

HIGHLIGHTER

2021-22 Rotary Theme Announced

Tuesday, February 2, 2021



Incoming Rotary International President **Shekhar Mehta** urged members to become more involved in service projects, saying that caring for and serving others is the best way to live because it changes not only other people's lives, but also our own. Mehta, a member of the Rotary Club of Calcutta-Mahanagar, West Bengal, India, revealed the 2021-22 presidential theme, *Serve to Change Lives*, to incoming district governors on 1 February during the Rotary International Assembly. The assembly, a yearly training event for district governors-elect, was originally set to take place in Orlando, Florida, USA, but was held virtually because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mehta spoke about how participating in service projects through Rotary changed him as a person and made him empathize more with the needs of others. Soon after joining his club, he helped carry out projects that benefited rural communities in India.

Some of the poor conditions he saw in those communities strengthened his commitment to service. "I truly understood the plight of my brethren," he said.

Mehta participated in initiatives that brought artificial limbs to children, clean water and sanitation to homes, and better health care facilities to communities.

"Rotary kindled the spark within me to look beyond myself and embrace humanity," he said. "Service became a way of life for me and I, like many others, adopted the guiding philosophy that 'Service is the rent I pay for the space I occupy on this earth, and I want to be a good tenant of this earth.'"

Mehta encouraged district governors-elect to lead by example during their term and inspire Rotary and Rotaract members to participate in projects that have measurable and sustainable impacts. He's asking each club to conduct a Rotary Day of Service.

"At the end of your term as district governor, you should feel that because of your leadership, because of your inspiration to Rotarians and Rotaractors, the world has changed for the better because of the service done by them during the year," he said.

Focusing on diversity, membership

For the 2021-22 Rotary year, Mehta wants members to focus their efforts on empowering girls and ensuring their access to education, resources, services, and opportunities so that future generations of women leaders will have the tools they need to succeed. Mehta asked members to use Rotary's belief that diversity, equity, and inclusion is critical in all we do as a compass to guide this work.

"There are many issues that girls face in different parts of the world, and you as leaders will ensure that we try and mitigate the disadvantage of the girl that they may have," he said.

To be able to do more through service, Rotary needs to increase membership, Mehta said. Membership has hovered around 1.2 million for the past two decades. He challenged the incoming governors to be catalysts in their districts to help increase membership to 1.3 million by 1 July 2022. Mehta's Each One. Bring One initiative asks every member to bring one person to join Rotary within the next 17 months.

Increasing membership while also continuing our commitment to eradicating polio, fighting COVID-19, and serving our communities is an ambitious goal. "And that should excite you," Mehta said. "Rotarians love challenges."

[2021-22 Theme Announcement](#)

2021 Rotary International Convention Now Virtual

Tuesday, February 2, 2021



A message from Holgar Knaack, Rotary International President 2020-21

Dear friends,

By now we have sadly grown accustomed to hearing of the need to shift major public events to being held virtually rather than face to face. Unfortunately, the Rotary Board of Directors was compelled to again make the difficult decision to celebrate this year's International Convention as a virtual event. While this may not be an unexpected decision, it is still a deeply disappointing one for us and for our friends in Taiwan who have been planning an exceptional event. I want to thank the Host Committee for the admirable job they did building support for what surely would have been one of Rotary's finest events.

We had hoped that a combination of vaccine uptake and public health measures would have brought the COVID-19 pandemic under control. We all know that in many parts of the world the pandemic is still raging and we must maintain our vigilance and patience before resuming major public gatherings. Taiwan has done an admirable job managing the pandemic and local Rotarians were still eager to host and celebrate with us. Under the guidance of the World Health Organization and the local public health organization in Taiwan, it became clear that an event of this scale would be impossible to host safely.

While we are disappointed that we could not have a traditional convention, we are excited about the virtual event being planned for all Rotarians worldwide. Last year's convention attracted significant viewership during its weeklong program. This year, we will channel all we have learned about staging the very best in virtual events into a program that promises to open new opportunities for you to be entertained, enlightened and energized. We will share more details about the 2021 Virtual Convention soon.

Convention, pre-convention, and ticket refunds

We will automatically cancel and refund all existing registrations. This includes purchases made for the Rotaract and Youth Exchange and the Intercountry Committees pre-convention events, and ticketed meal events. We kindly ask that you do not contact RI Registration to inquire about your registration, ticket, or housing cancellations as we work diligently to inform all attendees and process cancellations and refunds. For those who had already canceled prior to today, you will also receive a refund of the \$50 processing fee.

Host Organization Committee (HOC) ticketed event registrations

The HOC event ticket fees will be refunded by the Taipei HOC. For more information, please visit rotarytaipei2021.org.

Hotel rooms

If you have secured accommodations within Rotary's official housing block, no action will be required on your end. Maritz, Rotary's official housing partner, will contact you with the details of your cancellation. If you have secured a group room block and made a full or partial payment,

February Zoom Meeting - The Toastmasters/Rotary Partnership

Saturday, February 6, 2021



Rotary International and Toastmasters International are two organizations with many commonalities, including:

- Long history
- Membership/club foundation
- Volunteer leaders
- Global reach and impact
- Helping people grow personally and professionally

Learn more about our partnership, on **February 22, 2021 at 6 pm**. Our colleagues from local Toastmaster clubs will be sharing a mock meeting, to introduce Rotarians in Districts 5300 and 5320, to what Toastmasters has to offer.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97850605700?pwd=V2l4dkZvVGRbVUJ1aEdVjVjdVbURxZz09>

Meeting ID: 978 5060 5700 Passcode: SORCHW

One tap mobile
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[Video Announcing Toastmasters/Rotary Partnership](#)

Rotary International's Announcement of the Partnership: Members of Toastmasters and Rotary will enhance their skills, broaden their networks and increase their positive impact in communities through a new collaboration.

The ongoing relationship between the two organizations will begin at the grassroots level with local club members learning and working together. Additionally, Toastmasters will create a set of eight structured communication and leadership development courses for Rotary with a phased rollout that will be available in English in 2020, and in more languages in 2021.

"The strategic alliance with Rotary is exciting and allows both organizations to leverage our unique and similar strengths," says Deepak Menon, Toastmasters' 2019-20 International President. "We look forward to providing our current and prospective members with ongoing additional offerings that meet their evolving needs."

With its first unofficial meeting held in Bloomington, Ill., in March 1905, Toastmasters is a global nonprofit organization with more than 16,800 clubs in 143 countries. Its members attend club meetings where they learn how to be more confident speakers, communicators and leaders. Toastmasters' vision for the ongoing collaboration with Rotary is to change more lives for the better, and positively impact communities around the world.

"Collaborating with Toastmasters will provide our members with even more opportunities to develop and improve their leadership and communication skills," said John Hewko, general secretary and CEO of Rotary International. "In turn, members of Toastmasters can connect with more people, take advantage of new speaking and learning opportunities, and make a difference in their communities through Rotary."

Rotary provides its members opportunities to develop professionally, gain world understanding, and make lifelong friendships all while volunteering to improve lives and bring lasting, positive change to communities.

Founded in 1905 in Chicago, Ill., Rotary is a global network of people committed to improving lives and bringing positive, lasting change. Each year, Rotary members contribute millions of dollars and volunteer hours to promote health, peace, and prosperity in communities across the globe. Through volunteering, they make lifelong friendships that transcend political, cultural, and generational boundaries and foster global understanding and respect.

For FAQs and to learn more about this partnership, please visit www.toastmasters.org/Rotary.

In Remembrance of PDG Garbis DerYeghiayan

Tuesday, February 2, 2021

you will receive a follow-up communication and instructions on receiving a refund.

I want to thank all Rotarians and Rotaractors around the world for your understanding and your continued willingness to learn and adapt. We are becoming a stronger, more nimble organization because of this, and our Virtual Convention will be a reflection of this new Rotary.

Please be safe and take care of each other.

Kindest regards,

Holger Knaack
President, Rotary International, 2020-21

February Membership Corner

Friday, February 5, 2021



From District 5300 Membership Chair, Gilda Moshir

Rotarians, like many of you who have gotten overwhelmed with our new pandemic world and being online more than we want to, our committee has also been pivoting.

First, I want to introduce our committee at the District 5300 level. We are chaired by Gilda Moshir and Michael Levy from the San Marino and Las Vegas Summerlin clubs, respectively. Our committee is made up of Assistant Governors and Membership Chairs from clubs across the District. Marie Baker from Idaho is in Zone 26 and has been our guide. Membership Chairs are: Karen Schneider and Darin Chong from Las Vegas Red Rock, Debra Parsley from Mesquite Sunrise, Dave Padgett from Summerlin, and Diane Neal from the Rancho Cucomonga. Our Assistant Governors are: Mary Lou Byrne, Edgar Garcia-Mora, Manuel Franco, Lydia Carswell, Rae Kearney, Drexel Smith, David Speidel, Roy Barry, Dwight Johnson, Mark Hadden, Keith Buchhalter, Glenn Ritt, Larry Archuleta, and Jacqueline Thornhill.

We meet once a month and thus far we are sharing best practices from our various clubs and how each of our clubs has pivoted to the changing times we have seen. It is easy to think that this is the worst time to recruit new members, but we believe it is equally a GREAT TIME to recruit new members, because no travel time is required and people can visit with clubs across the country and get to know what Rotary is all about. Many clubs have reduced their dues due to the new meeting format on Zoom. So, finding a Rotary club to join is the BEST SECRET IN TOWN.

We want to use this corner to share best practices with you. Check out this comprehensive list of 100 ways to grow your Rotary Club by the Summerlin Club in Las Vegas:
<https://www.dacdb.com/Rotary/Accounts/5300/Downloads/50242/100-Ways-to-Recruit-New-Members-to-Rotary.pdf>

I am sure all your clubs are doing many of these 100 things; we encourage you to be a WALDO and find 3-5 new ones you can adopt to grow your club. Hope to hear back from you for future issues to see what you adopted and what result you had.

Please reach out if you want us to come out and talk to your clubs about growing membership and/or if you have any membership related questions. Gilda Moshir gmoshir@gmail.com.

Rotary Club of East Los Angeles International Service

Tuesday, February 2, 2021



On Monday, December 21, 2020, Rotarian Joe Vara traveled to Ensenada, Mexico to deliver \$500 to Casa Gabriel Orphanage for severely disabled children. The funds were used to repair and paint the drywall of the kitchen ceiling. Cement work and rebuilding the access ramps to their therapy room were also completed. He delivered 2 boxes of hand sanitizers (40 bottles) for use at the orphanage.

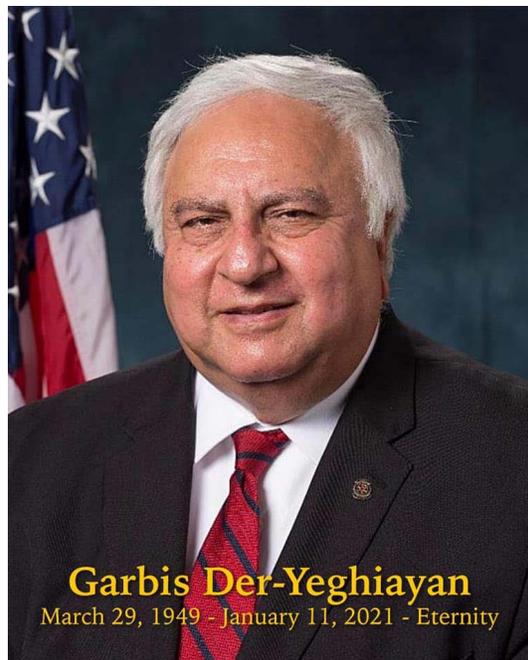
Joe also purchased \$300 of food for La Casa del Anciano, a nursing home for severely disabled elders. This provides food for about ten days. He delivered 2 new wheel chairs, 2 walkers, adult diapers, and 3 boxes of hand sanitizers (60 bottles).

In celebration of the Dia de los Reyes Magos or Epiphany on January 6th, Rotarian Joe Vara visited "Jahve Jireh," which means "God Will Provide," an orphanage outside of Mexicali to deliver gifts, food, toiletries and cleaning supplies. Food included 150 lbs of beans, 100 lbs of rice, pancake mix, cooking oil, toilet paper, and cleaning supplies. Each of the 32 children housed at the orphanage received gifts of toys, clothing, and shoes. It was such joy to see their happy faces as they opened their gifts. On a previous trip, a generator valued at \$800 was donated, as often the electricity goes out and they are without power for hours at a time.

They also visited A Way Out orphanage that houses 38 teens, who share three showers and one bathroom. A TV, 2 laptops, mechanic's tools (to help the older children acquire some working skills), clothing, shoes, and some food items were also delivered.

Support the Rotary Rose Parade Float

Friday, January 8, 2021



Garbis Der-Yeghiayan
March 29, 1949 - January 11, 2021 - Eternity

Dr. Garbis Der-Yeghiayan was, for almost 45 years, a visionary, dynamic community leader and a pillar of the Armenian-American community especially in Southern California, lecturing, initiating projects, chairing committees, serving on 11 non-profit Boards and committees, including Commissioner of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Inmate Welfare Services, organizing events, voluntarily, joyfully and eloquently emerging at countless formal and social events, fundraising, leading musical and cultural programs, reaching out to those in need of advice and support, anchoring three weekly live TV programs on national, educational, international affairs and especially biblical and Christian topics, preaching from church pulpits, honoring people, and appreciating educators and writers, reaching out to his relatives and friends near and far, even introducing himself to their children, to simply name some aspects of his active life. He was an ardent writer and his articles occasionally appear in major newspapers and magazines. He was a peacemaker and consensus-builder and, as such, was highly respected by all segments of the community.

Dr. Der-Yeghiayan was a dedicated Rotarian leader. He joined the Rotary Club of La Verne in 1981. He held all senior positions in Rotary, including the chairmanship of the Rotarian Action Group for Peace. He served with distinction as president in 1984-85 and International Service chair from 1982-84 and 1985-1998. He served as District 5300 International Service chair, 1994-1996; Rotary Friendship Exchange District chair, 1996-1998; Rotary District 5300 Peace Conference chair, 1990-2021; Polio Eradication Chair, 2002-2005; Annual Giving Chair, 2004-2005; presenter at District Assemblies and Conferences; District 5300 Governor, 1999-2000 (He was the first Armenian American elected to serve as a District Governor (California-Nevada, U.S.A.) in the history of Rotary International); Russian Leadership Program Committee chair, 1999-2000; Literacy Task Force Zone 24 Coordinator, 2000-2001; RI Global Quest Membership Task Force coordinator, 2000-2001; Chair of Southern California-Nevada Multidistrict Presidents-Elect Training Seminar (PETS) 2001; Membership Workshop Coordinator at RI Presidential Conference in Salt Lake City, 2001 as well as at Governors-Elect Training Seminar (GETS) and Zone Institutes; Rotary International Membership Coordinator of Zone 24, 2001-2002; Poverty Alleviation Zone Coordinator, 2003-2005; Instructor, Presidents Elect Training Seminar, 2004; Membership Development and Foundation workshop leader in various Rotary Districts; Chair RI Zones 25 and 26 Peace Conference, 2011-2013; Advisor to RI Director, 2011-2013. He represented the RI President to four District Conferences in Pennsylvania, Lebanon, Bahrain, and Texas. He delivered more than 1,500 speeches to Rotary clubs throughout the world. He initiated numerous new programs promoting international understanding. Through his efforts, the Rotary Club of La Verne was able to establish the first Rotary Club in the former Soviet Union.

In 2013, at the RI District 5300 24th anniversary peace conference, the District Governor proudly announced the establishment of the Garbis Der-Yeghiayan Peace Institute in honor and in appreciation of the District's peace conferences' dynamic and visionary founder and chair. In March 2005, Garbis made history by co-chairing and serving as keynote speaker of the first ever Rotary International Caucasus Peace Conference held in Ankara, Turkey, and attended by Armenian and Turkish Rotarians. His inspiring speech and subsequent meeting with both Turkish and Armenian leaders led the way to numerous joint efforts between Armenia and Turkey for the first time since 1915 as well as the signing of the protocols between the presidents of the two countries in October, 2009. He was actively engaged in shuttle diplomacy between Israel and Lebanon, Israel and Palestinian Authority, and Turkey and Armenia. He organized annual trips to Turkey promoting public diplomacy between Turks and Armenians. As District Governor in 1999-2000, through District 5300 Rotary clubs he sponsored 9 matching Grants projects in Turkey and was honored by the president of Turkey for his humanitarian efforts. In addition, 16 country presidents and prime ministers have honored him by issuing special proclamations in appreciation of his peace initiatives. Dr. Der-Yeghiayan is recipient of more than 200 national and international recognitions and has been honored by a score of heads of States, government officials, universities, and organizations.

From a biography written by his son, Johnny Der-Yeghiayan

A memorial for PDG Garbis is being planned for Summer 2021; District 5300 Rotarians will receive notice of the event.

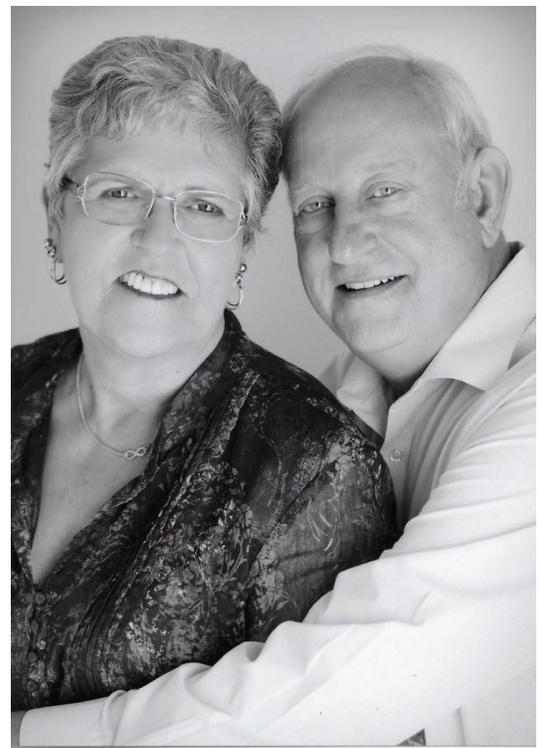
In Remembrance of Rick Tuttle

Tuesday, February 2, 2021



"The year 2020 has and will change the world. Rotary and Rotarians will also need to change but their essence and devotion to Service Above Self will not. And this is what we will need to remember and double our efforts to promote Rotary to the world. We must remind people that they are not alone, and they too can help by working with or joining Rotary. Since 1980, 42 continuous years, the Rotary Rose Parade Float Committee has entered a Float in the Pasadena Tournament of Roses, Rose Parade. This is the largest Public Image project by Rotarians promoting Rotary. We hope you will support us by watching the Float in the Rose Parade and by donating what you can. Also, if you can, come help decorate the Float and Experience the Magic! of the entire week's events." - Rotary Rose Parade Float Committee Chair PDG Randy Pote

You can help support our float by purchasing the 2021 Rotary Rose Parade Committee Patch seen above. Patches cost \$50 and are a fundraiser to provide money to build the 2022 float. You can purchase yours at the Rotary Rose Parade Float Committee store at this [LINK](#).



We grieve the loss of one of our own—an incredibly special person and a true Rotarian has left us but will always be remembered. His magnanimous, shining example of what it truly means to give of oneself to benefit others is rare indeed.

The Mesquite Rotary Club lost its 20/21 President, Richard Tuttle, in his battle with the coronavirus on Monday, January 11, 2021. Rick left behind his loving wife of 50 years, Peggy, his daughters, and sons-in-law Kathy and Blaine Roehl, Dani and Martin McGrew, and Emily and Tim Shell, his grandchildren Mara Roehl, Charli Fields, Sterling McGrew, Jeana Tuttle, Lillian Tuttle, and Liam Shell, and a community full of individuals he supported.

To say Rick was the epitome of Rotary's motto Service Above Self would be a true understatement. If there was a volunteer opportunity in Mesquite, Rick was always the first one to sign up to help in any humanly way possible. Always with a smile on his face and a warm, inviting manner, Rick was always looking for ways to promote Rotary.

The Tuttle's moved to Mesquite in 2015 from Anchorage, Alaska. After a 22 year career in the Air Force, he managed Tudor Road Bingo for 22 years before moving south to warmer climes.

Rick joined the Mesquite Rotary Club in 2015 and was serving his 2nd term as Club President when he fell ill in December. A strong advocate of everything Rotary, Rick guided the club through new as well as old club activities designed to show our community the value of Rotary and of being a Rotarian. His loving and faithful wife was always by his side encouraging and supporting him in all things.

In addition to being a Rotarian, Rick was also a member of the Elks, American Legion, and VFW. He volunteered continuously for the Virgin Valley Food Bank, Meals on Wheels, Desert Rose Charities, and Salvation Army. The list goes on and on of the work Rick accomplished.

He supported many organizations and programs including the Backpack Program for students, Project 150 for underprivileged youth, the Mesquite Community Theater, Mesquite Women's Advocacy Program, American Legion, and more.

A Celebration of Life will take place in the Spring. Cards or other expressions of sympathy may be directed to the family at 392 Harrier Lane, Mesquite, NV 89027.

"I had the privilege to induct Rick to the Mesquite Rotary Club in 2015. From the get-go, I knew he wanted to serve our community. My job was to mentor him and guide him through his Rotary journey. The truth is, I learned from him, and he was a life mentor for me. Rick was the living-breathing example of Service Above Self. If there was someone in need, he was the first one to raise his hand to help him/her. During the last months, we lost many friends, good people, selfless human beings. When I ask myself why, I can only come to the conclusion that our Father in Heaven is calling his best angels on Earth, to guide us during these challenging times. Rick left a huge void not only in our hearts, but in our community, but also a beautiful legacy, one that we will work as hard as he did to make him proud."

- Keith Buchhalter, District 5300 Assistant Governor

"Rick Tuttle was always looking for ways to support the community. He facilitated the coordination between Virgin Valley (VV) Thrift Store and the local Project 150 Program. On a weekly basis, he would take clothes from VV Thrift Store to College of Southern Nevada (CSN). Clothes would then be picked up, sorted, and distributed to local high school students in need. He also coordinated the Rotary effort to purchase gift cards for local Project 150 students at Christmas time."

- Shanna McPheters, City of Mesquite

"If ever in my nineteen years as Food Bank Director the words 'Go-To Guy' were used, Rick Tuttle was the one. Any time, any day, Rick was always there to help. For the last five years, we have served side by side in a ministry vital to our community. His farewell to me, every time, was 'Thank you for allowing me to serve with you today.' We thank Rick for showing us how to serve faithfully, cheerfully, and without hesitation. Those big shoes of his will be very hard to fill."

- Leslee Montgomery, Virgin Valley Food Bank

"Rick was one of the most giving and caring of people I have ever met. I have only been in my position at the Salvation Army for a few months, but he was there to greet me and introduce me to many different organizations around town that I would need to know. Every time I either saw him in person or talked to him he would always ask if I needed anything, and if I mentioned something to him, he would make sure it happened. He never hesitated to volunteer to help us out, whether it was bell-ringing or just helping somewhere

I needed him. In just the little time I knew him, I instantly formed a great bond with him."
- Bill Ennis, Salvation Army

"Rick was acknowledged as "Mr. Volunteer" by everyone at the American Legion. He had a big heart and never said no to anything. His love of raffles made him the perfect person to chair our fundraising raffles. Rick always got things done and provided a helping hand whenever possible. Rick always had a smile on his face. His very presence in a room was always uplifting. He will truly be missed by all."
- Paul Levan, American Legion

"Rick was a very special guy. A friend to everyone he met and someone I truly admired. His enthusiasm was contagious, and he showed each of us in Rotary what it truly means to give of oneself, to be an inspiration to others, enjoy life, and to lead by example. His smile and gentle way will truly be missed. I'm so very glad I had the opportunity to know him."
-Linda Gault, Mesquite Rotary President-Elect.

