



San Antonio Northeast Rotary Club
Chartered May 19, 1987 - District 5840 - Club #24625
www.sanortheastrotary.com



the Nor'easter



CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD



January 9, 2024



Salsalito Cantina Mexican Restaurant, 14535 Nacogdoches Road, San Antonio, TX 78247
Social at 5:30 p.m. Meeting from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.



Rotary's Four Way Test of the things we think, say or do:

1.) Is it the TRUTH? 2.) Is it FAIR to all concerned? 3.) Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS? 4.) Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Our speakers this evening are Bobby Martinez and Carmen Maglievaz. They will be speaking to us about the upcoming 75th Anniversary of San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo. Since 1949, the San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo has grown to become one of the largest, most prestigious single events in the city of San Antonio, with approximately 1.5 million visitors entering the grounds each year. Over 6,000 volunteers give countless hours to the organization each year.



Bobby will also share with us a new project he is involved with called Creative Club Global, an educational organization committed to making learning come alive for students in elementary and middle schools through

exciting programs, parties and camps focused on LEGO® bricks and robotics.

Bobby has almost 10 years in Rotary. In those 10 years, he has served two years as president for the Rotary Club of Poteet, six years as assistant governor, three years as Polio Plus Chair and will be Rotary District 5840 Governor in 2026-2027. He has also served in different capacities for the Poteet Strawberry Festival for over 42 years. Bobby started at a very young age! His time is also split with the Poteet Chamber of Commerce and for two years now with the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo Ambassadors Committee. He owns and operates a laser engraving business and a RV park. He enjoys fellowship with his Rotary family and friends and helps a fellow pilot friend with his 1946 airplane.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

January 23rd Create Cranes for Hope
February 6th Todd Sanford, Unleashing Your Purpose
February 13th MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION

Birthdays & Anniversaries

We have good news and bad news regarding birthdays and anniversaries. The bad news is that we do not have any birthdays or anniversaries to report this week.

The good news is that we can increase our odds of having birthday and anniversaries to report in the future. You say how we can do that? Easy, bring more club members into the club. How do we do that....just ask. The club does not grow by itself. It is each club member's responsibility to ask someone to join our club.

JUST ASK!



At the start of tonight our Happy Bucks pot is up to a whopping \$45. That means if your ticket is drawn tonight and you pull the Joker out of the deck, who will leave with at least

\$22.50.

Where does your \$6 go?

Many club members pay \$6 each week for our meeting. But not everyone knows where the \$6 goes.

\$1 for our raffle

\$2 to pay for our guest speaker's meal. While all three of the items listed here are voluntary, we greatly encourage all to donate towards our speaker's meal.

\$3 to your Paul Harris



District Governor Monica Gutierrez's January Message

This month's DG message will focus on Cranes for Hope. At the 2nd quarter President's meeting in December, one of the club Presidents requested I share my story of why I'm asking clubs to fold 20 paper cranes as part of D5840 Cranes for Hope initiative for mental health.



My story begins back in March of 2016 when I was diagnosed with breast cancer. With hearing such unexpected news, my mind became filled with ideas I had no control over. During my cancer treatment I was introduced to meditation in the form of origami. Folding these paper objects allowed my mind to focus on what's in front of me and removed any other bad thoughts from my mind. It was a mental exercise I had not realized I needed.

Then in August of 2017 I had the opportunity to visit our sister Rotary club in Takamatsu, Japan. Five members of my RC of San Antonio North Central took the journey with me where we celebrated fellowship and good will with our Rotary friends in Japan. They took us to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial where I learned the story of Sadako Sasaki. This young girl survived the atomic bomb but was later diagnosed with leukemia. She learned of the Japanese legend where if you fold 1000 paper cranes your wish would be granted. She vowed to fold 1000 cranes for her wish of good health. You can read more about her story here.



Example of a 1,000 paper crane installation at the El Progreso Memorial Library in Uvalde, TX.

Most recently, the story of 1,000 cranes kept resonating with me. I saw a beautiful installation in Fargo, North Dakota after attending a Zone Institute in Minneapolis. I heard the story again in a book I read *Tomorrow, Tomorrow, Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin. I also saw it on the final episode of the Netflix show *Dead to Me*. Needless to say, I was surrounded by these paper cranes and was inspired by what it represented. I knew what it had meant to me, so I decided to ask D5840 clubs to fold 20 paper cranes this

Rotary year as a wish to bring mental health awareness to our communities as part of our RI President's goal for Mental Health.

We will collect all folded paper cranes by early March so we can collaborate with our D5840 Interact students to help create the final installation. Our dedication ceremony will be in May 2024 at a location to be determined in honor of Mental Health Awareness month.

Use your professional expertise for service

January is Vocational Service Month. This is an opportunity to think about how your club and district do vocational service. In bringing together people from diverse professions and backgrounds, Rotary recognizes the importance of all occupations and skills. In Rotary, your professional life and vocational service can work together. Members have a responsibility to represent their occupations within their club and to exemplify the ideals of Rotary in their workplace. Read the Vocational Service in Action handbook to learn more and to discover ways to share your knowledge through Rotary, advance ethical standards in your workplace, and help others develop professionally.





San Antonio Northeast Rotary Club helps out Blessed Angels Community Center time of need

Blessed Angels Community Center is an emergency food pantry located on the northeast side of San Antonio. The mission of Blessed Angels is to fight hunger in San Antonio and surrounding communities through healthy and nutritional food distribution. Blessed Angels does this with their volunteers and their fleet of four vehicles.

On the morning of Monday, December 11th, Blessed Angels staff arrived for work to find that the center's back gate was broken. Vandals broke into area and stole all four tires from one vehicle and smashed the window of another vehicle and opened the hood in an attempt to steal the battery. As a result, two of the four vehicles to deliver food were out of service. Blessed Angels CEO Marion Thomas said that she was very sad and asked for prayers from the community.

Bexar County Constable Kathryn Brown helped the center deliver food to homebound seniors Tuesday, but Blessed Angels was still in need of help. In addition, Blackjack Speed Shop, owned by Spurs Legend Tim Duncan and his partner Jason Pena, stepped in. "It's so unfortunate and especially this time of year, and y'all are trying to do such great things for the kids and community; it's just heartbreaking," Pena said. "We could get you rolling again if we got wheels and tires back on it."

Thomas also said that Kym's Angel Foundation has offered to look for rental space for safe parking for Blessed Angels vehicles. Special Olympics Texas offered to let them borrow their vehicles. District 10 Councilman Marc Whyte is looking for potential added safety measures for the nonprofit. "It sends chills, it's just awesome, I'm just so humbled and grateful," Thomas said.

Members of the San Antonio Northeast Rotary Club have volunteered at Blessed Angels in the past. Hearing of the unfortunate news, the San Antonio Northeast Rotary Club donated \$500 to Blessed Angels to help the organization continue serving the community. President-Elect Russell Sturgeon presented Thomas the check on Thursday, December 14th. Blessed Angels is located at 14078 Nacogdoches Road. If you can, please donate to Blessed Angels at:

<https://blessedangelscc.org/volunteer-and-services/>

Thanks to the San Antonio Express-News, KSAT TV, and KENS TV for information on this post.

Thanks to Austin Riley and Trina Forcey for attending yesterday's Madison Interact Club's first meeting of 2024. The San Antonio Northeast Rotary Club sponsors the Madison Interact Club and we should all do our best to support what these amazing young adults do for our community. All club members are encouraged to attend these Interact meetings when your schedule allows for it. All you need to do is attend and show your support. The students take care of running the meeting. The meeting takes place in Mrs. Downen's classroom, room D07. The meeting runs from 4:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Madison High School is located at 5005 Stahl Road, San Antonio, TX.



Upcoming Madison Interact meetings will be held on Monday, January 22nd and Monday, February 5th.

Rotary Day SA 2024 will take place on Saturday, March 23rd at McAllister Park, 13102 Jones Maltsberger Rd. The Rotary Club of San Antonio is inviting

ROTARY DAY SA 2024



Rotarians from all over the District to join them for Rotary Day SA 2024. Bring your family, friends, and potential members to participate in this day of service. Service Opportunities will include litter removal, picnic bench painting, tree ring mulching, invasive species removal, and mulch turning in the dog park. The Madison Interact Club is planning to participate in this service project.



Volunteer Opportunities at Sleep in Heavenly Peace for January 2024 - March 2024

January 27th - Community Bed Build 8:45 <https://x.gldn.io/e/bT1BfXHekFb> 11:15 <https://x.gldn.io/e/0aIRKQtMrFb>

February 10th - Community Bed Delivery <https://x.gldn.io/e/U22uu26LrFb>

February 24th - Community Bed Build 11:15 <https://volunteer.shpbeds.org/timeslots/IVRL97EcLs>

March 9th - Community Bed Delivery 9:30-10:30 <https://x.gldn.io/e/fUXCk87LrFb>

March 23rd - Community Bed Build 8:45 <https://x.gldn.io/e/rLuR8PGekFb> 11:15 <https://x.gldn.io/e/ODVP70oMrFb>

The 14th Annual GRASP Western Night will be taking place on Thursday, February 29th. As in years past, we will be volunteering with our fellow Rotarians in the Randolph Metrocom Rotary Club. As volunteers, will be serving dinner to the seniors in attendance, clean-up the kitchen and tables after dinner, and assisting with the bingo game and distribution of prizes. The event will be held at the GRASP Community Center located at 250 Donalan. Converse, TX 78109.

RI president-elect announces 2024-25 presidential theme
by Etelka Lehoczky

Rotary International President-elect Stephanie Urchick announced that the 2024-25 presidential theme is The Magic of Rotary and called on members to recognize and amplify the organization's power to save lives.

"Don't misunderstand me – we are not going to end polio or bring peace to the world by waving a wand and saying some funny words," Urchick told incoming district governors at the Rotary International Assembly on 8 January. "It's up to you. You create the magic with every project completed, every dollar donated, and every new member."

Urchick, a member of the Rotary Club of McMurray, Pennsylvania, USA, said she saw the magic of Rotary on display when she was helping install water filters in the Dominican Republic. Two boys were watching as dirty water entered the filter, then ran out clean at the other end.

"One of the boys grabbed my sleeve and said, 'Show me the magic again,'" she said. "Obviously, the water filter wasn't magic. We worked hard to transport those filters, install them, and work with community leaders in the area to maintain them. But those boys knew that easy access to clean water would change their lives. Knowing that I played a small part in that certainly changed my life."

Prioritizing peace

Urchick urged members to champion Rotary's Action Plan, find a balance between continuity and change, and work for peace. She plans to host a presidential peace conference in 2025 with the theme "Healing in a Divided World."

Rotary has a long history of promoting peace through its network of peace centers, Urchick noted. Located at top universities around the globe, the centers have trained nearly 1,800 peace fellows who are now working in more than 140 countries. The newest center, located at Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul, Turkey, will welcome its first class of fellows in early 2025.



"The Rotary Peace Fellowship began more than 20 years ago to equip peace and development professionals from communities around the world to become effective catalysts for ending and preventing conflict," Urchick said. "This conference will focus on Rotary's peace efforts and provide opportunities to learn together."

In addition to emphasizing peacebuilding, Urchick reiterated Rotary's commitment to eradicating polio. She urged the incoming governors to join or initiate PolioPlus Societies in their districts and do all they can to help end the disease.

"Contact elected officials and other government leaders. Remind them that polio is still a threat. Push them to support polio eradication," she said. "Polio remains our top priority and requires our fullest commitment, but there is so much important work to do."

Balancing continuity and change

Urchick also underscored the necessity of balancing continuity and change, both of which animate Rotary's Action Plan. "The plan is all about building on our best ideas, not abandoning them," she said. "We face a tough balancing act. We must change ourselves and stay true to who we are."

She asked the governors to do whatever is needed to make the club experience irresistible to members. "That might mean changing how things are done in your district," she said. "If your district has been doing things one way for 50 years, it's probably time to reassess. If a club in your district isn't active or is losing members, maybe it's time to start a new club that fits better with the community. Just because a club or district hasn't changed in a while doesn't mean no one is hungry for change."

One way to make positive change, she said, is to embrace the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion within clubs. "I hope you'll join me in opening your arms to future people of action, even if – and in some cases, especially if – they don't look or act like the typical member of your local club," she said. "With DEI, it is easier to be united in a common purpose. It's in those moments when we are committed and focused that we are the most effective and relevant."

