



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



the Nor'easter



Rotary
Club of San Antonio
Northeast



**UNITE
FOR
GOOD**



October 21, 2025

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 Sarah Esserlieu Khalil, Director of Development with Great Springs Project. Sarah joined Great Springs Project (GSP) in January 2024 and brings a wealth of experience in the public and nonprofit sectors working with elected officials and stakeholders to achieve common goals. In her current role, she oversees corporate development and is based in San Antonio.



Before joining GSP, Sarah served as the Economic Development Director at Centro San Antonio, where she led small business support during the pandemic, strategy development, advocacy efforts on behalf of the downtown small business community, and the creation of data systems to best tell downtown's story and attract further investment. Sarah also worked at the City of San Antonio in a variety of roles where she managed three multimillion-dollar redevelopment programs and special projects including municipal and federal funds to encourage downtown and inner-city infill development.

Through her efforts, Sarah facilitated 14 large-scale development projects resulting in 1,858 multifamily housing units, 168,000 square feet of new commercial retail space in the downtown San Antonio area, and supported the redevelopment of the Merchant's Ice complex into the VelocityTX bio and life sciences business incubator.

Sarah holds degrees from the University of California San Diego and the University of Texas at San Antonio. She has served on the boards of several organizations including CREW San Antonio, the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and Terraforma. Sarah was also named 2024 40 under 40 and 2025 Power Couple with her husband, Danny. Sarah and Danny welcomed their son, Liam, in August 2024.



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

November 11th **Lauren Burns, Resilience & Overcoming Adversity**
November 18th **Monica Gutierrez, Camino de Santiago**

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Dan Clark will be blowing out the candles on his birthday cake on October 23rd.
Tracy Needs will be celebrating her birthday on October 25th.
Happy Birthday, Tracy.



At the start of tonight our Happy Bucks pot is up to \$791. That means if your ticket is drawn tonight and you pull the Joker out of the deck, you will leave with at least \$395.50.

Ruben Cardenas, Jr., Youth Exchange Chair, spoke at the Madison Interact Club meeting yesterday. He spoke about the opportunity for high school students to study overseas as part of the Rotary Youth Exchange Program. Also at the meeting, Madison Interact Club sponsor Janeen Downen shared with the Interactors that she was recently awarded the Teacher of the Week Award. Well deserved, Mrs. Downen.

Speaking of Mrs. Downen, she recently reported that the school's Family Specialist is out of easy snack food to hand out, such as Cheese It's, granola bars, fruit cups, etc. If you would like to donate these items, please bring them with you to our meeting.



Trekking to Everest Base Camp to end polio

By Jessie Harman, past Rotary International director and chair of Rotary Foundation Australia

In April, I stood at 4,400 meters (14,435 feet) taking in the incredible view from Dingboche. The previous day's chill had turned to snow and we'd been walking in sub-zero temperatures. I was feeling well, no obvious effects of the altitude – and hoping it would stay that way. As Everest Base Camp got closer, I reflected on how Rotary's goal of a polio-free world was also getting closer. When my legs got weary, that thought spurred me on.

I reached Everest Base Camp, the goal of my challenge, two days later. Everything about it was incredible – the landscape, the challenge, and the opportunity to raise funds to support Rotary's polio eradication campaign.

Raising funds was important for me. I used Rotary's Raise for Rotary platform with all its benefits; simple to set up, funds straight to PolioPlus, shareable via social media. I shared my journey via Facebook and Instagram and collected supporters along the way. The generosity of people is inspiring, and by the end, my supporters had donated more than AUD \$30,000 (about US\$20,000).

The trek itself was demanding. I've completed many long-distance hikes, but this one was the hardest. Ahead of the trek, I walked 6 kilometers (about 3.7 miles) every day for 60 days and made that part of my campaign. However, even with the preparation, the walk to Everest Base Camp was physically and emotionally tough. There were days when I wondered whether I would ever make it.

I walked as part of a small team, and the companionship helped a lot. We were a diverse group of Australian Rotarians and supporters, each of us trekking for different reasons, all of us raising funds for polio eradication.

Finally, one step after another, we made it to our destination. No words can adequately describe the sense of accomplishment I felt on reaching Everest Base Camp, nor can they do justice to the beauty of the landscape around me. Everywhere I looked, the snow-capped 8,000-meter (26,000-foot) Himalayan peaks towered above me, taking my breath away.

I had plenty of time on those Everest foothills to think about why polio eradication is so important for me. It's definitely about the children – no child should suffer needlessly – but it's also about our willingness to pursue an audacious goal, with courage, resourcefulness, and tenacity. That's the very essence of Rotary for me.

Having reached my Everest Base Camp goal, I am more determined than ever that we will reach Rotary's goal of zero polio cases forever. But this last stage is the hardest and we need your ongoing support. Please donate to help Rotary eradicate polio at: https://raise.rotary.org/Walk_Strong/challenge815/



Past RI Director Jessie Harman on top of a small mountain in Victoria, preparing for her Everest Base camp challenge.



We had 48 bowlers come out for the San Antonio Northeast Rotary Club's 15th Annual Bowling and Silent Auction Fundraiser. We also had many other folks come out to bid on our silent auction items. This year's event raised approximately \$4,000. The funds raised from this event go towards awarding a scholarship to a graduating senior from James Madison High School, and also towards supporting the Madison Interact Club's Food Pantry. The funds raised also go to sponsoring two students to attend Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) in January 2026. We want to thank everyone that participated in our event - from the bowlers, the bidders, the sponsors, the folks at Astro Super Bowl and all the club members that volunteered to make this year's event a great success.



I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed and donated items toward the bowling fundraiser's silent auction. It was a huge success, and your efforts truly made a difference — your generosity did not go unnoticed!

A special thank you to Becky Robles for seamlessly managing the payments for donations and auction items — you make it look effortless.

To our amazing emcee, Dan Hernandez, thank you for donating your time and energy to keep things lively and engaging.

And an extra special shout-out to Debbie Degollado for coordinating, categorizing, transporting, and setting up all the auction items. That's no small task, and you handled it like a pro!

This event is just another example of what we can accomplish when we Unite for Good. Thank you all for your teamwork, dedication, and heart.

Trina Forcey
President - San Antonio Northeast Rotary Club, 2025-2026



Why We Walk: We are Rotarians, Rotaractors and Interactors that have extensive leadership experience around Alzheimer's including Alzheimer's education, patient care, prevention management, research for a cure and strategic partnership. We have chosen to band together as a Rotary Action Group to meld our passion and energies and direct them to supporting this wonderful effort. This is why we are proud to support the Alzheimer's Association's Walk to End Alzheimer's, the world's largest fundraising event for Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias. We share a vision of a world without Alzheimer's and we are inviting all Rotarians to walk with us in solidarity in more than 600 communities across the country. The funds raised will help fight Alzheimer's disease through vital research, advocacy efforts and essential support programs and services in your communities. Your team donations will play an important role in improving the lives of people living with Alzheimer's, their families, and caregivers.

Rotary District 5840's Team is already #5 out of 315 teams registered for the ALZ Walk!! As of last week, the Rotary District 5840 Team has raised over \$8,600, but we still have a long way to go to reach our District's \$20,000 goal. Let's keep the momentum going by sending your page link to all your contacts and keep raising ALZ Walk \$\$! October is ask for donations month!! If you have any questions, please contact Dave Miller at (512) 656-2852.

**WALK TO END
ALZHEIMER'S**
ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

Join San Antonio's Rotary Team Today!

Team Rotarians Unite For Good

Pints for Polio on October 14th at Wetmore Beach House

The San Antonio Northeast and Alamo Heights kicked off the Pints for Polio events in District 5840 on October 14th at Wetmore Beach House. Rotarians, friends, and family came out to raise a pint and raise lifesaving funds for the eradication of polio. The night included fellowship, raffle prizes, and even some Karaoke. Between the two clubs, over \$1,100 was raised for The Rotary Foundation. A good time was had by all.

