



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



the Nor'easter

UNITE FOR GOOD



Rotary Club of San Antonio Northeast



February 24, 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.



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 Amanda Potter. Amanda is a seasoned business leader, sales executive, and community advocate with more than two decades of experience in sales leadership, organizational development, and strategic consulting. She currently serves as a Regional Sales Coordinator in Texas, where she has built and led high-performing teams across a physical territory exceeding 150,000 square miles, managed more than 650 client accounts, and overseen the development of over 50 active agents. Her career is distinguished by consistent top-tier performance, including multiple national recognitions, President's Club honors, and sustained excellence in recruiting, asset management, and client retention.



Amanda's professional expertise spans health benefits consulting, executive-level negotiations with HR leaders and business owners, and the development of scalable broker networks. In addition to her corporate leadership, she brings a strong entrepreneurial background as a multi-unit franchise owner and co-owner of several food and retail businesses, as well as experience supporting large, multi-state retail operations. A lifelong learner and accomplished academic, Amanda earned her MBA as the youngest graduate of her program at the time and holds a bachelor's degree in Marketing from the University of Texas at Austin. Her commitment to service is reflected in extensive board and volunteer leadership, including roles with the Boys & Girls Club, United Way, chambers of commerce, education committees, and nonprofit organizations focused on youth advocacy, education, and community well-being. Grounded by a servant's heart and a strong sense of stewardship, Amanda is passionate about developing people, strengthening organizations, and giving back to the communities she serves.

Thanks go out to Trina Forcey for arranging for Amada to be with us this evening.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- March 3rd** Stephanie Post, Supervisory Special Agent, Violent Online Networks and Sadistic Exploitation
- March 10th** To be announced
- March 17th** St. Patrick's Day program
- March 24th** Mari Tamez, Bexar Heritage Center
- March 31st** Mark Kunetz, Texas LEGO User Group - San Antonio

Birthdays & Anniversaries

We do not have any birthdays or anniversaries to report this week.

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: 8:30 a.m. – Cleanup starts at 9:00 a.m.!

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 District 5840 **UNITE FOR PEACE**
DISTRICT CONFERENCE & CLUB LEADERSHIP SEMINAR
FRIDAY, MAY 1ST BRAUNTEX THEATER, NEW BRAUNFELS
SATURDAY, MAY 2ND MARRIOTT COURTYARD RIVER, NEW BRAUNFELS

Join Rotarians from across District 5840 for two inspiring fun-filled days of fellowship, reflection, celebration, and leadership development in beautiful New Braunfels.

Friday, May 1st

The conference kicks off at the historic Brauntex Theatre, 290 W San Antonio St, New Braunfels, TX 78130 with a powerful and timely keynote address from JC (James) Clapsaddle, recipient of Rotary International's highest service recognition—the Service Above Self Award. Selected as one of only 150 Rotarians worldwide for this honor, JC has played a critical role since 2023 in Rotary International's humanitarian relief efforts supporting Ukraine amid the ongoing war and as coordinator for the Seeds of Hope International Peace Leadership Academy.

[Seeds of hope planted in Northern Ireland - Rotary Digital - July 2025](#)

His presentation, "Rotary's Role in World Wide Peace," will offer a firsthand perspective on Rotary's impact in times of global crisis and the vital role Rotarians play in advancing peace through service.

Saturday May 2nd

We'll gather at the Courtyard by Marriott – New Braunfels (located at [750 IH 35 North New Braunfels, Texas, USA, 78130](#)) to begin the day with a meaningful Peace Pole installation at a local park, symbolizing Rotary's enduring commitment to peace and understanding.

Returning to the hotel, we'll celebrate the incredible work accomplished across our District this past year, recognizing outstanding clubs and Rotarians during our awards program. Following lunch, we'll shift our focus to the future with Club Leadership Learning Seminar for Rotary Year 2026–27, equipping incoming leaders with the tools, insights, and inspiration needed for a successful year ahead.

Join the fun with raffles throughout the conference! Two-day conference attendees receive one raffle ticket, first-time District Conference attendees receive two tickets, and everyone will have the opportunity to purchase additional raffle tickets during the event.

Pricing

2 Day - \$125 Early Bird until March 31st
\$150 April 1-26

First Time Attendee (2 Day) \$100

Friday only - \$60

Saturday only \$75

[Register for the District Conference](#)

Reserve Your Hotel Room

Courtyard by Marriott New Braunfels River Village
750 IH 35 North New Braunfels, Texas, USA, 78130:

[Book your group rate for Rotary District Conference](#)

Hotel rooms are limited, so we encourage you to book your hotel room soon!

Whether you come for inspiration, celebration, or leadership development - or all three - this District Conference promises to be a meaningful and memorable Rotary experience.

At the start of tonight our Happy Bucks pot is up to \$117. That means if your ticket is drawn tonight and you pull the Joker out of the deck, you will leave with at least \$88.50.

We were pleased to welcome last week the Madison Interactors that attended Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) last month. Eason Tarble, Laciara Bradish, and Jenna Naser (L-R) shared with those in attendance their experiences at RYLA. They told us about the team building exercises that they participated in and about the friends that they made at the annual event.



The Interact students were joined by Madison Interact Club sponsor Janeen Downen. Club president Trina Forcey presented Mrs. Downen a check for \$1,000 as the San Antonio Northeast Rotary Club's annual contribution to the Madison High School Interact Club's Food Pantry. The Madison Interact Club created the food pantry as a service project in 2016 and has continued ever since. 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. The San Antonio Northeast Rotary Club is proud to sponsor the Madison Interact Club since it was chartered in March 2016.

50 years of Rotary Youth Exchange: why alumni matter

by Hans Lee, a member of the Rotary Club of Berlin Platz der Republik, Berlin, Germany and co-founder of Rotex International from Rotary 360 - The official blog of Rotary International

I watch time pass by with a mix of emotions in the world of Rotary Youth Exchange. Programs grow, traditions change, challenges are overcome and generations of students pack their whole life into a suitcase and move to a country where they do not know anyone.

Then — after experiencing transformations they can never fully explain to their friends and families — they leave that world that had adopted them. Somewhere on that journey back, a quiet truth emerges: exchange doesn't end when you return home.

Rotex alumni associations exist to help returning students continue on their journey. As we mark 10 years of Rotex International — and reflect on 50 years of Rotary Youth Exchange as an official RI program (as of 2025) — I've been thinking a lot about the alumni who built our history.

The roots stretch far back. Rotary clubs were organizing student exchanges as early as the 1920s. In 1975, Rotary Youth Exchange became an official RI program.

Those moments weren't simply milestones; they are glimpses of how deep the roots of Rotary Youth Exchange run. By the time we held the first international Rotex gathering in Bordeaux in 2012, it was already clear alumni were no longer just participants who "graduated" from Youth Exchange. They are problem solvers, cultural ambassadors, and mentors who continue to move the organization forward as long as they stay connected to Rotary.

The recognition of Rotex International in 2019 as a Rotary alumni network acknowledged the reality that exchange alumni are globally-minded and driven to connect the Rotary world.

Yet every year, thousands of young leaders complete their Youth Exchange and drift away from Rotary. Not because they want to, but simply because the bridge back to Rotary isn't always easy to find.

Across dozens of countries and Rotary districts, Rotex alumni associations support interviews, trainings, orientations, language camps, school visits, and crisis responses. They make countless contributions that help keep Youth Exchange running. As former students themselves, they have institutional memory. They bring a fresh perspective to decision-making in their local programs. They help students feel more connected, not just to the program, but to Rotary. Most importantly, as alumni they remain actively involved with Rotary.

Rotex gives returning students a place to land and a community that understands the disorienting, enlightening, and beautiful process of a year abroad as a teenager.

As we look to the next 50 years of Youth Exchange, the question isn't whether alumni matter. It's whether Rotary members are ready to treat them as the partners they are. As Rotary strives to grow and stay globally relevant, the path is right in front of us: invest in alumni. Engage them early. Invite them often. Trust them with real responsibility.

Rotex alumni associations are not just a short-term activity for students when they return. They are the door to Rotary's future. Let's keep that door open.

Rotex International supports Rotex alumni associations worldwide as they take on leadership roles, mentor current exchange students, and build an identity within the Rotary family. This year we are placing most of our efforts on outreach, with ambitious growth goals for our online community and an aim to connect on calls with over 100 districts on every continent that runs Rotary Youth Exchange. Know any districts that we should talk to? Let us know by emailing info@rotex.org.



Hans Lee, middle, networks with other Rotary Youth Exchange alumni at the 2023 Rotary International Convention in Melbourne, Australia.

Rotary awards up to 170 funded fellowships a year for dedicated leaders from around the world to study at one of our eight peace centers.

Through academic training, practice, and global networking opportunities, the Rotary Peace Centers program develops the capacity of peace and development professionals to become effective catalysts for peace. The fellowships cover tuition and fees, room and board, round-trip transportation, and internship and field-study expenses.

Since the program began in 2002, the Rotary Peace Centers have trained more than 1,800 fellows who now work in over 140 countries. Many serve as leaders in governments; NGOs; education and research institutions; peacekeeping and law enforcement agencies; and international organizations like the United Nations and the World Bank.

The Rotary Peace Fellowship is designed for leaders with work experience in peace and development. Our fellows are committed to community and international service and the pursuit of peace. Each year, The Rotary Foundation awards up to 50 fellowships for master's degrees and up to 120 for certificate studies at premier universities.

We see peace not as an abstract concept but as a living, dynamic expression of human development. Peacebuilding is a cornerstone of our mission as a humanitarian service organization and is one of Rotary's areas of focus — the channels of activity through which our members make their mark on the world. Our programs, grants and fellowships focus on creating environments where peace can be built and maintained. Rotary believes that if concerned citizens work together to create peace locally, lasting change can happen globally.



ROTARY PEACE CENTERS

