



APRIL 23, 2025

## Events

April 24th

### Weekly Club Meeting

**Speaker:** Ryan Sale

**Subject:** Farming

May 1st

### Weekly Club Meeting

**Speaker:** Paul Spain - RFE Co-Chair

**Subject:** Uganda Rotary Friendship Exchange

May 8th

### Monthly Business Meeting

May 15th

### Weekly Club Meeting

**Speaker:** Eli Libby

**Subject:** Peak Fulfillment

## Birthdays

Rachel Cardwell

May 1st

Tara Messner

May 2nd

Jessica Torres-Baltazar

May 3rd

Lawnae Hunter

May 5th

Keever T Henry

May 5th

Diana Trout Barker

May 7th

Clifford Evelyn

May 8th

Mathew Free

May 20th

## This Week's Luncheon Meeting

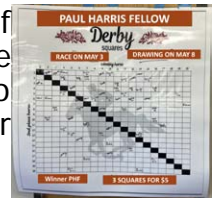


This week our speaker is our very own, **Ryan Sale**. Ryan will be presenting an informative and very interesting summary of farming, a crucial industry that has been integral to human civilization, enabling the growth of sedentary communities and supporting global population growth. **Please reply to: [rotaryredmond@gmail.com](mailto:rotaryredmond@gmail.com) if attending and let us know if you plan to invite a guest.**

**Greeters:** Janice Burges & Keever Henry ([Greeter instructions](#))

## A Kentucky Derby Social

Five dollars will buy you three squares, three chances to win if your horse comes in first or second. See Rocky or Spike at Thursday's meeting with your cash to enter this Rotary Foundation fundraiser and possibly earn a Paul Harris Fellow.



The **Kentucky Derby Social** will be on race day, May 3rd from 2:30 to 4:30 at **Gomper's Distillery**, 611 Jackpine Court. Two drink tickets and a light appetizer will be provided. Anybody interested in decorating a hat on May 1 at 5:00 for the Derby Party, text Janice Burges at 541-420-7697.

## Uganda - Rotary Friendship Exchange



Paul Spain and Randy Graves will be headed to Sweet Home on Friday morning, May 2nd, to pick up the Rotary Friendship Exchange **Rotarians from Uganda**. Paul and the RFE team from the Bend club will host them until Tuesday, May 6th when they will all travel back over the Cascades to Eugene. A complete schedule of the tour and events is available [HERE](#). Look it over to see if you would like to be involved with this unique cultural exchange. Contact Paul if you want to participate in the tours.

## Cinco de Mayo Celebration

Celebrate **Cinco de Mayo** (Spanish for 'Fifth of May') at **Testimony Wine Bar** Sanctuary Room with the RFE from 5:30 to 8:30. Cinco de Mayo is annual celebration to celebrate Mexico's



victory over the French in 1862. The **RFE team** will have a short presentation/pictures of Uganda, Kampala, Fort Portal. A taco bar will be catered by Redmond Senior Center. Folks will get 1 drink ticket for beer or wine, after that, no host bar. There will be a **Pinata** donated by Jessica Torres-Baltazar so wear your best Fiesta outfit! Come meet our guests from Uganda and learn a little bit about Uganda!

## Weekly Member Profile

Debora K. Sepich, MBA, Ed.D.

Entrepreneur • Educator • Advocate for Joy

A proud Oregon native and the oldest of nine children, Debora Sepich's journey is a testament to grit, gratitude, and grace. Growing up in Hillsboro, she graduated from high school with a Rotary Scholarship in hand, setting her sights on the University of Oregon. Life's realities led her to pause her studies to earn money, a decision that ultimately landed her at Tektronix, where she not only started a promising career but also met the love of her life, Gordon. The two have been married for nearly 40 years.



Together, Debora and Gordon built a beautiful life and raised two children, Cory and Jena. Cory and his wife Katie reside in Omaha, Nebraska. A Principal currently on sabbatical, Cory is devoted to public education, while Katie is a compassionate and skilled OBGYN. They are parents to two energetic and bright children—Frannie (10) and Henry (6). Jena and her husband Steven live in Flower Mound, Texas. Jena is a Pediatric Physical Therapist with a remarkable online presence under the brand *Driving Development*, where she empowers parents and practitioners alike. Steven serves as Senior VP of Pharmacy at JPS Hospital in Fort Worth. Their family includes two spirited sons, Bennett (6) and Hudson (4).

Debora and Gordon love to travel. They spend at least a month each year exploring different Hawaiian Islands, and 2026 will bring a sailing adventure through the Greek Isles, as well as explorations across Croatia, Montenegro, and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Professionally, Debora's impact spans entrepreneurship, academia, and thought leadership. As a co-founder and executive at Dolphin Software, she helped grow the company to over \$20 million in annual revenue before its acquisition by the Daily Mail and General Trust. Her transition into higher education led her to key leadership roles at institutions such as George Fox University, the University of Sioux Falls, and Doane University—where she served as Chair of Graduate Business Programs and led the MBA program to become one of Nebraska's top-ranked online programs.

In her most recent role, Debora created the MBA program for Colorado State University Global and, in just three years, has increased it from 25 to more than 750 students. Her vision, leadership, and student-first approach have positioned the program as one of the fastest-growing online MBAs in the

country. Her academic credentials include an MBA from George Fox University and an Ed.D. in Interdisciplinary Leadership (with a focus on Business, Education, and Healthcare) from Creighton University. She has designed innovative programs in leadership, entrepreneurship, and marketing while serving as a professor, mentor, and strategic advisor to hundreds of graduate students and faculty. Debora has authored curriculum, published articles and case studies, and contributed to global education through visiting professorships in Canada and China.

She is a passionate board leader and community advocate, having served as the Board President of Ollie Webb/ARC of Nebraska, an organization that champions individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She has also been a long-time board member of *Itafari*, a Rwandan non-profit that helped build schools in Kigali, empowering young learners through education. Her other services include leadership roles with the YMCA, the Nebraska Early Childhood Collaborative, and several women's and education-focused nonprofits. A dedicated Rotarian, Debora has been actively involved in Rotary clubs in Sioux Falls, Omaha, and now Redmond, Oregon—championing service leadership and community development in each place she has called home.

Through *Bespeak Joy*, her current business venture, she supports individuals with chronic pain and aging populations, encouraging a life centered on purpose and presence. An author and lifelong learner, Debora's recent works include *Chronic Joy: Finding Purpose in Pain* (2024), *Bladdership: Leading on the Cutting Edge with AI* (2025), and *The Lost Art of Discernment* (2025). Whether writing, teaching, or mentoring, her message is always rooted in joy, resilience, and meaningful connection.

---