



the Nor'easter

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Rotary
Club of San Antonio
Northeast



UNITE
FOR
GOOD

Rotary

February 10, 2026

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.

Salsalito
CANTINA
MEXICAN RESTAURANT

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 Kathy Benitez. Kathy has a passion for Alaska sea glass which all started when she was visiting her daughter in a remote Alaska village. The bush plane did not return for her until five days after scheduled and it was during that time she learned the joy of beachcombing and sea glass.



Now Alaska is Kathy's favorite summer home! With a background in education, she has always loved creating, teaching and finding beauty in the process. Today, she brings those passions together through her sea glass business designing one-of-a-kind jewelry, wind chimes and wall art. Thanks go out to Preston McKinney and his wife Anne for arranging for Kathy to speak with us this evening.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

February 17th	Madison Interact students that attended RYLA
February 24th	Amanda Potter
March 3rd	Stephanie Post, Supervisory Special Agent, Violent Online Networks and Sadistic Exploitation

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Bob Barron's wife, Celeste, will be celebrating her birthday on February 12th. Happy Birthday, Celeste.

On February 15th, Ana Sturgeon, wife of club member Russell Sturgeon will be celebrating her birthday.



At the start of tonight our Happy Bucks pot is up to \$111. That means if your ticket is drawn tonight and you pull the Joker out of the deck, you will leave with at least \$55.50.



Cathy Criado has applied for membership in the San Antonio Northeast Rotary Club. Cathy is a Real Estate Broker. Cathy has already attended several of our club meetings, and has been a guest speaker. Please contact club president Trina Forcey if you have any questions.

The Rotary Club of San Antonio is partnering with River Aid SA for the 31st Annual Basura Bash River and Waterway Clean Up on Saturday, March 7, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Check-in: 8:30am - Cleanup starts @ 9:00am!

Meeting Point and Parking: Olmos Basin Park Northside
Start Point: Olmos Creek at Olmos Basin Park
End Point: Olmos Creek upstream at Jones Maltsberger

For more information and to register, please go to the link below:

<https://www.rotarysa.org/events/rotary-day-sa-2026>

Attire: Long pants, closed toe shoes, (long sleeve shirt recommended). If you have work gloves, please bring them. Sunscreen and bug repellent is also encouraged. Water will be provided but please bring a Reuseable Water Bottle!

**ROTARY
DAY SA**
MAR 7, 2026 9 AM - 12 PM
OLMOS CREEK BASIN, 651 DEVINE RD.
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78212



Saturday
February 14th

FOUNDATION MONTH FOCUS: PEACE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

By Susan and Mike Weaver, Rotary District 5240

As Rotary nears completion of its goal of eradicating polio, many have asked: "what's next?" Where will the incredible talent and resources of Rotary be directed now? The challenge that has in recent years risen to the forefront is that of increasing peace and resolving conflict.



For many, the pursuit of Peace (with a capital P) seems amorphous, hard to get one's arms around, difficult to know where to start and what exactly to do. The challenge of eradicating polio must have seemed equally daunting when the End Polio Now campaign began, but that didn't stop determined Rotarians. And that same determination can be used to promote peace and resolve conflicts. The key in this, as it was in the fight against polio, is to enlist able partners and bring our resources to bear on the effort.

This emphasis on Peace is not new. It dates back to 1917 when Paul Harris said: "It is easier to interest men in war than in peace; it, therefore, requires more moral courage to talk peace than war."

It is good to recall that the stated mission of Rotary International is to provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through its fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.

With the creation of Rotary Peace Centers in 2002, Rotary clearly announced its intention to tackle more directly the issue of Peace and Conflict Resolution, which is one of the Six Areas of Focus. Clubs that actively engage in projects that fall under this umbrella are now eligible for recognition as Peacebuilder Clubs. Funding for these projects comes largely from donations to The Rotary Foundation.

In 2017, Rotary made its next bold move - it formed a strategic partnership with the Institute for Economics and Peace and launched the Positive Peace Campaign, and John Hewko, General Secretary of Rotary International, announced: All gathered here are unofficial diplomats and peacebuilders of our age. When you build a system for clean water, you are a peacebuilder. When you help out a student struggling to graduate, you are a peacebuilder. When you launch any project to support education, health, or economic development in your local community, or elsewhere ... YOU ARE BUILDING THE OPTIMAL CONDITIONS FOR POSITIVE PEACE.

But what is Positive Peace? What does that phrase mean to you?

At its most basic, peace is an open and nonviolent way of being. Peace is both a state of mind and a state of society, encompassing a wide range of actions. Martin Luther King Jr. imagined peace as unfolding in a straight line — running from "inner peace," based in the heart, to family, community, nation, and the world. Peace is associated with a range of values, from kindness and justice to safety, security, and freedom.

And what in the world might Negative Peace be?

Negative Peace can be thought of as being the absence of something bad, rather than the presence of something good. Negative Peace is fraught with tension. An analogous way to think of it is this - Negative Peace is to an emergency room visit as Positive Peace is to a well-baby check-up.

Negative Peace is the absence of war or fear of violence.

Positive Peace creates the conditions for individuals to flourish. Equal access to education gives children the knowledge and skills they need to become successful, contributing global citizens.

Positive Peace consists of attitudes, institutions, and structures that, when strengthened, lead to a more peaceful society.

Positive Peace provides the optimum environment for human potential to flourish.

We were pleased to welcome Dr. Francisco Solis, President of San Antonio College as our guest speaker last week. Dr. Solis gave us a history of San Antonio College, which is in the process of a year long celebration of its 100th Anniversary. Dr. Solis played a significant role in the process of San Antonio College being recognized as the best community college in the nation with the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. Dr. Solis was accompanied by Ken Slavin, Director of Marketing and Strategic Communication for San Antonio College. Thanks go out to Ken for arranging for Dr. Solis to speak to us last week.



After Dr. Solis' presentation, club President Trina Forcey presented a Speaker's Certificate of Appreciation and a copy of the Rotary magazine to him. Trina also presented Ken a copy of the cover of the Rotary magazine from September 1925 when San Antonio College was founded. After this Dr. Solis led us in the Rotary Four Way Test.

A young man by the name of Zane Cooper visited our Rotary meeting last week along with his father and his sister. Zane is a member of Trail Life USA, a Christian leadership organization for boys and young men. He is completing his Freedom Award, Trail Life's highest rank, comparable to an Eagle Scout.



Zane had visited Dan Hernandez' office several times to see if he would be interested in sponsoring a bench that he is making that would be placed in Universal City's Veterans Park. Dan invited Zane to attend our meeting last week to give his presentation. The young man did a great job. All those in attendance were very impressed.

The Board of Directors of the San Antonio Northeast Rotary Club decided to sponsor Zane at the \$400 level, which would fund a full bench, that will have an engraved plaque permanently mounted on it that the San Antonio Northeast Rotary Club had sponsored the bench. Dan presented Zane with our check last Friday.

Dan received a follow up from Zane this morning. Zane said that the Trail Life USA Troop was able to install all eight benches along the Cibolo Creek Trail this past Saturday. Zane said he will be installing the plaques on all the benches and will share with us the photos and location of the bench we sponsored. Zane would like to thank the San Antonio Northeast Rotary Club for helping him on the road to earn his Freedom Award. Thanks also go out to Dan for arranging for Zane to come out and speak to our club last week.

With Milano and Cortina hosting the 2026 Winter Olympics, we thought we would share with you some Rotary facts about the two host cities.

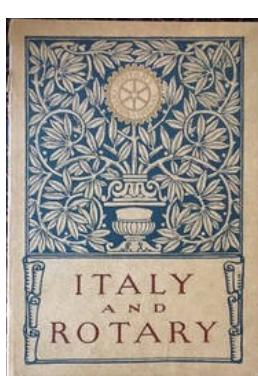
Rotary District 2041 brings together the clubs in the Milano metropolitan area. District 2041 is comprised of 59 clubs with approximately 1,850 members. These Rotary clubs serve the city, with the Rotary Club of Milano being the first Italian Rotary club founded on November 20, 1923. The Rotary Club of Milano meets on Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. at the Bianca Maria Palace Hotel. The first District in continental Europe was established in Italy in 1925, the result of an extraordinary growth of clubs in the two-year period of 1923 to 1925.



1923 - Fondazione del Rotary Club Milano



The other host city for this year's Winter Olympics is Cortina, Italy. There is only one Rotary club representing Cortina. That is the Rotary Club of Cadore-Cortina d'Ampezzo. This club is in Rotary District 2060. The Rotary Club of Cadore-Cortina d'Ampezzo meets on Wednesday nights at 8:00 p.m. at Fortnightly in the municipality of Pieve di Cadore.



While not a member of a Rotary club in Milan or Cortina, 2025-2026 Rotary International President Francesco Arezzo is a member of the Rotary Club of Ragusa, in Sicily. Arezzo is an orthodontist in private practice. He is active internationally as a member of the Italian, European, and American orthodontics associations. He is vice president of the National Association of Italian Dentists for the province of Ragusa and was the founder and head for seven years of the delegation for Ragusa of the National Trust for Italy. He is a Knight of Honor and Devotion in Obedience within the Sovereign Order of Malta.

Congratulations to JC (James) Clapsaddle from the Rotary Club of San Antonio for receiving the prestigious Service Above Self Award for 2025-2026 from Rotary International! Service Above Self has long been a hallmark of Rotarians who devote their time and energy to helping their neighbors — near and far — in significant ways.

A snapshot of JC's life of service this year includes buying an ambulance in England, filling it with medical supplies, and driving it to Ukraine—and then returning to Northern Ireland as a coordinator for the Seeds of Hope International Peace Leadership Academy.

Rotary created the Service Above Self Award to recognize members who fully embody our primary motto. While many Rotary members distinguish themselves through service, we want to especially recognize those who make it a way of life.

Each year, District Governors and RI directors worldwide can nominate members whose service activities have impacted humanity. From this pool of exceptional candidates, just 150 recipients are chosen.

With this award, Rotary recognizes the contributions they have made through the organization over the years and celebrates them as an extraordinary example of how each member can make a difference.

Thank you JC for your dedication and enthusiasm as you embody the ideals of Rotary. Congratulations on receiving this prestigious honor.

