



**San Antonio Northeast Rotary Club**  
Chartered May 19, 1987 - District 5840 - Club #24625  
[www.sanortheastrotary.com](http://www.sanortheastrotary.com)



# the Nor'easter



**Rotary**  
Club of San Antonio  
Northeast

**January 23, 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?

As mentioned at our meeting on January 9th, we will be folding origami cranes tonight as part of District 5840's Cranes for Hope initiative to bring mental health awareness to our communities as part of RI President Gordon McInally goal for Mental Health. District 5840 Governor Monica Gutierrez is asking for each club in the District to fold 20 origami cranes. All the cranes from the District will be collected by early March so that we can collaborate with our D5840 Interact students to help create the final installation. The dedication ceremony will be in May 2024 at a location to be determined in honor of Mental Health Awareness month.



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

**UPCOMING CLUB CALENDAR**

<b>Tuesday, January 30th</b>	<b>NO MEETING</b>
<b>Tuesday, February 6th</b>	<b>Speaker TBA</b>
<b>Tuesday, February 13th</b>	<b>MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION</b>
<b>Tuesday, February 20th</b>	<b>Speaker TBA</b>
<b>Tuesday, February 27th</b>	<b>Daniel Martinez, Director of San Antonio Red Cross</b>
<b>Thursday, February 29th</b>	<b>Annual GRASP Western Night</b>
<b>Thursday, March 14th</b>	<b>Volunteer at Ronald McDonald House</b>
<b>Saturday, March 23rd</b>	<b>Rotary Day SA 2024</b>

**Birthdays & Anniversaries**

LaVonna Stewart will be celebrating her birthday on January 25th. Happy birthday, LaVonna.

**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.**

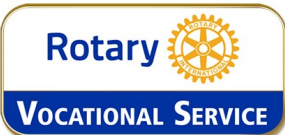
**\$3 to your Paul Harris**



**At the start of tonight our Happy Bucks pot is at \$0. That is because Russell Sturgeon drew the Joker at our last meeting. Congratulations Russell.**

**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.

**New Rotary Peace Center to open in Turkey**  
By Etelka Lehoczky

Next month, Rotary International and administrators at Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul, Turkey, will begin recruiting fellowship candidates for a new peace center opening at the university. The Otto and Fran Walter Rotary Peace Center will offer experienced peacebuilders based in the Middle East and North Africa the opportunity to complete a one-year professional development certificate program, earning postgraduate diplomas in peace and development studies.



"The center will bring together peacemakers from across the Middle East and North Africa — people with different backgrounds and viewpoints, but who share common goals — and provide them with the resources and experiences needed to work together to promote peace within the region," says Martha Peak Helman, a trustee of The Rotary Foundation and president of the Otto and Fran Walter Foundation. The Walter Foundation donated US\$15.5 million to fund the center's operations and fellowships for up to 40 students per year in perpetuity.

The curriculum of the newest Rotary Peace Center will address issues that are particularly relevant in the Middle East and North Africa: land disputes, climate change, food insecurity, refugee integration, and economic and community development. Fellows will also attend seminars and workshops offered by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research through CIFAL Istanbul, the UN's international training center for local leaders and organizations, located at the university. The fellows will then implement a nine-month social change project in the region and present their work at a capstone seminar.

"The university's unique partnership with the UN Institute for Training and Research, and its focus on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, will offer Rotary Peace Fellows from the region an opportunity to receive high-level training that is aligned with Rotary's mission," says Rotary Peace Centers Manager Laura Descher. "Their fellowship teaches them to use innovative policy and advocacy tools to address issues that drive conflict, and to adapt what they learn to their local contexts."

The center's academic director, Esra Albayrakoglu, says its regional focus will be one of the keys to its success. "As the discipline of conflict management has given way to conflict transformation, bottom-up approaches based on finding local solutions to local problems more effectively address the root causes of conflicts," she adds.

Bahçeşehir University, also known as BAU, is a private university with a global presence. One of the leading higher education institutions in Turkey, it has nearly 30,000 students from more than 125 countries. The peace center will be located on the university's Future Campus, recently built in the suburbs of Istanbul. The peace fellows will live at the campus during the 10-week residential portion of the program and will have access to a spacious library, a study room, medical and fitness facilities, and other services.

"Fellows will have the opportunity to learn about various refugee communities, participate in sustainable development practices, visit areas affected by disasters, interact with nongovernmental organizations, and attend events reflecting the region's cultural mosaic," Albayrakoglu says. "Bahçeşehir University represents the multiculturalism and spirit of hospitality that is so prevalent in Turkey. The university stands out as a microcosm of the Middle East and North Africa, hosting many students from this region and its environs."

Based at premier universities, Rotary's peace centers, which now total seven, offer fully funded master's degree or professional development certificate programs. They have graduated more than 1,700 fellows, who now work in more than 140 countries. Many program alumni serve as leaders in governments, nongovernmental organizations, educational institutions, and international organizations like the United Nations and the World Bank. Each year, The Rotary Foundation awards up to 50 fellowships for master's degrees and up to 80 for certificate studies.

"This new peace center builds on Rotary's long history of working for peace," says Bill Boyd, a past president of Rotary International and the chair of the Rotary Peace Center Search Committee. "We will not solve every problem, but we will make a difference through the many peace fellows who will become catalysts for peace across the region."





We were pleased to welcome Bobby Martinez and Carmen Maglievaz as our guest speakers at our January 9, 2024 meeting. They spoke about the 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 also shared 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.



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>

### Rotary Day SA 2024

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 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.



### 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.

## Rotary partnership with the United Nations puts the focus on waterways

By Etelka Lehoczky



### Community Action for Fresh Water

A new collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme empowers Rotary members to clean up, protect, and monitor their local waterways. The strategic partnership aligns with both the UN's Sustainable

Development Goals and Rotary's environment area of focus.

The partnership "brings together Rotary's community-based solutions and UNEP's technical expertise," RI President-elect Stephanie Urchick said when announcing the partnership on 10 January. She spoke at Rotary's International Assembly, the organization's gathering of incoming district governors.

At the center of the partnership is a program enabling Rotary and Rotaract clubs to make commitments to the health of their own nearby waterways. Called Community Action for Fresh Water, the program will encourage clubs to organize river cleanup days, raise awareness in their communities about the importance of healthy waterways, conduct basic water quality tests, and report their findings.

These locally based activities are crucial to protecting the environment on a global scale, says Rafael Peralta, regional director and representative for the UNEP's office for North America. "The protection, management, and restoration of freshwater ecosystems is fundamental to combating the triple planetary crises: the crisis of climate change, the crisis of biodiversity loss, and the crisis of pollution and waste," Peralta said at the announcement ceremony. "As populations develop and economies expand, so too does the demand for fresh water. This puts freshwater ecosystems under increasing pressure."

This partnership builds on a pilot program, Adopt a River for Sustainable Development, begun in 2020 by UNEP and Rotary District 9212 (Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, and South Sudan). In addition, Rotary and Rotaract clubs around the world have often worked independently to clean up freshwater ecosystems.

"Healthy watersheds help biodiversity, forests, wetlands, and lakes. They help agriculture, help the economy, recharge the aquifers, and provide water to millions of people around the world," said Salvador Rico, a member of The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers. "A contaminated river and a damaged watershed make the area prone to fires, cause droughts, cause diseases, affect the economy of nearby communities, and contribute to climate change."

The Rotary Foundation is funding program costs over the course of three years, with the potential for continued support. Clubs can use district funds or apply for global grants to pay for their activities. To participate, Rotary and Rotaract clubs can identify a local body of water (river, lake, wetland, or natural reservoir) and commit to protecting and restoring it. They can then engage with the local community and other relevant groups to identify any major threats to the body of water and ultimately develop a plan of action in coordination with nongovernmental organizations, private enterprises, or government agencies.