



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



the Nor'easter



CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD

March 26, 2024

Salsalito Cantina Mexican Restaurant, 14535 Nacogdoches Road, San Antonio, TX 78247
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 speaker this evening is Angela Paduch, RN BSN, Medical Program Manager with Fresh Start Surgical Gifts. Fresh Start Surgical Gifts transforms the lives of disadvantaged infants, children, and teens with physical deformities caused by birth, accidents, abuse, or disease through the gift of reconstructive surgery and related healthcare services, at no cost whatsoever to patients.

Since 1991, Fresh Start Surgical Gifts has been dedicated to transforming the lives of disadvantaged youth with physical deformities by providing comprehensive reconstructive surgery at no cost to the patient and their family. Children receive care from world-class doctors and surgeons, who remain committed to giving each child a Fresh Start.

All the medical professionals generously donate their time and talent to deliver much-needed highly specialized reconstructive plastic surgery and related treatments. Every child receives the highest quality medical care, and the families never see a bill for the services provided. All donations and grant funding are put to the highest use and each dollar donated enables Fresh Start to provide five dollars in medical care. One hundred percent of contributions go directly to medical programs.

Angela, a dedicated registered nurse with over thirty years of experience, has spent most of her career in the surgical services area of healthcare. Angela is a proud graduate of the Texas Tech University School of Nursing.

For two decades, she worked as both a circulating and scrub nurse in the operating room before transitioning to the pre and post-anesthesia care area. Throughout her journey, Angela embraced a diverse range of opportunities, working as a travel nurse in various locations, from the Virgin Islands to Hawaii, across different healthcare settings, including small outpatient surgical hospitals and large teaching institutions.

Her passion for travel stems from her upbringing as the daughter of an Air Force veteran, which took her family to numerous destinations around the globe. This love for exploration and adventure led her to venture even further, as she took the opportunity to work in Melbourne, Australia, for a year. Experiencing surgical practices beyond the U.S. borders enriched her professional perspective and broadened her horizons.

Having traveled to six continents and over thirty countries, Angela's curiosity for the world knows no bounds. Her determination to discover new places and cultures drives her to explore as much of the world as possible.

When she's not globe-trotting or tending to her nursing responsibilities, Angela finds joy in the company of her Welsh Corgi, Rhys. At home, she unwinds by listening to music, attending movies and concerts, all while planning her next exciting journey.

Angela is thrilled to bring her extensive experience and passion for helping others to her role at Fresh Start Surgical Gifts, where she loves being part of an organization that makes a transformative impact on the lives of children in need.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Anthony Strickland is celebrating his 5th Rotary Anniversary today. Congratulations, Anthony.

Dennis Heath will be celebrating his birthday on March 31st. Happy Birthday, Dennis.

The District 5840 District Annual Fund Raffle tickets were passed out at our meeting last week. Please sell as many tickets as you can to raise as much money as possible for the Annual Fund.



Why give money to the Annual Fund? Because the service projects funded by the Annual Fund help change lives across the globe, in each of our communities and in ourselves. Each Rotary club in our District can receive funds from the Annual Fund for their own unique projects.

The prize for the Raffle winners is a \$1,000 gift card. There are seven (7) prizes. The winner of the third drawing is the SELLER of the ticket so please be sure to complete that information on the ticket stubs. All ticket stubs must be turned into PDG Jerry Hardy by May 25, 2024.

President-Elect Russell Sturgeon has arranged for San Antonio Northeast Rotarians to volunteer at Blessed Angels Senior Center on Wednesday, April 3rd from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. to judge the Senior Fiesta King and Queen Contest. This is going to be both the easiest and the most fun service project we will do all year.



There was breakfast tacos and mariachis on hand. Please text Russell Sturgeon at (361) 816-1388 and let him know if you will be able to volunteer. Blessed Angels Community Center is located at 14078 Nacogdoches Rd, San Antonio, TX 78247

Blessed Angels Community Center has provided emergency relief to seniors, children, low-income Veterans, homeless, and families in need since 2014. Blessed Angels has provided groceries, diapers, pet food, gift cards, medical equipment, heaters, fans, backpacks, school supplies, toys, and more to over 1,142,080 and still counting.

A great time was had by all that attended our club pickleball social last Friday evening. Thanks to Kristine and Randy Gusman for being our instructors and teaching us the rules of pickleball. Special thanks go out to Debbie Degollado for opening up the Walzem YMCA and allowing us to hold what we hope is the first of many such pickleball socials.



UPCOMING CLUB CALENDAR

Sunday, March 31st	San Antonio Pearl Rotary Club Volunteer at Under the Bridge Starts at 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday, April 2nd	Speaker from the Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers Association
Thursday, April 11th	Rotary Night at the Missions
Saturday, April 20th	Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) Training NOTE - Registration closes on April 10th



At the start of tonight our Happy Bucks pot is at \$204. That means if your ticket is drawn tonight and you pull the Joker out of the deck, who will leave with at least \$102.

Our guest speaker last week was our Assistant Governor Jan King gave us a very interesting and informative presentation about the upcoming total eclipse that will take place on Monday, April 8th. The moon will blot out the entire sun. For a few minutes, it will look and feel like twilight. You will be able to see this rare event along a line across Texas from Del Rio to Texarkana. Thank you Jan for a great presentation



At our March 19th meeting, Mrs. Janeen Downen, teacher and sponsor of the Madison High School Interact Club, accepted a \$1,000 check from San Antonio Northeast Rotary Club for the Madison Interact Club's Food Pantry. The Madison High School Interact Club created a food pantry as a service project in 2016. The food collected benefits the financially challenged students of the school by allowing them access to food, if they so need it. The food can be taken home by the students to their families, or for them to have as a snack. If you would like to help out stock this food pantry, please bring your non-perishable food items to any of our weekly meetings. Mrs. Downen and San Antonio Northeast Rotary Club president Dan Clark posed for a photo of the presentation.

Rotarian saved hundreds of children at risk of being killed by the Nazis in the lead up to World War II
by Dave King

"If something is not impossible, there must be a way to do it," Rotarian Sir Nicholas Winton once said. Known to his friends as "Nicky," the British stockbroker rescued hundreds of predominantly Jewish children from the Holocaust in the months leading up to World War II. Winton, who died in 2015 at the age of 106, is now the subject of a new film, "One Life," starring Sir Anthony Hopkins and Helena Bonham Carter. It was released in January 2024 in the United Kingdom.



The film tells the true story of how Winton rescued 669 children from the Nazi advance and found homes for them in the United Kingdom. During a visit to Prague, Czechoslovakia, in December 1938, Winton saw numerous families who had fled the spread of Nazism in Germany and Austria. The refugees were living in desperate conditions, with little or no shelter or food, as the German invasion of Czechoslovakia loomed. Winton immediately realized it was a race against time: How many children could he rescue before the borders closed?

Producers Emile Sherman and Iain Canning first contemplated telling Winton's story when they co-founded See-Saw Films more than 15 years ago. "We were very lucky to have had the opportunity to meet Nicholas Winton before he passed away," Canning says. "He was the most modest, generous human being. [He] felt the film should not glorify him, but celebrate how the most ordinary of people can make a huge impact."

With the blessing of Winton's daughter, Barbara Winton, See-Saw approached screenwriter Lucinda Coxon to adapt Barbara's 2014 book "If It's Not Impossible." Collaborating with Barbara, the screenwriting team gained access to Nicholas' archives and letters. Barbara was a familiar face at Rotary district conferences. She passed away in 2022, during the making of the film.

Barbara's book was an essential resource for the cast. Explaining how she got a sense of Nicholas Winton's mother, Babi, Bonham Carter said, "Barbara was named after Babi. I was very lucky to speak to Barbara, to have her perspective as a granddaughter."



"When Barbara read the first draft of the script, she called us to say that Anthony Hopkins would be perfect for the role, which we of course agreed with," Canning says. "But [that] left us with a challenge because it was beyond our wildest dreams that Hopkins would read the script and want to play Nicky. Incredibly, he did, and it was magical for all of us to know we had an extraordinary actor playing a man who was such an inspirational humanitarian."

Hopkins got to meet some descendants of the people Winton saved, who were featured in one scene of the film. "It was like a kick in the chest when all the descendants came in," Hopkins says. "It was hard to try not to be sentimental, but it was very moving."

"Nicky's Jewish ancestry meant he was alert to what it meant to be an émigré from the rise of Nazism in Europe," says Nick Drake, who wrote the screenplay with Coxon. "He was ashamed by the Allies' betrayal of the Czech people in the Munich Agreement. [He] saw the consequences of that agreement in human terms, [in] these appalling camps where refugees from Germany [and] Austria... were living in intolerable conditions. He was motivated by the reality he saw in front of him and decided to do something about it."

The film was shot in Prague and England, working with two crews in two languages. It used authentic Prague locations, even filming on the same station platform where the children said goodbye to their families and departed for the UK more than 80 years ago. A bronze statue of Winton marks the historic spot. "There was a belief in the UK [that] they weren't at risk; a lot of people saying, 'It's fine, there's no issue... they're not in Austria or Germany,'" says James Hawes, the film's director. "Another challenge was British bureaucracy and xenophobia: the newspapers and politicians saying, 'We're a small, crowded island. There's no place for more people here.' Nicky had to fight that prejudice – raising the public consciousness, writing articles – way before the Internet or broadcast news."

Hopkins adds that he hopes the film will keep the memory of Winton's effort alive. "I only hope this will send a message, lest we forget," he says. "Because we forget so quickly."



Happy Easter