

Unite for  
Good

ROTARY 7620 NEWSLETTER



## Governor Mandy's Message... "What Doesn't Bend, Breaks: The Power of Flexibility in Rotary"

In a world that often celebrates strength as rigidity, musician Ani DiFranco offered a different perspective: "What doesn't bend, breaks." It's a simple line, but one that carries powerful meaning—especially for those of us in Rotary.



Rotary clubs, like the communities we serve, are constantly evolving. Needs shift, membership changes, and new challenges emerge. The clubs that thrive are not necessarily the largest or the longest-standing—they are the ones willing to adapt. Flexibility is not weakness; it is resilience in action.

Think about how our clubs have navigated recent years. Meetings moved from in-person to virtual and back again (or hybrid). Service projects were reimagined to meet urgent community needs. Fundraisers took on new forms. At every turn, Rotarians who embraced change found new ways to serve, connect, and lead.

This principle applies not only to clubs, but to each of us as leaders. When we listen to new ideas, welcome diverse perspectives, and remain open to doing things differently, we strengthen our impact. When we hold too tightly to "the way it's always been done," we risk becoming disconnected from the very communities we aim to support.

Bending doesn't mean losing our core values. Rotary's commitment to Service Above Self, the Four-Way Test, and ethical leadership remains constant. But how we live out those values can—and should—evolve.

As we look ahead, let's challenge ourselves to stay flexible. Try a new meeting format. Invite a different kind of speaker. Partner with organizations outside our usual circle. Small shifts can lead to meaningful growth.

Because in Rotary, as in life, it's not the unyielding that endure—it's those willing to bend, adapt, and continue moving forward together.

## May is Rotary's Youth Service Month

# Rotary



## May is Youth Services month

Youth Service Month is a special time in Rotary. Throughout the month of May, members of Rotary clubs, Rotaract, Interact, and those involved in Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) and Rotary Youth Exchange celebrate the opportunities Rotary provides to connect, grow through service, develop leadership skills, mentor or be mentored, and have fun.

### DC Rotary Foundation Awards \$103,000 to the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Washington



Thank You to Our Inspiring Speaker!

A heartfelt thank you to Gabrielle Webster, President & CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington (BGCGW), for joining the Rotary Club of Washington, D.C. on Wednesday, April 15.

Gabrielle shared powerful insights on leading with purpose, driving transformative growth, and expanding opportunities for youth across our region. Her work—raising over \$220M and leading initiatives that place BGCGW among the top 5% nationally—is a true testament to what mission-driven leadership can accomplish.



We are also proud to share that the Rotary Foundation of Washington, D.C. has contributed \$103,000 in support of BGCGW, reinforcing our shared commitment to empowering the next generation and strengthening our community.

Thank you, Gabrielle, for your leadership and for inspiring us all to continue creating meaningful impact.

## Rotary Club of Annapolis Raises \$97,000 for Chrysalis House

The Rotary Club of Annapolis Raises \$97,000 for Chrysalis House

The Rotary Club of Annapolis is pleased to announce \$97,000 was raised to support Chrysalis House through proceeds from the 2026 Black Tie and Diamonds Gala. The annual gala was held on March 7, 2026, at Graduate Annapolis Hotel. This incredible achievement reflects the generosity, compassion, and commitment of Rotary Club members, sponsors, and the Annapolis community. [Read More](#)



## Why I Give: Opening Doors Through The Rotary Foundation



## The Rotary Foundation



At the District 7620 Foundation Luncheon on Saturday, April 18, we heard three impactful stories from members about why they give to The Rotary Foundation—each one showing how generosity opens doors and changes lives. Here is one from **Marilyn Nevy Cruz (Washington, D.C.)**:

*For those I haven't met yet, I'm Marilyn Nevy Cruz. I'm a member and past president of the Rotary Club of Washington, D.C., and I serve as an Assistant Governor in District 7620.*

*I was asked a simple question: why do I give to The Rotary Foundation?*

*And the truth is, it didn't start with a deep understanding of grants or DDF.*

*It started with people.*

*I joined Rotary because someone invited me in. And what I found was a group of people who didn't just talk about doing good—they actually did it.*

*Over time, I realized that The Rotary Foundation is what turns that intention into real, measurable impact.*

*But what keeps me coming back to give is more personal than that.*

*In my professional life, I've worked with individuals and families who just needed one opportunity—one door to open at the right time. And what I've seen, over and over again, is that access changes everything.*

*That's what I think about when I give.  
Not a donation—but a door. Not a number—but a person.*

*And Rotary makes that real.*

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## Comedy Show for Food & Shelter in Gaza: Unite for Good

Thanks again to all our members who came to the Rotary Club of Washington Global fundraiser for Gaza on Saturday, February 28 in honor of Rotary Day, put on by Grassroots Comedy, our Rotary Club, and Gaza Champions. We sold out all 140 seats and raised almost \$2,000 for food and shelter in Gaza.

The poster features a red background with white text. At the top, 'COMEDY SHOW' is written in large, bold letters. Below it, 'FOR FOOD AND SHELTER IN GAZA' is written in a slightly smaller font. To the right of the text is a white line-art icon of a house with a heart inside, held in a hand. Below the main text, there is an image of a plate of food and a basket of bread. The event details are listed: 'SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28', 'DOORS 6:30 | SHOW 7PM', 'THE FESTIVAL CENTER', '1640 COLUMBIA RD NW', 'WASHINGTON DC, 20009'. A quote reads: 'Join us to connect and unite for good over comedy, food, and community.' At the bottom, it says 'presented by:' followed by logos for 'Rotary Club of Washington Global', 'GAZA CHAMPIONS', and 'GRASSROOTS COMEDY'.



We had a great fundraiser for shelter/food aid in Gaza with a sold out performance of diverse comedians from all faith backgrounds to connect and unite for good. Many people hadn't been to a comedy show in years, and to see one that brought in a diversity of perspectives while raising funds was really impactful.

Special thanks to Alonzo for all his work in helping organize and being the opening MC, and to David Searby, Guillermo, and a lot of Rotarians from the RCWG and DC Club that were there.

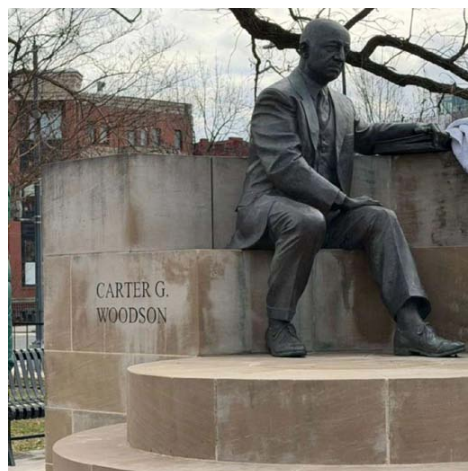


Best regards,  
Mike McCabe, President  
Rotary Club of Washington Global

## Rotary Club of Dupont Circle



As we ended Black History Month (BHM) and started Women's History Month, we wanted to share some pictures from our BHM Fellowship at the Walk with Woodson event. We learned so much about Carter G. Woodson, founder of the Negro History Week, 100 years ago, that is now celebrated as Black History Month. Good times!



## Happy 14th Birthday Rotary Club of Dupont Circle

Cheers to 14 years of serving the local and global communities. Happy Anniversary Dupont Rotary family. Thank

you to every speaker, every guest, every Rotarian, every Rotaractor, every host location, and anyone that has contributed to the success of our club. We appreciate being a part of the Rotary International and Rotary District 7620 family. Here's to more years of service, fellowship, and fun.



## Rotary Club of Washington Global

Engaging dialogue with masters and PhD scholars at University of Maryland's international education department focused on new career pathways and opportunities in international development and education. Despite the challenging job market in the DC area, our panel facilitated discussions that explored pathways and opportunities both in the US and in many of the scholar's home countries. Together we are working towards strengthening the future of education. Special thanks to our **Rotary Club of Washington Global** career mentor team, **Koli Banik, Wendy Wheaton, and Kristin O'Planick**.



## Rotary Club of Capitol Hill - Washington, D.C.

### Rotary Shine at University of Maryland Basketball Games

The [Rotary Club of Capitol Hill - Washington, DC](#) closed out its [Maryland Terrapins](#) men's basketball fundraiser season with energy, teamwork, and the largest volunteer turnout the club has ever seen for this project. Rotarians and friends gathered at the Xfinity Center to support both the men's and women's basketball games, helping manage event operations while raising funds for the community service initiatives.

These fundraisers have long been a favorite Rotary tradition—part service project, part fellowship opportunity, and always a chance to strengthen ties within the club. This year's record participation underscores how deeply members value showing up for one another and for the broader community.



## Holi Celebrations in Washington, D.C.!

Members of the Rotary Club of Washington, D.C. were proud to attend and celebrate Holi, representing Rotary and our shared commitment to peace, friendship, and international fellowship.

As Rotarians, we value opportunities to connect across cultures and traditions. Holi, the festival of colors, reminds us of the power of joy, unity, and new beginnings. The celebration also reflects the spirit of collaboration behind initiatives like the India–USA ICC Pathway to Peace, including efforts to plant Peace Poles and Peace Groves along the



historic Mahatma Gandhi  
Heritage Trail from  
Ahmedabad to Dandi.

We are grateful to  
celebrate alongside fellow  
Rotarians, Rotaractors, families, and friends while continuing to support peacebuilding and environmental  
stewardship across Rotary Districts 3055, 3060, and 7620.

Celebrating culture. Building peace. Serving together.



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**Are you a member of the Rotary International Membership  
Society?**



**Launched in 2022, Rotary's Membership Society recognizes Rotarians who drive club growth by successfully introducing new members.**

*Words: PDG Andy Rajapakse. Regional Council Membership Director.*

In July 2022, Rotary International launched the Membership Society, a program designed to acknowledge and celebrate those who bring new people into Rotary. The Membership Society serves as a recognition platform for Rotarians who go above and beyond to grow their clubs.

One of its notable features is an online virtual gallery, accessible through My Rotary, where high-achieving sponsors are

listed. Every time you introduce a new member, make sure your name is listed as the new member sponsor on the new member application and that it is reported to Rotary International through My Rotary.

#### **Criteria and recognition levels**

Each time a Rotarian successfully introduces a new member, Rotary International sends you a "Thank You" letter as a token of appreciation. Upon reaching the milestone of introducing 25 new members to your club, a Rotarian becomes eligible for inclusion in the Membership Society Hall of Fame. The tiered system provides ongoing motivation for Rotarians to continue supporting the growth and diversity of their club. The society recognizes sponsors at four distinct levels:

- **Bronze:** Sponsor of 25 to 29 new members
- **Silver:** Sponsor of 30 to 49 members
- **Gold:** Sponsor of 50 to 74 members
- **Platinum:** Sponsor of 75 or more members

2024 marked a significant achievement for District 7620, as **Assistant Governor Marilyn Nevy Cruz** became the first in our District and Zone to be admitted to the Membership Society, Platinum Level. She reached this milestone by sponsoring 75 members and ultimately, her 100th member in Rotary Year 2025–26, contributing significantly to the Rotary Club of Washington, D.C., where she served as president.

*Reflecting on this approach, Marilyn said, "Rotary grows the same way most of us joined—through a simple invitation and a meaningful connection. It's not about acronyms or perfect pitches. It's about people. When we build a club where others can see themselves and feel excited, engaged, and valued—and when each of us invites just one person—growth doesn't feel forced, it happens naturally."*

Her dedication exemplifies the spirit of Rotary's membership expansion ethos.

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**Rotaract Club of Georgetown University**

We had a great time doing packet pickup at the Cherry Blossom expo this year at the National Building Museum. Energy was definitely high leading up to the race, some people picked up their cava/chipotle after, and we looking forward to cheering everyone on! Great collab between @run\_grc and Rotaract.



Another great community cleanup in the books! It was a pleasure to have ex-President of a Rotary Club in Germany join in on our project as well. Stay tuned for more projects ahead!



Thanks for everyone who took their time to make a kindness card! I'm so excited to see these around campus.





## FEBRUARY RECAP

- 2/14 Volunteering with Love in Action DC
- 2/17 Joint Meeting with Rotary Club of Dupont Circle
- 2/22 Trivia Night



## FEBRUARY RECAP

- 2/14 Volunteering with Love in Action DC



Writing Valentine's cards for Friendship Place

## FEBRUARY RECAP



- 2/17 Special Joint Meeting with Rotary Club of Dupont Circle



Chase received the Paul Harris Fellow Recognition!



Exchanging of flags with partner club!

## FEBRUARY RECAP

- 2/22 Trivia Night



Doing trivia at the Queen Vic!

## Welcoming New Leaders into the Rotary Family!

Members of the Rotary Club of Washington, D.C. were honored to attend the DC Rotaract Club's New Member Induction Ceremony, celebrating the commitment of Rotaractors who have chosen to lead through service, fellowship, and community impact.



We are proud to support and partner with Rotaract as they continue to inspire the next generation of changemakers here in Washington, DC and beyond. Congratulations to all of the newly inducted members—we look forward to serving alongside you!



[Read More](#)

## Nobel Peace laureate Malala Yousafzai to speak at the Rotary Convention in Taipei

Malala Yousafzai, the youngest-ever Nobel Peace Prize laureate and an advocate for girls' education, will be a keynote speaker at this year's Rotary International Convention in Taipei, Taiwan.

Malala Yousafzai began her activism at age 11 when she anonymously blogged about life under the Taliban in Pakistan's Swat Valley, particularly the ban on girls' education. Over the next few years, she advocated publicly, giving speeches and interviews and attracting media attention and awards.

At age 15, she was shot in the head by the Taliban for speaking out. After months of surgery and rehabilitation in the United Kingdom, she founded Malala Fund to continue her campaign to see all girls in school. A year later, she received the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of her work for education and equality. Yousafzai graduated from Oxford University with a degree in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics in 2020.

She is the best-selling author of three books and an investor in women's sports.

*Don't miss Malala Yousafzai at the Rotary International Convention, which will take place 13-17 June in Taipei, Taiwan. [Learn more about how to register.](#)*



## Barcelona, Spain, selected to host the 2027 Rotary Convention



Barcelona, Spain, will host the Rotary International Convention on 26–30 June 2027 at the Fira de Barcelona. This decision by the RI Board enables the city to bring the Rotary community together two years sooner than was recently announced in March.

The 2027 convention was originally scheduled to take place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE). Rotary postponed it to a later year due to the current security situation in the Gulf region and uncertainties around international travel, which made it difficult to organize the event.

Barcelona, a premier convention destination, has previously hosted the event in 2002 and offers convenient access to Rotary members worldwide.

"We are deeply grateful to the city's [Barcelona] organizers and the local Rotary members for their flexibility in working with us on an accelerated timeline," says Rotary International President Francesco Arezzo.

Arezzo also expressed his sincere appreciation for Rotary members and leaders in the UAE for their commitment to Rotary and their substantial efforts to bring the Rotary convention to Dubai. "We look forward to a future convention there," he says.

Registration for the 2027 [Rotary Convention](#) in Barcelona will open in September 2026.

## Happy Birthday to Paul Harris, the man who started it all

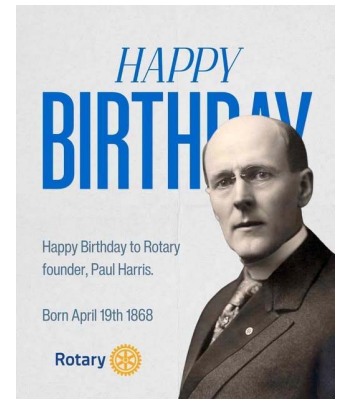
On Sunday, April 19, we honored the legacy of our founder, who—along with three friends in Chicago back in 1905—formed the very first Rotary Club. What began as a simple desire for fellowship among professionals has grown into a global network of over 1.2 million members dedicated to Service Above Self.

Paul Harris once said:

"This is a changing world; we must be prepared to change with it. The story of Rotary will have to be written again and again."

Today, we continue to write that story through our commitment to community service, literacy, and humanitarian peace. Whether you are a long-time Rotarian or a friend of the club, join us in celebrating the vision that continues to bring the world together.

How are you celebrating Paul's legacy today?



## Advertising Rotary Membership at a Bus Stop



### 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

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