

Unite for
Good

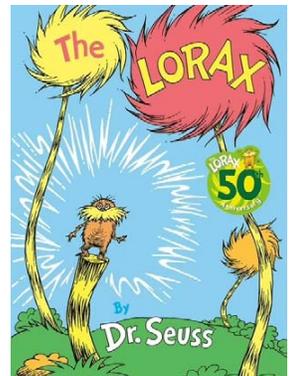
ROTARY 7620 NEWSLETTER



District Governor Mandy's Message

Dr. Seuss once wrote, *"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."* Those simple words from *The Lorax* have echoed in my mind after hearing Tiffany Ervin speak this month about the **CART Fund**—Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust—and the extraordinary difference Rotary is making in the world. Tiffany reminded us that big change often begins with small acts: a handful of coins dropped into a blue bucket, a conversation about hope, a community that chooses to care "a whole awful lot."

The CART Fund began as one Rotarian's idea and has now grown into millions of dollars in research funding that fuels innovation and advances understanding of Alzheimer's disease. It's a shining example of Rotary's collective heart in action. We don't just talk about hope—we invest in it. We unite across clubs, districts, and borders to turn compassion into cures and empathy into evidence-based progress. Listening to Tiffany's stories of researchers, caregivers, and families touched by Rotary's generosity was a powerful reminder that every act of caring truly counts.



As we move forward in our Rotary year, this message couldn't be more timely. In a world that can feel divided or uncertain, **Rotarians Choose to Unite for Good**. We care deeply, we act boldly, and we believe that together we can make things better. The Lorax was right—nothing changes until someone cares. Fortunately, in Rotary, we are surrounded by thousands of "someones" who do.

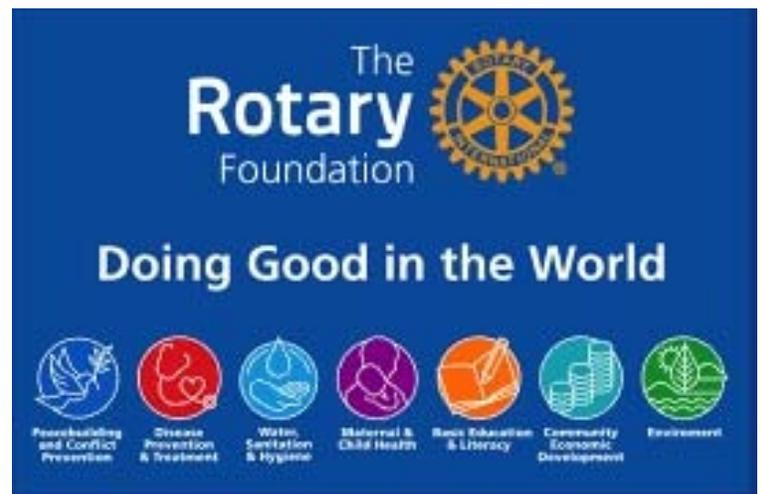
November is Rotary Foundation Month

The Rotary Foundation is recognized as one of the most effective and well-managed charitable organizations in the world, with 12 consecutive four-star ratings from Charity Navigator and an A-plus rating from CharityWatch.

The Rotary Foundation transforms your gifts into service projects that change lives both close to home and around the world.

Since it was founded more than 100 years ago, the Foundation has spent more than \$4 billion on life-changing, sustainable projects.

With your help, we can make lives better in your community and around the world.



The Rotary Foundation helps Rotary members to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace by improving health, providing quality education, improving the environment, and alleviating poverty.

What impact can one donation have?

- For as little as 60 cents, a child can be protected from polio.
- \$50 can provide clean water to help fight waterborne illness.
- \$500 can launch an antibullying campaign and create a safe environment for children.

November is Rotary Foundation Month; to make a contribution, go to rotary.org/donate.

2025 Joint District Conference



Dear Fellow Rotarians,

On behalf of DGs Mandy and Ravi, thank you for attending the 2025 Joint District Conference in Washington, D.C. We hope you had a meaningful experience uniting for good, made lots of new friends and left full of inspiration to go back to your clubs and communities to make a huge impact through Rotary!

We had a huge team of committee members who helped us execute the best District Conference that many of us have ever attended. Thank you to all who served selflessly in this capacity. Official conference photos are now available for download:

<https://rotarydistrict7610.smugmug.com/Joint-DISCON-2025>. You can also pull pictures from the Kululu wall here: app.kululu.com/seky6i. Feel free to add more conference pictures to the wall so we can download all of them for our DGs' memory books!

We are looking forward to our next opportunities to mix and mingle with District 7610 and 7620 members – we hope you will join in the fun again!

Yours in Rotary Service,

Marilyn Nevy Cruz
Joint District Conference Chair



Dr. Ila Shah Honored as Arch Klumph Foundation Circle Member for \$1 Million Contribution

By Barbara Jean Chamberlain-Skinner

District 7620 proudly celebrates **Dr. Ila Shah** of the Rotary Club of Charlotte Hall for reaching the **Arch Klumph Society – Foundation Circle** level through her remarkable **\$1,000,000 contributions** to The Rotary Foundation funding life-saving global grants.

A charter member of the Charlotte Hall Rotary Club since 1995, Dr. Shah has dedicated her life to service—both as a physician and a Rotarian. A pediatrician for over 45 years, she has led and supported humanitarian projects spanning continents, including health, water, sanitation, and education initiatives in India, Nepal,

Ghana, Cameroon, Guatemala, Nigeria, and beyond.

Dr. Shaw has been recognized with Rotary International's Service Above Self Award and Rotarian of the Year, the District's Humanitarian Award and Rotarian of the Year, the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin with Most Distinguished Service Award, the State of Maryland resolution for Outstanding Leadership in Public/Private Partnership; and a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition. Dr. Shaw's numerous honors from Rotary and state and national organizations celebrate her lifelong commitment to serving others.



In her remarks upon receiving this incredible honor at The Rotary Foundation headquarters in Evanston this October, Dr. Shah reflected on her Rotary journey and the joy she has found in helping others:
[Read More](#)

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Marks World Polio Day with 10-Day Awareness Campaign

In the days leading up to World Polio Day, October 24, the Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club launched a powerful 10-Day Social Media Countdown Campaign to raise awareness and reaffirm Rotary's unwavering commitment to ending polio worldwide.

Each day featured a striking digital poster themed around a key message—ranging from the importance of routine immunization and the power of partnerships, to the enduring fight against vaccine-preventable diseases. The series showcased Rotary's leadership in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative alongside partners like WHO, UNICEF, the CDC, and the Gates Foundation.

With bold visuals, inspiring messages, and strong branding, the campaign helped spotlight Rotary's global health mission to audiences across platforms like Facebook and LinkedIn. The effort culminated in a unified call to action on World Polio Day, celebrating progress while calling for renewed vigilance in reaching every last child.

<p>IT BEGAN WITH A PROMISE</p> <p>END POLIO NOW</p> <p>— AND ROTARY KEPT IT</p> <p>POTOMAC-BETHESDA ROTARY CLUB</p>	<p>DAY 3</p> <p>THE POWER OF ADVOCACY</p> <p>ROTARY USES ITS VOICE TO ENSURE THAT NO CHILD SUFFERS FROM POLIO. OUR ACTIONS HAVE BEEN CRUCIAL FOR RESOURCES AND POLICY THAT PAVE THE WAY TO ERADICATION.</p> <p>POTOMAC-BETHESDA Rotary CLUB</p>	<p>POTOMAC-BETHESDA ROTARY CLUB</p> <p>#EndPolioNow</p> <p>10-DAY END POLIO NOW COUNTDOWN CAMPAIGN</p> <p>DAY 5</p> <p>Staying up to date on routine immunizations is important for protecting children against a variety of dangerous and deadly diseases. It is also a key strategy in the fight to #EndPolio for good.</p>	<p>DAY 7</p> <p>AFRICA IS POLIO-FREE</p> <p>Nigeria's victory is Rotary's triumph.</p> <p>END POLIO NOW</p> <p>POTOMAC-BETHESDA ROTARY CLUB</p> <p>Rotary</p>	<p>DAY 9</p> <p>POLIO ANYWHERE IS A THREAT EVERYWHERE</p> <p>ROTARY STAYS VIGILANT TO PROTECT EVERY CHILD</p> <p>END POLIO NOW</p> <p>POTOMAC-BETHESDA ROTARY CLUB</p> <p>Rotary</p>
<p>10-DAY "END POLIO NOW" COUNTDOWN CAMPAIGN</p> <p>THE ROTARY PARTNERSHIP</p> <p>Day 2</p> <p>Since 1988, Rotary has united with partners like the World Health Organization and UNICEF to create a global front against polio.</p> <p>POTOMAC BETHESDA ROTARY CLUB #EndPolioNow</p>	<p>Potomac-Bethesda ROTARY CLUB</p> <p>THE POWER OF VACCINATION</p> <p>The polio vaccine has protected billions of children from this debilitating disease. Rotary works to ensure these life-saving drops reach the farthest corners of the globe.</p> <p>DAY 4 - A SHIELD OF IMMUNITY</p> <p>END POLIO NOW</p>	<p>DAY 6</p> <p>AN INCREDIBLE PARTNERSHIP</p> <p>Rotary and its partners have built an astounding public-private partnership eradicate polio. Working with the WHO, UNICEF, and the CDC, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, our efforts demonstrate the power of collaboration.</p> <p>POTOMAC-BETHESDA ROTARY CLUB</p>	<p>DAY 8</p> <p>THE LAST MILE IS THE HARDEST.</p> <p>Rotary will not stop until every child is safe.</p> <p>ZERO</p> <p>Rotary</p> <p>Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club</p>	<p>DAY 10</p> <p>WORLD POLIO DAY</p> <p>OCTOBER 24</p> <p>CELEBRATE PROGRESS. RENEW THE PROMISE.</p> <p>POTOMAC-BETHESDA ROTARY CLUB</p> <p>#ENDPOLIONOW ROTARY #SERVICEABOVESELF</p>

"Polio anywhere is a threat everywhere. Through this campaign, we used our voice to advocate, educate, and inspire action," said the campaign coordinator Tony Anammah. The 10-day campaign reaffirmed the club's identity as People of Action and amplified Rotary International's global campaign to End Polio Now.

Potomac Rotary Brings Creativity to Seniors



The Potomac Rotary Club recently completed the project "Art Mandala Craft Kits for Senior Citizens of Montgomery County, Maryland"—a meaningful effort funded by the Potomac Club and District Designated Funds (DDF).

Art mandala is a special form of artwork based on Buddhist philosophy and is considered a form of meditation through creativity. The circular form of art creation stimulates focus, coordination and cognition. Following a specific process, the art mandalas encourage seniors to: (a) improve their mental health by enhancing cognitive capabilities and improving focus; (b) find a space and means to express their

feelings and share their stories; and (c) experience a pleasant and loving atmosphere for social connection, make friends and reduce a feeling of isolation.

This project was done in collaboration with the Senior Connection of Montgomery County (SCMC), a nonprofit organization that serves local seniors through programs fostering independence, mobility, health and wellness, and social connection. With guidance from instructor Ms. Heral Joshi, seniors participated in four art sessions of 25 participants each, creating 100 mandala art kits in total. SCMC provided transportation, space, and refreshments, while Rotarians ensured a warm, welcoming environment. We received many thanks from participants and requests for more of such activities! For us Potomac Club Rotarians, service to seniors was a moment of fulfillment and pride.

Projects like this are possible **because of contributions to The Rotary Foundation**, which turns members' generosity into grants that empower clubs to improve lives in their own communities and around the world.

New District Grants Chair Announced

DRFC B.J. Chamberlain-Skinner and DG Mandy Granger are pleased to announce that **Daniel Fischer**, a member of the Rotary Club of Metro Bethesda, has been appointed as the new **District Grants Chair**.

Daniel joined Rotary in 2012 and has been an active leader within the Metro Bethesda Rotary Club, serving as Club President in 2019–2020 and Foundation President from 2020–2022. He continues to serve as a member of the Metro Bethesda Rotary Foundation and has been an integral part of the District Grants Committee since 2021.

Known for his dedication to Rotary's mission of service, Daniel played a key role in managing District 7620's Ukraine Disaster Response grants in 2022–23, which provided more than \$1.1 million in critical aid. His commitment has been recognized through several honors, including **Club Rotarian of the Year (2021)** and **District Humanitarian of the Year (2023)**.

Please join us in congratulating Daniel and welcoming him to this important leadership role. Under his guidance, District 7620's grants program will continue to empower clubs to make a lasting difference in their communities and around the world. Daniel can be reached at daniel@solveitgroup.com.



District 7620 Grants Committee Member Assignments — 2025–26

To strengthen communication with our District Rotary Clubs and ensure consistent support throughout the grants process, the District 7620 Grants Committee will begin operating under a regional structure.

This structure balances workload across the committee and provides **each Rotary Club with a clear Grants Committee Member point of contact** for grants guidance and collaboration.

Additional information and detailed guidance on the updated grants process will be shared soon by our new **District Grants Chair, Daniel Fischer**.

Together, this team looks forward to supporting clubs in developing impactful and sustainable projects that advance Rotary's mission of service.

District Rotary Club assignments are as follows:

Member	Region / Area	Assigned Clubs
Alexa Bedwell	North West Area (8 clubs)	Bonds Meadow, Carroll Creek, Frederick, Fredericktowne, Key City, New Market, Smoketown Brunswick, Southern Frederick, Rockville
Daniel Fisher	Montgomery County (11 clubs)	Bethesda–Chevy Chase, Downtown Silver Spring, Gaithersburg, Metro Bethesda, Montgomery Village, North Bethesda, Olney, Potomac, Potomac Passport, Potomac–Bethesda
Linda Lymas	Southern Area (7 clubs)	Calvert County, Charlotte Hall, La Plata, Lake Shore, Leonardtown, Lexington Park, Upper Marlboro
Martin Mushambo	North East Area (9 clubs)	Aberdeen, Bel Air, Havre de Grace, Middle River, Mount Airy, Pikesville–Owings Mills, Southern Harford County, Sykesville, Towson–Hunt Valley
Mimi Kanda	Central Area – DC & Prince George's (5 clubs)	Capitol Hill, Dupont Circle, Greenbelt, Prince George's County, Washington, D.C.
Patsy Ezell	Central East Area (7 clubs)	College Park, Columbia, Columbia–Patuxent, Columbia Town Center, Ellicott City, Howard West, Laurel
Phil Reynolds	Eastern Area (7 clubs)	Annapolis, Parole, BWI, Catonsville, Elkridge, Glen Burnie, Severna Park



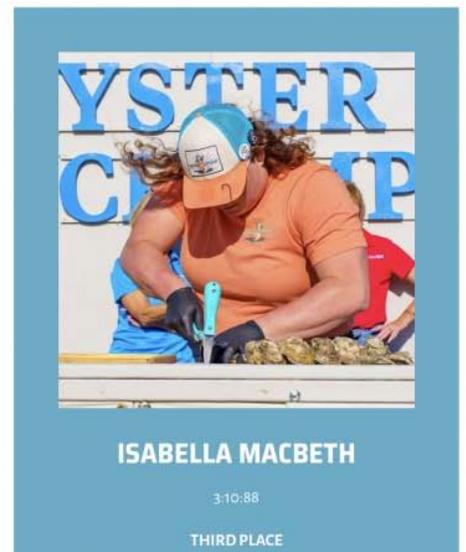
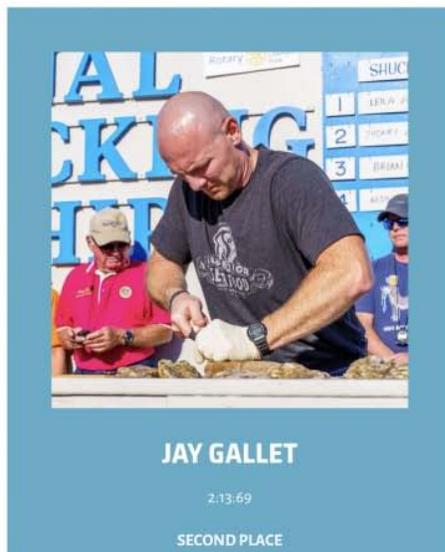
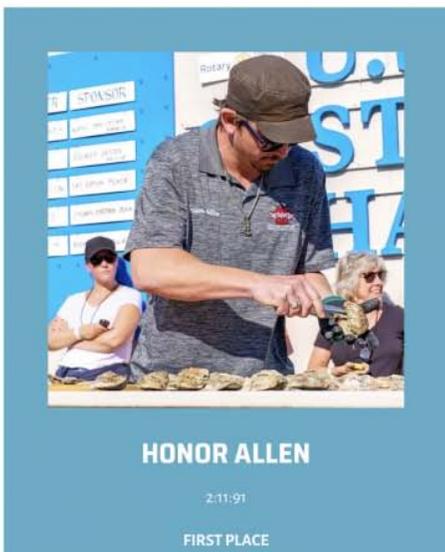
With major support from **Hanson Directed Gift** and the partnership between the **Gaithersburg Rotary Club** (lead by Janet Greiner), the Rotary Club of Gulu and Mother Earth Montessori, the *Adult Literacy, Numeracy, and Culture for Elders and Youth* project has made impressive strides since its launch in late 2024. The program was developed to meet the needs of adults and youth who lacked basic literacy and numeracy skills while honoring the rich Acholi cultural traditions of northern Uganda. This Global Grant is deploying a local teacher training program in the native Luo language and English to teach cultural stories that are rooted in the history, ecology and folklore of the people and place.

To date, Rotarians have enabled the installation of solar power, computers and classroom equipment, setting the foundation for a vibrant community learning center. In-person training has introduced local teachers and volunteers to the *Emergent Curriculum*—a culturally regenerative teaching model that blends literacy, storytelling, environmental awareness, and traditional Acholi food and music. Monthly webinars continue to

strengthen teaching methods and confidence among local trainers. Adult classes now meet three times weekly, and community members are embracing the opportunity to learn reading, writing, and practical skills that connect education with their cultural heritage.

With continued Rotary support, this initiative will not only increase literacy but also preserve cultural identity, empower families, and open new opportunities for generations to come. Thank you to the Hanson family and the PDG Robert and Joanne Hanson Directed Gift for Basic Education and Learning Global Grants for enabling this impactful project!

Rotary Club of Lexington Park's US Oyster Festival



The iconic U.S. Oyster Festival at the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds was held October 18–19, 2025, bringing together oyster lovers, top shuckers, and seafood enthusiasts from across the region.

The centerpiece of the festival is the U.S. National Oyster Shucking Championship, where elite competitors from across the country are invited to face off knife-to-knife for the national title. The winner will go on to represent the United States at the prestigious International Oyster Opening Championship in Galway, Ireland. 100% of all ticket sales and revenues raised by the Rotary Club of Lexington Park are invested back into the community.

October 2025 Red Line Happy Hour

On Tuesday, October 28th, the **Rotaract Club of Wsshington, D.C.** hosted the October Red Line Happy Hour

at Eclipse in Washington, D.C. The event was nothing short of amazing and a complete success—filled with camaraderie, fellowship, and good cheer. Over 50 Rotarians from across the D.C. metro area came together to connect, celebrate, and Unite for Good. A big thank-you to the Rotaract Club of Washington, D.C. for hosting this month's fantastic event!



Rotary Club of Dupont Circle

Special thanks to our members who volunteered at Food Rescue on Thursday, October 23rd. We are People of Action who Unite for Good!

From Silver Spring to Pennsylvania Ave, our club was active this past weekend! Tony is pictured signing the Emma's Torch capital campaign fundraising thermometer on Friday morning. Gui and Kristin volunteered to cheer on the racers in the Children's National 5k on Saturday morning. The sunrise was as amazing as the kids/runners in the race. And we have a few more members volunteering later this week. See you next week at the November Red Line Happy Hour, hosted by our Club!





Ellicott City Rotary Club Crab Feast Held on October 4, 2025



The Howard County Community Crab Feast is an event that brings the community together! And that's a wrap on another amazing feast! We are so grateful for the turnout of this event and the proceeds are going to make a great difference for the non-profits in our community.



Marilyn Nevy Cruz Named President ICC USA–Canada–Guatemala–Honduras–Belize for the USA–Canada

I am deeply humbled to have been selected by my fellow Rotarians across seven (7) [Rotary International](#) districts and five (5) countries—amidst my work, school, and pre-DisCon 2025 schedule—as the Charter President of the newly established ICC USA–Canada–Guatemala–Honduras–Belize for the USA–Canada Section. In this role, I will have the honor of representing six (6) [Rotary International](#) districts and two (2) countries. I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity. As many of you know, my father is from Guatemala, and I couldn't be more proud to represent my heritage in this capacity. I look forward to working across borders and boundaries to Unite for Good in making the world a better place.





DG 5010 Marty Metiva
 DG 5240 Mike Dutra
 DG 5420 Suzanne Leonelli
 DG 5500 Bruce Monro
 DG 7620 Mandy Warfield Granger



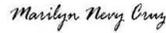
DG 5050 Isabelle Martinez Hayer


 ICC USA National Coordinator
 Claudine Schooley
 RC Oro Valley, AZ D 5500 - USA



InterCountry Committee
 USA/Canada/Guatemala Honduras Belize
 October 11, 2025

To promote peace
 and international understanding
 while improving awareness,
 engaging diversity
 and bridging communities



Marilyn Nevy Cruz D 7620
 ICC USA/Canada
 President


 ICC Canada National Coordinator
 Névine Yassa
 RC Scarborough D 7070 - Canada



Julio Grazioso D 4250
 ICC Guatemala Honduras Belize
 President

ICC Chair Executive Council
 Nathalie Huyghebaert
 RC Villiers-la-Ville D 2150 - Belgium



DG 4250 Guatemala
 Diana Brown


 ICC National Coordinator
 Guatemala Honduras Belize
 Julio Grazioso
 RC Vista Hermosa D 4250

Service is Everywhere in D.C.

THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD: SERVICE IS EVERYWHERE!

“Service above self.” Is this Rotary motto relevant today? Is service valuable to Rotary? To the people we serve? To ourselves? And is there a way that Rotary clubs across the nation can highlight their work and the value of service as part of the 250th celebration of the Declaration of Independence?

An exciting exhibition called “Service is Everywhere in D.C.” offers insights and examples of the potential to tell Rotary’s unique story and that of other service organizations more broadly. Jointly sponsored by the Rotary Club of Washington, D.C.; the YMCA-Washington, D.C.; and the National Museum and Center for Service (NMCFS), the exhibit, at the beautiful newly renovated Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, showcased acts of service performed by each organization in the nation’s capital. Simple but attractive interlocking, pictorial panels presented stories of service that engaged visitors, inviting them to consider ways they might serve others. Visitors also learned about the Rotary Club of D.C. and the YMCA-DC, and their contributions to the city and its residents.

The organization that spearheaded this initiative, the National Museum and Center for Service, is a nonprofit created by former U.S. Congressman Brian Baird, to celebrate service to others and volunteerism as a core, shared, and unifying American value. That value is central to our American character and to its founding. (As a reminder, General George Washington received no salary as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army. Thomas Jefferson penned the Declaration of Independence for free; his final 14 words in that document may be the most powerful commitment to service ever written.) [Read More](#)

Seats to Success Initiative — a transformative education project

Call for Rotary Partners: “Street to Classroom; A Seats to Success” – A Global Impact Project

The Rotary Club of Capitol Hill (Washington, DC) invites fellow clubs in District 7620 and beyond to partner on the Seats to Success initiative, a transformative education project creating a sustainable secondary school in Owerre-Akokwa, Imo State, Nigeria.

Currently, this rural community has no functioning secondary school, leaving hundreds of adolescents without access to education. Through this project, Rotarians will convert a donated building into a vibrant learning hub equipped with desks, Science and Art laboratory, a library, teachers, solar panels, and scholarships for students most at risk of dropping out.

The total project cost is \$32,800 USD, with implementing partners to include the Rotary Club of Owerri Government, Nigeria and St. David Parish, Owerre Akokwa. We are now seeking Rotary clubs and partners to co-fund to bring this vision to life.

To Partner or Learn More:

Dr. CJ Chidubem Egboluche

President Elect and Project Lead, Rotary Club of Capitol Hill, D7620

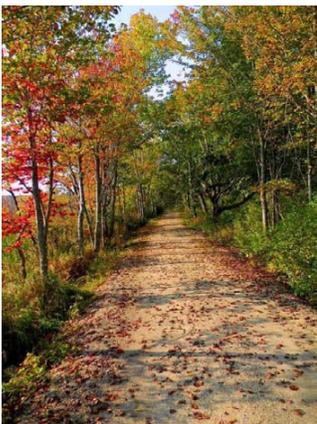
Egboluchechidubem61@gmail.com

+1 (240) 394-2497

Deadline: February 28, 2026

Together, we can move children from the street to the classroom, one seat at a time.

Rotary Club of Capitol Hill Fall Hike



Huge thanks to Stephen Padre for organizing our Rotary Club of Capitol Hill - Washington, DC Fall Social on Saturday, October 26th at the beautiful Rachel Carson Conservation Park! Your energy and planning made it a day to remember.

We're equally grateful to Stephen's wife for her steadfast support of our club — behind every great event is someone cheering us on.



Celebrating Our Global Scholar: Saoirsw Bodnar's Journey

This past year marked a milestone for our District's Global Scholar, Saoirsw Bodnar. With the generous support of a Global Grant funded by our District's DDF and the Rotary World Fund, **Saoirsw completed her Master of Science in Addiction Recovery at Trinity College Dublin**, earning the highest distinction. During her studies, she conducted independent research focused on the cognitive mechanisms of habit formation in substance-use disorders, skillfully bridging the fields of neuroscience and holistic recovery approaches. Saoirsw's academic journey not only expanded her expertise but also deepened her dedication to disease prevention and the treatment of addiction.



Upon completing her MSc, Saoirsw returned home this summer to begin the next phase of her training as an MD/PhD candidate at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. She expresses deep gratitude to the Rotary Club of Baltimore and the Rotary Foundation for making this opportunity possible, reflecting the vital role Rotary plays in nurturing talent and service. Photos attached capture meaningful moments—her Addiction Recovery cohorts on their final day at Trinity College, and Saoirsw with her MD classmates at their stethoscope ceremony at Hopkins—serving as reminders of the transformative impact of Rotary's Global Scholarship Program.

The Rotary Global Scholarship Program is a testament to our District's commitment to developing future leaders in fields that matter most. Through financial support and mentorship, the program empowers scholars like Saoirsw to pursue advanced education across the globe, fostering cross-cultural understanding and impactful research. **We have several candidates interested in applying for this year's Global Scholarship in need of a sponsoring Rotary Club. No funds are needed, just mentoring** on the application and interview process and engagement as desired during the program year. If your Club is interested in sponsoring a candidate, please contact Kristin Post, District 7620 Peace Fellow and Global Scholarship Chair, at district7620scholarships@gmail.com. No funds are required, just a few hours of your time and guidance.

Building Bridges, Uniting for Good

DC Rotary President Donnie Shaw and DC Peace Initiative Committee (DCPIC) Chairman Kenneth E. Barnes, Sr. met with the Howard University Rotaract Club to strengthen collaboration and foster lasting connections between our clubs.

This conversation marks another step toward our shared goal to Unite for Good — engaging the Rotary Club of Washington, D.C. and its Area 7 Rotaract Clubs:

1. George Washington University
2. Georgetown University
3. Howard University
4. Washington, D.C.

Together, we're inspiring the next generation of leaders through service, peacebuilding, and partnership.



PDG Sean McAlister honored as 2025 George Mason Distinguished Alumni in Higher Education

Sean McAlister, DA Education '99, serves as chief learning officer at the U.S. Department of Commerce, leading professional development for more than 48,000 employees across 12 bureaus in 120 countries. With more than 25 years in public service and international trade, he champions learning

strategies that strengthen a globally engaged workforce. His approach blends strategic talent planning and support for mission-ready professionals through skill-based learning, leadership training, and organizational development. Outside of government, McAlister is committed to advancing peace and economic development and is an active leader in Rotary International, reflecting a life of service and global impact. McAlister will be recognized on November 8, 2025, during Community and Catalysts, the college's celebration of change makers—alumni driven to improve the world around them.

<https://chss.gmu.edu/articles/22639>



**COMMUNITY
and CATALYSTS**
Achievements, Awards, and Innovations

2025
Distinguished Alumni
Higher Education

Sean McAlister
DA Education '99

GM COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
George Mason University

**MASON
NOW**
POWER THE POSSIBLE

The DC Rotary Club Ends Hispanic Heritage Month with Style



Wednesday, October 15th, marked the end of Hispanic Heritage Month, and the DC Rotary Club closed it in style. Before introducing our inspiring keynote speaker, Patty Medina, Past President Marilyn Nevy Cruz proudly recognized the nine Hispanic members of our Club—six of whom joined during her presidency. As the first and only Hispanic President of our Club and the first Hispanic Lieutenant Governor in Rotary District 7620, this moment was deeply personal to her.

Patty reminded us that without representation at the table, we're often only seen as "the help"—roles like housekeepers or laborers. While we honor those contributions, we're also leaders. Patty is the only high-ranking Hispanic administrator at American University, despite 48% of the student body being Hispanic.

Like Patty, Marilyn knows what it's like to be the only Hispanic in the boardroom. They're held to higher standards, expected to be perfect, and often described as "hard-working" or "resourceful" because many have never seen Latino leadership up close. But they rise to the challenge—and exceed it—thanks to the relentless work ethic their culture instills in them.

Patty, it was an honor to host you. Your words were powerful and necessary. You are an Orgullo Hispano and we're proud to call you a friend and hopefully, soon, a fellow Rotarian.



Rotaract Club of Washington, D.C.

October 18th's Polio Hike was a complete success! We had a great time hiking around Rock Creek Park and have collected \$200 so far! Thank you Alex for planning this event, and to everyone that attended and donated to the cause! There's still time to donate to our Venmo (@rafael-centeno-18) if you'd like to support.



Thank you all for attending last Tuesday's meeting with our guest speaker Charlyn Stanberry!



BCC Rotary Hosted Third Annual Rotary Hold 'Em Game on October 10, 2025



BCC Rotary President Jamie Arthurs hosted the THIRD Rotary Hold 'Em game! 50/50 Split between the winner and the Bethesda Chevy Chase Rotary Foundation. 50 dollar Buy in with Max 25 dollar one time re-up. 18 max for poker, 30 max for party

Don't play Texas Hold Em? No worries! We have a game good for beginners. We will increase the stakes gradually until there's a single winner. Our goal is to have monthly games with other clubs eventually hosting, like Rotary Red Line. We already have some great hosts lined up for future games. Eventually we can have a solid core of folks who would help us launch a once a year 7620 Poker Tournament! WE NEED MORE CLUBS TO HOST ROTARY HOLD 'EM

PARTIES! We can loan you the chips and walk you through how to do it.

Here's a guide to hosting a game:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BvWndugnPySQE3INMRVO7rsgqopzE9ot/view?usp=drive_link

To sign your club up Email David Searby Metro Bethesda Rotary: david@beachcorps.com Friday, October 10 7:30-11pm. Must RSVP. Sign Up Genius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0C4AACAF2FA2FD0-58567796-third#/>

Don't play Texas Hold Em? No worries! We have a game good for beginners. We will increase the stakes gradually until there's a single winner. Our goal is to have monthly games with other clubs eventually hosting, like Rotary Red Line. We already have some great hosts lined up for future games. Eventually we can have a solid core of folks who would help us launch a once a year 7620 Poker Tournament! WE NEED MORE CLUBS TO HOST ROTARY HOLD 'EM PARTIES! We can loan you the chips and walk you through how to do it.

Here's a guide to hosting a game:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BvWndugnPySQE3INMRVO7rsgqopzE9ot/view?usp=drive_link

[Read More](#)

Rotaract Club of Georgetown University

We're happy to announce new members to the Rotaract team! Come by our next meeting to get to know them and hopefully join their committees! We have so many projects in store that YOU can take part in organizing.



Thank you to everyone who joined us for volunteering at the Bellringer Ride Weekend! We all had so much fun chatting with and handing snacks to riders. Can't wait to see everyone at the next volunteer event!



Rotaract Club of Howard University

Thank you to everyone who came out to our first General Body Meeting of the school year! We had such a great time meeting new faces and reconnecting with familiar ones. A special thank you to Donnie Shaw, President of the D.C. Rotary Club, and Kenneth Barnes, Chairman of the D.C. Rotary Club, for joining us and sharing inspiring words about service and leadership.



Wrapping up the month with gratitude! Thank you to everyone who came out to serve with us at City Blossoms and Christ House, your time and energy made such a difference. Special thanks to our sponsor org [@dupontrotary](#) for your continued support and for a wonderful meeting this month. Here's to keeping the momentum going into next month!





The Rotaract Club of Howard University was honored to be invited by Donnie Shaw, President of the Rotary Club of Washington, D.C., to their chapter luncheon! We had the wonderful opportunity to meet and connect with many passionate Rotarians, learn more about their inspiring mission, and hear from guest speaker Linda Ryden about her impactful initiatives bringing mindfulness and peace education to elementary schools. We're so grateful for the warm welcome and excited to continue building connections and collaborating with the D.C. Rotary chapter in the future!



Exciting Interact Updates

Participate in the 2025 Interact Awards!

The 2025 Interact Awards are here! Interact clubs are invited to showcase how Interactors Unite for Good and build peace in the world. Submit a vertical video (9:16, in the style of a social media reel), 2:00 minutes or less, that shows how your Interact club engages with peacebuilding. Submit your video by 1 December 2025 for the opportunity to be named "Best Video" or one of three "Runners-Up" and receive funds to support your Interact club's next project! Submissions are being accepted in English, French, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese and Spanish.

**Exciting
Interact
updates**

PARTICIPATE NOW

Interact video now available!

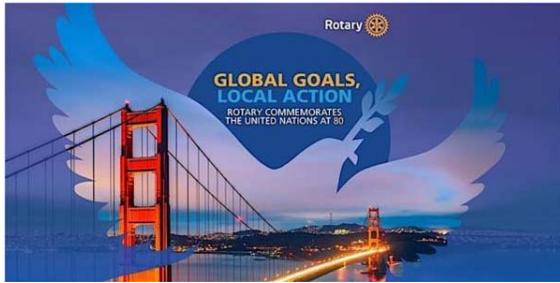
View and share the new Interact promotional video! This video offers a look into how Interactors in Noida, India and Lima, Peru serve their communities, build international understanding, and make friends across the world through their Interact Club.

Use this video to showcase the Interact Club participant experience. Share this video at Rotary meetings, screen it at school and community events to recruit new participants, and post it on your website and social media. The video is available to view on [YouTube](#) and can be downloaded in the Rotary Brand Center in [English](#), [Spanish](#),

[Portuguese](#), [Japanese](#), [Korean](#), [French](#), [Italian](#), [German](#), and [Chinese](#).

[WATCH THE VIDEO](#) [Read More](#)

Commemorating 80 years of the United Nations



To mark the 80th anniversary of the United Nations charter signing, Rotary International and Rotary districts in Northern California, USA, are organizing a collaborative event to highlight Rotary's long relationship with the organization. It will be held 11 December in San Francisco, California, USA. [Learn more about the UN event.](#)

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