

Season's Greetings from Governor Delores Edwards Harding

Season's Greetings District 7620 Members!

Can you believe that we have officially crossed over into the sixth month of the Rotary Year? It is now December, and we have a lot to celebrate this month as we wrap up calendar year 2023 in service to our Community, and the World through Rotary.



The Rotary International (RI) theme for this month is Disease Prevention and Treatment. Under this Area of Focus, Rotarians around the world commit to prevent and fight disease. As you may already know, our signature project in this area remains the eradication of Polio worldwide. As members of Rotary, we are committed to helping people live healthy lives. Fighting disease and illnesses can impact the quality of one's life. It can also take a toll on any family. Now, more than ever, we must push forward to help those in need. For more information, please visit the RI website to see what Rotarians are doing in Disease Prevention and Treatment: <https://www.rotary.org/en/our-causes/fighting-disease>. You can also learn more about our efforts to End Polio: <https://www.endpolio.org>.

District Events in October and November

During the month of both October and November, my District Governor Club Visits continued, and I had the chance to participate in several wonderful Rotary and Rotaract meetings and events. It was great to meet leaders from the following Clubs: Rotaract Club of Washington, DC (Multi-Club meeting); Rotary Clubs of Carroll County (Oktoberfest); Bonds Meadows; Greenbelt; ElkrIDGE; Ellicott City; Rotary Club of Lexington Park (Oyster Festival and Multi-Club Meeting); Prince Frederick; and the Capitol Hill 20th Anniversary Charter Night Reception.



Rotary Zones 33-34 Bahamas Action Summit at Atlantis Resort in the Bahamas

The District 7620 Leadership Team attended the Zone 33-34 Bahamas Action Summit at Atlantis Resort in Nassau, Bahamas on October 24th-29th. The District invited three Emerging Leaders to attend this leadership training event in the Caribbean. Rotarians Ahmed El Tally (Rotaract Club of Washington, DC), Hande Apaydin (Rotary Club of Rockville), and Dr. Pallavi Gowda (Rotary Club of Potomac Passport) were invited to meet fellow Emerging Leaders from Zone 33-34, and they also had the opportunity to attend training sessions, and fellowship with RI President Gordon McInally, Past RI President Barry Rassin, Past RI Directors, District Governors and current DG Line leaders. While in the Bahamas, the District hosted a small luncheon with the current DG Line (including DGE Nomie Hamid and DGN Mandy Warfield Granger), and several District Rotarians for fellowship, and to share our greatest takeaways from the Action Summit. It was a wonderful time to "recharge" for all attendees, and the speakers and training classes provided helpful information and resources to bring home to our home District.



Rotary Meeting at the OAS in Washington DC

District Rotarians were invited by PDG Rich Carson to attend a special reception at the Organization of American States (OAS) in Washington, DC. The Foundation for the University of the Valley of Guatemala hosted a special presentation entitled, "A Journey from Education to Impact: How UVG Transforms People and Nature at Lake Atitlan." We were honored to meet the Guatemalan Ambassador Alfonso Quinonez and his wife. Rotarians from District 7620 and 7610 were present for this reception, including a host of global partners.



Rotary Council of Governors

The District held a 2nd Quarter meeting with the Council of Governors

The District held a 2nd Quarter meeting with the Council of Governors in November. This is normally a closed meeting with active Past District Governors of District 7620. We met via zoom, and the current District Governor Line (DG, DGE, and DGN) were in place to provide updates on the various happenings within the District. In turn, we received support and guidance on how to best lead our District forward in Rotary Year 2023-2024, and the future years.



District Committees Meetings and Events

In case you missed the District-wide announcements, the following activities took place in October and November:

The **District Bylaws Committee** continues its efforts to review and update the current District Bylaws. Kudos to DGN Mandy Warfield Granger for tracking all of the many suggested edits, and feedback that we have received to date. If you have any changes to recommend, please send them to Mandy at the following District email address: mwgranger.rotary@gmail.com.

The **District Governor Selection Committee** is preparing to interview and nominate our next District Governor for Rotary Year 2026-2027. PDG Sean McAlister is leading the charge for this very important annual event. The deadline for all candidate applications was November 15th. We hope to announce the next District Governor Nominee Designate (DGND) in the month of December. Stay tuned!

The **District RYLA Committee** held their Kick-off meeting to begin preparations for the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) experience in February 2024 at Camp Letts in Edgewater, Maryland. All District clubs will be receiving more information on this exciting event for our young students in the coming weeks. Registration is now open. Please visit the District's RYLA website at: www.RYLA7620.org.

The **District Youth Mental Health Committee** member Dr. Pallavi Gowda participated in a Rotary International World Mental Health Day Webinar organized by the World Federation for Mental Health, and endorsed by the World Health Organization. Pallavi presented alongside of RI President Gordon McNally and others leaders, and helped raise awareness of mental health issues worldwide.



The **District Interact Committee** hosted an Inaugural Youth Environmental Summit for students at the Bar-T Mountainside Campground in Frederick, Maryland. Over 100 Students, District leaders and volunteers came together to teach the younger generation (our future Rotarians) on the importance of taking care of our environment. Students learned about limiting food waste, food composting, recycling lithium batteries, recovering non-recyclable plastic film, and planting trees. Special thanks to Assistant Governor and District Youth Services Chair Marilyn Nevy Cruz, District Interact Chairs Joe Richardson and Vijay Kowtha, District Executive Secretary Deborah Burgess and the entire Planning Committee for a job well done!

The **District Membership Committee** hosted the District Membership Summit on October 14, 2023, at The Meeting House in Columbia, MD from 10 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Leaders from around the District came together to learn about Growing Membership in District 7620! Special thanks to our District Membership Team who helped plan a wonderful event for our members.



In closing, the past two months have been exceptionally busy for me as DG, and very rewarding! I look forward to what December will bring. Holiday parties are scheduled around the District, and we hope to see you out and about serving, and celebrating the season! On behalf of the entire District Leadership Team, I wish you and your family the Happiest of Holidays!

Yours In Rotary Service,
Delores Edwards Harding
District Governor 2023-2024

December is Rotary's Disease Prevention and Treatment Month





District 7620 Winter Wonderland - Register Now!

Friday, December 1, 2023



Join DG Delores Edwards Harding, District Leaders and the Members of District 7620 for a Winter Wonderland Holiday Party!

This event will include food, fellowship, fun and an opportunity to donate a new toy to a child in foster care.

Sunday, December 17th from 4 to 7 p.m.

At The Meeting House in Columbia, MD.

Register [HERE NOW!](https://rbgy/q2z09e) - Space is Limited!

[Read More](#)

RYLA Early Registration Deadline - 12/31/23



District 7620 - [Rotary Youth Leadership Academy \(RYLA\)](#) February 17-19, 2024 - President's Day Weekend Camp Letts - Edgewater, Maryland [RYLA7620.ORG](https://ryla7620.org)

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

Greetings from the District 7620 [Rotary Youth Leadership Academy \(RYLA\)](#) Committee! We hope your Rotary year is going well. As you may already know, it's that time of the year again for us to share the Announcement of RYLA 2024!

Registration for this Youth Leadership event is [Now Open](#) and we would like to share some important information with you regarding Rotary Club Registration, Student Registration, and upcoming RYLA deadlines.

Registration Information

[Read More](#)

Wreaths Across America - Arlington National Cemetery

Dear Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Friends.

For the third year, the Rotary Club of Capitol Hill has committed to the [Wreaths Across America Day Association](#) to lay holiday wreaths for U.S. military veterans at the [Arlington](#)



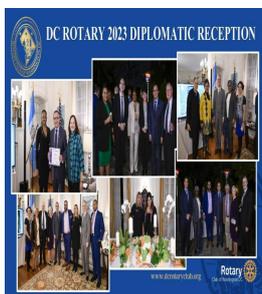
National Cemetery on **Saturday, December 16, 2023**, from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. We invite you and your club members to join us this year.

As a volunteer, you will join hundreds of people at the Arlington National Cemetery and place live balsam wreaths on the headstones of our fallen heroes. The wreaths are made of fresh evergreens and have been used for centuries as symbols of honor, living tributes and memorials to honor veterans, active-duty military, and their families. When each wreath is placed, the service member's name is said out loud to ensure his/her memory lives on.



Volunteers Needed [Read More](#)

DC ROTARY'S ANNUAL DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION RAISES FUNDS FOR GUATEMALAN YOUTH



On November 15, the Ambassador of Guatemala and his wife hosted some sixty Rotarians and their guests, along with ambassadors and diplomats from a dozen countries, for the Rotary Club of Washington, DC's annual diplomatic reception. Organized by the DC Rotary Club's Embassy and International Relations Committee, it was truly a special evening, featuring delicious Latin American cuisine and Rotary fellowship in the Ambassador's lovely historic home in Northwest Washington, DC.

The annual event serves to promote Rotary relations with DC's diplomatic community and to raise funds for a worthy cause. This year, thanks to the generosity of Rotarians, the event raised almost \$5,000 to fund scholarships for indigenous and underprivileged youth in Guatemala to attend one of the most prestigious private universities in the country, the Universidad del Valle de Guatemala, which is committed to increasing diversity and access for higher education in the country. Thank you, Rotarians, for your generosity!

Disaster Update " Maui Fires Status Report

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 recent disasters. We are helping the victims of all these disasters, and we request that you and your club consider donating money to DAUSA. We thank you for your past donations. Please see below a detailed status report on the Maui Fires disaster, which by itself has an immediate need of \$50,000.

Maui Fires: DAUSA representative, who was at Maui, was able to see some of the devastation from the road, and the footprint of this fire is far-reaching. For those who have been to Maui and specifically Lahaina you know what a special place this is. It breaks one's heart to see what this fire has done to this special place. The people here are in need of all the help they can get because this is a long-term problem. This is why it is necessary to have a much-needed DAUSA trailer in Maui. Our team and the locals will be doing clean-up work. The fires in Lahaina and up-country Maui will be with us for a very long time. It is with that in mind that we took more of a long view to assess the needs of the victims affected by the fire. The goal is to establish relationships with organizations that will have a direct impact on the people. We have identified the following three groups and organizations to work with. [Read More](#)

Rotary Club of Capitol Hill - 20 Years of Service Above Self!

The **Rotary Club of Capitol Hill** thanks all Rotarians, Rotaractors and their guests who joined us at the celebration of our milestone - 20 Years of Service Above Self, on Saturday, November 18th at Georgetown University.

We celebrated this anniversary to give tribute to all members, past and present, who contributed to our club's success! The anniversary inspired us to create a history pamphlet which includes insights from members who answered our call to participate. Our **Charter President, Joan Athens**, who is also a past president and current member of Columbia Patuxent Rotary Club. Joan was a member of the 20th Anniversary Committee and a major contributor to the history pamphlet. This information along with several photographs of Rotarians in action was at the core of the video presentation shown at the event.

[Read More](#)

Update on RCCH Teteman, Ghana, Uptown Sanitation and Hygiene Project



Dear Fellow Rotarians,
Hope you are well.
In August this year, the Rotary Club of Capitol Hill (RCCH) sent \$10,000 to the Rotary Club of Accra-South, Ghana, (in-country implementer) to start construction of the \$16,500 project. After an intensive bidding process, a contractor was selected in September. Construction of the 6 water closet/4 urinals and two hand washing basin facility started on November 2nd. The facilities will be divided equally between men and women.
Below are the pictures I received on November 12th. According to the Rotary Club of Accra-South, the project is scheduled to be completed by the end of this year pending receipt of the outstanding \$6,500 to be sent by the RCCH. I will be in Ghana in December-January to see to the completion of the project and participate in the handing over of the downtown and uptown

facilities to the community. If you would like to join in the handing over ceremony, please let me know.

I will share additional pictures as received.

Delighted to partner with the DC Rotary Club on this important project. Once again, grateful for their partnership.

YIRS,

Pauline Simmons, President Elect

Rotary Club of Capitol Hill



Area 7 Welcomes 9 New Members into the Rotary Family!

Congratulations to the Rotary Clubs of **Capitol Hill**, **Dupont Circle** and **Washington, D.C.** and **Rotaract Club of Washington, D.C.** for welcoming 9 new members this past month into the Rotary 7620 family. Keep up the great work!





Youth Advisory Council celebrates World Interact Week

With another World Interact Week celebrated (happy 61st birthday, Interact!), Rotary International's Youth Advisory Council has a lasting message to share: youth voice matters! [Watch the recording](#) of the Facebook Live discussion with the Youth Advisory Council and hear their thoughts on Interact, youth voice, and youth belonging in Rotary.

[WATCH NOW](#)



Carroll Creek Rotary Goes Global

In a global community development initiative spanning three continents, launched by the Rotary Club of Carroll Creek, the first shipment of used bicycles has been loaded in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, bound for the port of Durban on South Africa's east coast. The Carroll Creek Rotary Club is teaming with the Rotary Club of Empangeni in the South African province of KwaZulu-Natal and the Rotary E-Club of the Karoo Region in the Northern Cape of South Africa to collect and ship over a three year period six forty-foot containers of used bicycles to South Africa, where Rotarians will distribute them for transportation to school, employment and healthcare throughout South Africa.

This international service project aims to address issues of poverty and access to education and healthcare in rural communities

This international service project aims to address issues of poverty and access to education and healthcare in rural communities. Local residents will be trained as bicycle mechanics, who will assemble, repair and maintain the bicycles. The shipping containers will remain on-site to serve as a bicycle storage and repair facilities. Local women will be enlisted as bicycle mechanics and trained in basic business management skills in an effort to empower women.



[Read More](#)

Monthly Grants Question & Answer Session | 12/05/23

Monthly Grants Question & Answer Session



Please register for and join the district's Monthly Grants Session - MOU Training on December 5th at 7:00 pm. All D7620 Rotarians are invited to attend, but December's session will count as MOU training for club presidents, presidents-elect and foundation chairs.

[Register NOW](#) for **Monthly Grants Session**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82307461052?pwd=d3I4L3hrOGVIV3EwWlJ6QnFhejgwUT09>

Meeting ID: 823 0746 1052

Passcode: 440687

Please contact me (districtgovernor2122@gmail.com) with any questions.

Sincerely,

Geetha Jayaram
District Rotary Foundation Chair
District Governor 2021-2022

The best part about making a video for the Interact Awards



Needing inspiration for your Interact Awards nomination? Look no further! Interactor Shaillina from the Interact Club of Golden Gate Int'l College, Nepal, reflects on her club's experience participating in the 2022 Interact Awards. When Shaillina and her Interact club set out to participate in the Interact Awards, they thought being named "Best Video" would be the best part. Now they know that the journey itself is the real prize!

[READ THE BLOG](#)

2024 Rotary Peace Fellowship Results

In February 2023, applications opened for the 2024 Rotary Peace Fellowship. The fully funded Rotary Peace Fellowship, which covers tuition and living expenses, increases the capacity of existing leaders to prevent and resolve conflict by offering academic training, field experience, and professional networking. Rotary Peace Fellows are selected every year in a globally competitive process based on personal, academic, and professional achievements. Fellows earn either a master's degree or a post-graduate diploma in peace and development studies at one of the Rotary Peace Centers located at leading universities around the world.

The Rotary Foundation has completed the review and selection process for the 2024 Rotary Peace Fellowship. According to Rotary Peace Centers, nearly 600 eligible applications were received, and 90 fellowship awards were made this year. Rotary Club of Rockville's recommended candidate - Awet Gebrekirstos Wereta was selected as an Alternate Candidate. An Alternate Candidate is selected as an alternate for the 2024 Rotary Peace Fellowship; alternates are notified should a space become available in their assigned program. [Read More](#)



Rockville Rotary collaborates with the City of Rockville on the annual Rockville 10K/5K Race

By Hande Apaydin



Rockville Rotary Club continues to join forces with the City of Rockville in a dynamic collaboration, playing a pivotal role in securing sponsors for the 48th annual Rockville 10K/5K race. This longstanding event, recognized as the oldest continuing foot race in Montgomery County, unfolded on the vibrant morning of Sunday, Nov. 5, encompassing a 1-mile fun run for our energetic young participants.

The resounding success of the event was evident as over 1000 runners, fueled by a collective spirit of athletics and community, took part in the race. Beyond the runners, the festive atmosphere drew several thousand community members to King Farm Rockville, creating a lively gathering that celebrated the spirit of unity and camaraderie.

This collaboration with the City of Rockville holds special significance for the Rockville Rotary Club, as it serves as one of our two major fundraising programs. The proceeds from this event play a crucial role in supporting numerous local charities in Rockville through the annual grants of the Rockville Rotary Club Foundation, amplifying our impact on the community, and contributing to a host of international service projects.

During the event, Rockville Rotarians were not just orchestrators but active contributors to the vibrant festivities. As a delightful treat, we collaborated with Baja Fresh to distribute delicious quesadillas and chips+salsa. A whopping 700 paper bags brimming with snacks were joyfully dispensed to both the spirited runners and the enthusiastic community members in attendance.

This event wasn't merely a fundraising endeavor; it was a profound community outreach initiative for the Rockville Rotary Club. We were honored by the visit of Rockville's newly elected Mayor Monique Ashton to our table and tent. Engaging with community members spanning all ages, we fostered connections with many new potential members, shared laughter, and celebrated the diverse tapestry that makes Rockville a vibrant and tightly-knit community.

Rockville Rotarians find major joy in the success of the 48th annual Rockville 10K/5K race and the positive impact it has on our community. Our commitment to service and community outreach continues to resonate, echoing the Rotary ethos of making a difference locally and globally. As we reflect on this extraordinary event, we are reminded that through collaboration and community engagement, we can truly make a lasting and meaningful impact.

Congratulations AG Ken Weiss on receiving Outstanding Senior Citizen Awards





Rockville Rotary Stream Cleanup and Watershed Protection Service Day

By Hande Apaydin

**Rockville Rotary Stream Cleanup and
Watershed Protection Service Day
November 12, 2023**



Rockville Rotarians once again demonstrated their unwavering commitment to environmental stewardship on November 12, 2023. Our passionate team, along with community members who joined us, engaged in a transformative environmental service day at the Upper Watts Branch Park in Rockville. The focus of our efforts was twofold: stream cleanup and the removal of invasive plants.

In recognizing the pivotal role watersheds play in our community's well-being, we tirelessly worked to safeguard the Upper Watts Branch. Our commitment to watershed protection extends beyond the picturesque landscapes; it directly contributes to ensuring clean and healthy drinking water for our community. Moreover, by meticulously removing invasive plants, we champion the longevity of the park's trees and fortify the overall health of the watershed.

The significance of our initiative lies in the profound impact invasive species can have on water quality and aquatic ecosystem health. These unwelcome intruders disrupt bank stability, alter runoff volumes, and elevate pollution levels, posing a threat to the delicate balance of our local ecosystems.

The Rockville Rotary Club chose to be a part of the solution. We've adopted a 0.8-mile segment of the Watts Branch stream through the City of Rockville's [Adopt-A-Stream](#) program. This commitment is not a one-time event but a year-round endeavor. Our dedicated team engages in both fall and spring services annually, ensuring the sustained health and vitality of this crucial waterway.

To all who participated in this significant service to our community and environment, we extend our heartfelt gratitude. Your dedication echoes the Rotary spirit of service above self, demonstrating that together, we can make a lasting impact on the preservation of our natural resources. The Rockville Rotary Club remains resolute in its mission to protect the environment and serve our community, leaving an enduring legacy of environmental stewardship for generations to come.

Rotaract Club of Washington, D.C.

November 19th's Friendsgiving

Thank you to our Rotaract members and DC Rotarians for making our Friendsgiving celebration special. Your presence, warmth, and the shared joy around the table made this gathering memorable.

We are looking forward to many more celebrations together! Happy Thanksgiving! [#RotaractDC](#) [#friendsgiving](#)



Grateful for Another Inspiring Rotaract DC Monthly Meeting!
[Read More](#)

Rotaract Club of Howard University

HU Rotaract - Christ House

Our Food for Thought Thanksgiving service was a success!! Feeding sick homeless men in DC brought a mix of compassion and sadness as we witnessed their harsh realities and the impact of our small gesture. Thank you to everyone who came out!!

[#ServiceAboveSelf](#)



Empowering dreams at the Hillcrest Children's Center! Spent an inspiring evening on November 17th chatting about college journeys, career aspirations, and spreading love with items from our school and hygiene drive. Their enthusiasm warmed our hearts.





Rotaract Club of Georgetown University

On Saturday, November 18th, Georgetown University hosted the 20th Anniversary of the Capitol Hill Rotary Club. Georgetown Rotaract Club is honored to be part of this milestone and inspired by the dedication to service that unites us all. Here's to two decades of making a difference!



During the week of Veterans Day, The Georgetown Rotaract Club sold poppy pins around campus. They had a table at the Red Square from 3 PM to 4 PM on Thursday, November 9th. The poppy is the official flower for war veterans, and all proceeds from this fundraiser were donated to the Department of Veterans Affairs. Below is a picture of the sale at the Kennedy Hall first floor table. More locations appeared throughout the campus.





Commemorate sacrifices of members of the armed forces and of civilians in times of war. Scan the QR code to purchase this poppy pin for \$2. All proceeds will be donated to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.



Happy Birthday GWU Rotaract Club!

The DC Rotary Club would like to wish the [Rotaract Club of George Washington University](#) a very Happy 5 Year Anniversary of [#ServiceAboveSelf!](#) On October 26, 2018 the [DC Rotary Club](#) chartered this amazing club which continues to do wonderful things in our community and beyond. Congratulations!



Districtwide Environmental Service Day : Good Neighbor Day

By Hande Apaydin

**GOOD
NEIGHBOR
DAY 2023**



Rotary District 7620 Service Day
October 21, 2023
4201 Guilford Drive
College Park, Maryland



On Saturday, October 21st, Rotary District 7620's dedicated Rotarians came together for a Districtwide Service Day, embodying the spirit of "Rotary People of Action." This event focused on community service through protecting the environment and peace, two of Rotary's core areas of impact.

Collaborating with the University of Maryland, the City of College Park, and the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Rotarians from Rockville Rotary, RC College Park, RC Annapolis, along with the District Peace Committee, District Environment Committee, District Community Service Committee and District Rotaract Committee joined forces with community members and students. Their collective efforts aimed at revitalizing the Guilford Drive area in College Park, involving the cleanup of the median and stream. Additionally, the removal of invasive vines was a critical task to support the long-term health of the trees in this location. This initiative beautifully exemplifies Rotary's commitment to environmental sustainability and the promotion of peace in our communities. Thank you D7620 Rotarians for your service!

**GOOD
NEIGHBOR
DAY 2023**





District Training on Crisis Media Management

Please join our next monthly Rotary Training seminar on risk and insurance on Zoom on **Monday, Dec 18th at 7pm.**

We will cover some basics on managing media in a crisis. It's not something we want to think about often. But when it's needed, you'll wish you had given it some thought in advance.

You can use this link.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88507975374?pwd=bFo5ZVFrUpWbFV5YVNZMDlwZ2piQT09>

Our January session will be on TUESDAY, January 16th on creating graphics for fliers and other products helpful in promoting your events.

Peace Conference on February 24, 2024, in Virginia

Strengthening
Positive Peace to
Create Hope in
the World

February 24, 2024
A Day to Learn, Reflect &
Exchange Ideas

Stevenson Ridge
6901 Meeting Street
Fredericksburg, VA

Registration Opens
December 1, 2023, on
DACdb

Well Functioning Government
Equitable Distribution of Resources
Free Flow of Information
Good Relations with Neighbours
High Levels of Human Capital
Acceptance of the Rights of Others
Low Levels of Corruption
Sound Business Environment

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, Chair
- Ashley Waters, District Public Image Chair

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