excited by a simple water filtration system that eliminates impurities from contaminated water, making it safe to drink. "This could be life-altering in many developing countries," she stated.

Ken found the luncheons to be excellent for meeting important Rotarians (of course, **all** of us are important). He had a "photo op." with a princess of a Canadian "First Nation" and his wife with our new RI President and Mrs. Arezzo.

At the first club meeting after the convention, the three presented a report designed to entice other members to attend such events in the future. The group was—we can even say, "excited"—by the beautiful blue t-shirt that many of us wore.

Rotary Club of Washington Global

RCWG Partnering with "Gather" movement at the National Peace Corps Association Connect+ Conference in DC: DG-N Rose Cardarelli and Club President Mike McCabe represented Rotary and RCWG at the Peace Corps NPCA Connect+ National Conference July 18-20th in Washington DC. In photo to the left, they met with former Peace Corps Worldwide Directors Jody Olsen and Carol Spahn, as well as Steve Werner and Rosemary Takacs who help manage the Partnering for Peace between Rotary International and the Peace Corps. The group met to discuss the new "Gather" movement launched by Carol, Jody and others to bring people and organizations together across the United States in dialogue and connection. Check it out at its Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1779713423426977> Denver will be doing a Mile High Gather event with a 1 mile long table for people to gather and dialogue and Unite for Good.



In the photo to the right, they met with current Peace Corps Worldwide Directors Allison Green as well as Rosemary Takacs and other Rotary colleagues who were former Peace Corps Volunteers who help manage the Partnering for Peace between Rotary International and the Peace Corps.

Rotary of Dupont Circle Dance Workshop

On Saturday, July 26th, members of the Rotary Club of Dupont Circle participated in a line dance workshop to raise funds for the [Clarey Walker Foundation](#)! Funds raised will be used to provide high school students with scholarships for local and national leadership trainings and academy. Dupont Circle Rotarians know how to Service Above Self while having FUN!

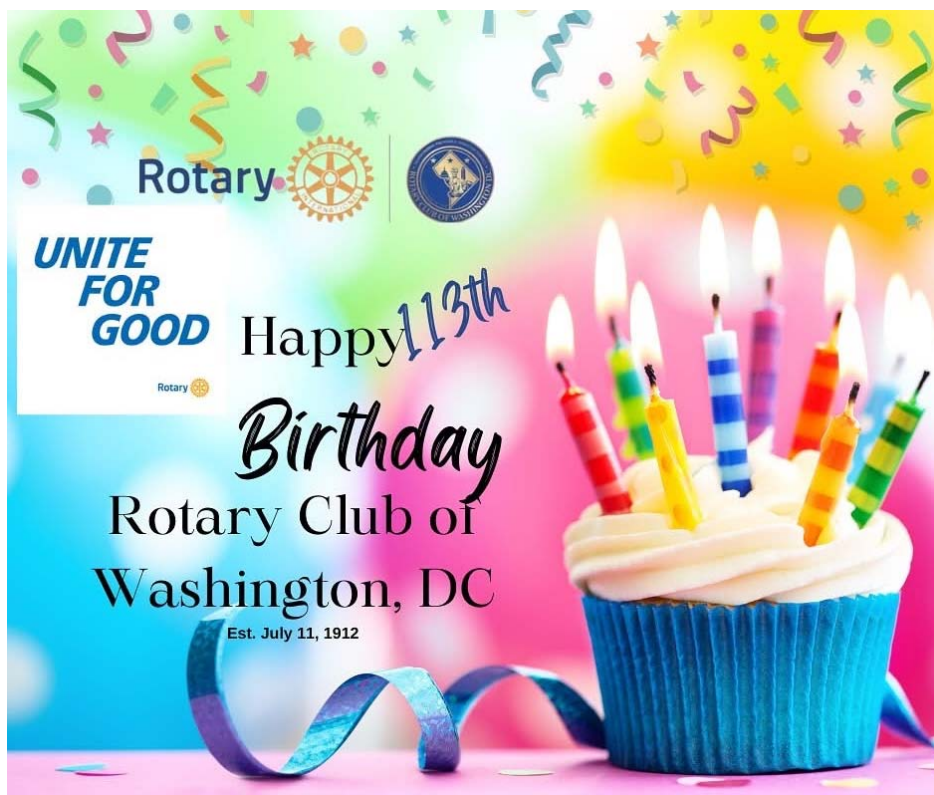


Hoedspruit Village Grant Progress

By Michael Naghdi on Thursday, July 24, 2025

The Lake Shore-Severna Park Rotary Club is proud to support the Hoedspruit Village School kitchen refurbishment project through a collaborative international grant. On Wednesday, July 23rd, we held a productive Zoom meeting with the Rotary Club of Hoedspruit in South Africa to finalize plans for the initial \$5,000 installment. These funds will enable the contractor to purchase essential materials and begin renovations. The Hoedspruit Rotary Club will actively oversee the project's progress, providing monthly reports and documentation of the work. This impactful initiative is made possible through the joint efforts of the Rotary Clubs of: Lake Shore-Severna Park, BWI, La Plata, Greenbelt, Parole Annapolis, and Washington, D.C., exemplifying the power of Rotary partnerships in global service.

Happy Birthday DC Rotary Club!



Rotaract Club of Washington, D.C.



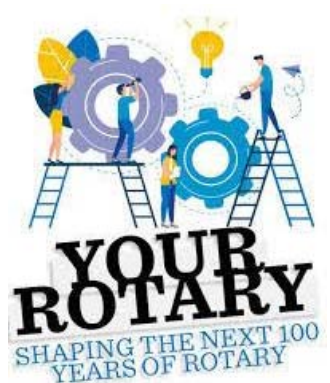
The **Rotaract Club of Washington, D.C.** started the new Rotary year strong celebrating DG Mandy Warfield Granger at her installation, followed by their monthly meeting and happy hour and service event with Justice DMV. Way to go!



Invite young leaders to Rotary events

Attending a Rotary event can be an eye-opening experience for participants in our programs for young leaders, such as Interact, Youth Exchange, and Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, as well as recent alumni of these programs. Invite these young leaders to local, district, regional, and international Rotary conferences. There are many ways to make these events more accessible to younger people:

- Review your club and district budgets to provide full or partial support for young leaders to attend.
- Reduce or waive conference registration fees for Rotary youth participants, and encourage clubs that sponsor a young person to help defray the cost of travel and accommodations.
- Appoint young leaders to serve on event organization committees. When young people help design an event, they bring new and exciting ideas, making the gathering more appealing to their peers.



How to visit Rotary Headquarters

Would you like to visit Rotary International World Headquarters in Evanston, Illinois, USA? Our inspiring lobby exhibit highlights the impact that Rotary makes around the world. Guided tours of the building allow you to explore our history and our vision for the future. [Plan and request your tour.](#)



In Memoriam: Charles "Charlie" Oliver

In Memoriam: Charles "Charlie" Oliver - Rotarian, Leader, Friend
1939–2025

It is with deep respect and heartfelt remembrance that I must share the passing of Charles "Charlie" Oliver, a lifelong servant of Rotary and a beloved member of the Aberdeen, Maryland, Rotary Club. Charlie passed away on Friday, July 25, 2025, after a life marked by unwavering dedication to community, fellowship, and service. Born in 1939, Charlie inherited not only his father's first name but also his spirit of service. His father, a founding member of the Aberdeen Rotary Club, sponsored Charlie's own membership on June 5, 1961. From that day forward, Charlie committed himself wholeheartedly to the Rotary ideal of **Service Above Self**.



Charlie served with distinction as President of the Aberdeen Club and was honored as a Paul Harris Fellow in 1989—an honor then reserved by the Aberdeen Club as recognition for extraordinary service. For Charlie, Rotary was more than a weekly obligation; it was a way of life. His record of **perfect attendance for over 60 years** stands as a rare and remarkable testimony to his dedication. In the days before virtual meetings or relaxed attendance rules, Charlie's consistency meant personally attending not just Aberdeen club meetings, but clubs across the Rotary landscape of Harford and Cecil Counties. He understood that the true "cost of Rotary is attendance." The 'cost' cannot simply be measured in dues, but in presence, commitment, and camaraderie. [Read More](#)

Four-Way Test

Is it the truth?
Is it fair to all concerned?
Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

District 7620 Newsletter Team:

Bob Nelson, PDG

Dave Vogel, LTG

ROTARY'S VISION STATEMENT

TOGETHER WE SEE A WORLD
WHERE **PEOPLE** UNITE AND TAKE ACTION
TO **CREATE** LASTING
CHANGE ACROSS THE GLOBE
IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND IN OURSELVES