



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

CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD



the Mardi Gras



February 13, 2024

Mardi Gras 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.

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 program this evening will be a celebration of Mardi Gras, also known as Fat Tuesday. The origins of Mardi Gras can be traced to medieval Europe, passing through Rome and Venice in the 17th and 18th centuries to the French House of the Bourbons. From here, the traditional revelry of "Boeuf Gras," or fatted calf, followed France to her colonies.



On March 2, 1699, French-Canadian explorer Jean Baptiste Le Moyne Sieur de Bienville arrived at a plot of ground 60 miles directly south of New Orleans, and named it "Pointe du Mardi Gras" when his men realized it was the eve of the festive holiday. Bienville also established "Fort Louis de la Louisiane" (which is now Mobile) in 1702. In 1703, the tiny settlement of Fort Louis de la Mobile celebrated America's very first Mardi Gras.

In 1704, Mobile established a secret society (Masque de la Mobile), similar to those that form our current Mardi Gras krewes. It lasted until 1709. In 1710, the "Boeuf Gras Society" was formed and paraded from 1711 through 1861. The procession was held with a huge bull's head pushed along on wheels by 16 men. Later, Rex would parade with an actual bull, draped in white and signaling the coming Lenten meat fast. This occurred on Fat Tuesday.

New Orleans was established in 1718 by Bienville. By the 1730s, Mardi Gras was celebrated openly in New Orleans, but not with the parades we know today. In the early 1740s, Louisiana's governor, the Marquis de Vaudreuil, established elegant society balls, which became the model for the New Orleans Mardi Gras balls of today.

The earliest reference to Mardi Gras "Carnival" appears in a 1781 report to the Spanish colonial governing body. That year, the Perseverance Benevolent & Mutual Aid Association was the first of hundreds of clubs and carnival organizations formed in New Orleans.

By the late 1830s, New Orleans held street processions of maskers with carriages and horseback riders to celebrate Mardi Gras. Dazzling gaslight torches, or "flambeaux," lit the way for the krewes' members and lent each event an exciting air of romance and festivity. In 1856, six young Mobile natives formed the Mistick Krewe of Comus, invoking John Milton's hero Comus to represent their organization. Comus brought magic and mystery to New Orleans with dazzling floats (known as tableaux cars) and masked balls. Krewe members remained anonymous.

In 1870, Mardi Gras' second Krewe, the Twelfth Night Revelers, was formed. This is also the first recorded account of Mardi Gras "throws."

Newspapers began to announce Mardi Gras events in advance, and they even printed "Carnival Edition" lithographs of parades' fantastic float designs (after they rolled, of course - themes and floats were always carefully guarded before the procession). At first, these reproductions were small, and details could not be clearly seen. But beginning in 1886 with Proteus' parade "Visions of Other Worlds," these chromolithographs could be produced in full, saturated color, doing justice to the float and costume designs of Carlotta Bonnecase, Charles Briton and B.A. Wikstrom. Each of these designers' work was brought to life by talented Parisian paper-mache' artist Georges Soulie', who for 40 years was responsible for creating all of Carnival's floats and processional outfits.

1872 was the year that a group of businessmen invented a King of Carnival, Rex, to preside over the first daytime parade. To honor the visiting Russian Grand Duke Alexis Romanoff, the businessmen introduced Romanoff's family colors of purple, green and gold as Carnival's official colors. Purple stands for justice; gold for power; and green for faith. This was also the Mardi Gras season that Carnival's improbable anthem, "If Ever I Cease to Love," was cemented, due in part to the Duke's fondness for the tune.

The following year, floats began to be constructed entirely in New Orleans instead of France, culminating with Comus' magnificent "The Missing Links to Darwin's Origin of Species," in which exotic paper-mache' animal costumes served as the basis for Comus to mock both Darwin's theory and local officials, including Governor Henry Warmoth. In 1875, Governor Warmoth signed the "Mardi Gras Act," making Fat Tuesday a legal holiday in Louisiana, which it still is.

Like Comus and the Twelfth Night Revelers, most Mardi Gras krewes today developed from private social clubs with restrictive membership policies. Since all of these parade organizations are completely funded by their members, New Orleanians call it the "Greatest Free Show on Earth!"



UPCOMING CLUB CALENDAR

Tuesday, February 20th	Madison H.S. students that attended RYLA
Saturday, February 24th	Sleep in Heavenly Peace
Tuesday, February 27th	Daniel Martinez, Director of San Antonio Red Cross
Thursday, February 29th	Annual GRASP Western Night
Thursday, March 14th	Volunteer at Ronald McDonald House
Saturday, March 23rd	Rotary Day SA 2024

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Austin Riley will be celebrating his 2nd Rotary Anniversary on February 15th. Happy Anniversary, Austin. Thank you for everything that you do for our club. Also on February 15th, Russell Sturgeon's wife, Ana, will be celebrating her birthday. Happy Birthday, Ana.

This might be a good time to remind everyone that...

VALENTINE'S DAY IS TOMORROW!

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 \$49.00. That means if your ticket is drawn tonight and you pull the Joker out of the deck, who will leave with at least \$24.50.



PEACEBUILDING & CONFLICT PREVENTION

Mardi Gras' Purple, Green, And Gold Colors Have Special Meaning

On Fat Tuesday, there are displays of purple, green, and gold in every direction you look. What's the story behind this trio of colors, though? Like most things Mardi Gras, the tradition has historic roots. The Rex organization in New Orleans first proclaimed purple, green, and gold the official Mardi Gras parade colors in 1872, according to Mardi Gras New Orleans. In 1892, the organization declared that purple represents justice, green represents faith, and gold represents power. This symbolism has been with us ever since.

Speaker from our February 6, 2024 meeting

Our speaker last week was Hugh Farr, Chief Development Officer with Big Brothers. The mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters is to provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one mentoring relationships that change their lives for the better, forever. The vision of Big Brothers Big Sisters to help all children achieve success in life. In addition to his presentation, Hugh showed us a short video of how Big Brothers Big Sisters makes a difference with the youth of the community. After his talk, Hugh was presented a speaker's certificate of appreciation from club member Trina Forcey, and a copy of the Rotary magazine by visiting guest Lorraine Kosub.



Calling Bingo at Blessed Angels

Thanks go out to President-Elect Russell Sturgeon and a few of his co-workers from Frost Bank for calling bingo at the Blessed Angels Community Center last Tuesday, February 6th. Blessed Angels CEO / Executive Director and all the senior citizens in attendance were happy that Russell and his friends were able to join them. Thank you, Russell.



Volunteer Opportunities at Sleep in Heavenly Peace for February and March 2024

February 24th - Community Bed Build
11:15 <https://volunteer.shpbeds.org/timeslots/IVRL97EclS>

March 23rd - Community Bed Build
8:45 <https://x.gldn.io/e/rLuR8PGekFb>
11:15 <https://x.gldn.io/e/ODVP70oMrFb>

The San Antonio location of Sleep in Heavenly Peace is located at 10616 Sentinel Drive, just off of Broadway.

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.

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. A sign-up sheet will be going around the room this evening.

Minneapolis-St. Paul set to host Rotary's 120th international convention in 2029

EVANSTON, Ill. (Feb. 5, 2024) — Rotary International today announced Minneapolis-St. Paul as the winner of the provisional bid to hold its annual international convention at the Minneapolis Convention Center, May 26-30, 2029.

More than 15,000 Rotary members and participants from around the world will gather in the Twin Cities to connect, learn from each other and various experts, and share ideas for bringing positive, lasting change to communities across the globe. The event is expected to inject an estimated \$30.4 million in both direct and indirect business sales, and will utilize hotels in Minneapolis, Bloomington, and St. Paul, as well as most of the Minneapolis Convention Center.

"I am excited to welcome Rotary members from across the globe to the Twin Cities and the State of Minnesota for their international convention in 2029," said Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz. "Rotary members do incredibly important work to improve lives and strengthen communities here and throughout the world."

"Minneapolis is the right city to host the 120th Rotary International Convention and Rotary is a fabulous organization to welcome," said Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey. "With more than 15,000 attendees and strong values of service, diversity, and leadership – this event will have an enormous impact on our community and we look forward to showing off our world-class city."

The winning bid was led by Rotary clubs in Minnesota and Iowa. "We're thrilled that Minneapolis will once again host Rotary's biggest gathering," said Tom Gump, Chair, Host Operating Committee, 2029 Rotary International. "We look forward to working with Meet Minneapolis Tourism Bureau, the Cities of Minneapolis, St. Paul and Bloomington and the State of Minnesota to plan the largest Rotary event in Minneapolis since the last convention we hosted in 1974."

"Abundant in fresh water, nature, and cultural diversity, Minneapolis – the City of Lakes, is the ideal location for our members and participants to connect and celebrate our friendships, cultures, and shared commitment to making a positive difference in the world," said Rotary International President Gordon McInally.

Rotary members throughout the world develop and implement sustainable, community-driven projects that fight disease, promote peace, provide clean water, support education, save mothers and children, grow local economies and protect the environment. More than US\$5.5 billion has been awarded through The Rotary Foundation—Rotary's charitable arm that helps clubs work together to perform meaningful, impactful service—to support these and other initiatives over the last 100 years.

ADDITIONAL QUOTES

Rotary International Vice President Pat Merryweather-Arges

"Rotary members from throughout the world are looking forward to 2029 when we can all join together in the multi-cultural city of Minneapolis, in the heartland of America," said Pat Merryweather-Arges. "Minneapolis is host to many large conventions due to the warm hospitality of the residents and the endless amount of entertainment, sports, shopping, and natural habitats and reserves. While it is five years away, we are already packing our bags, making plans, and looking forward to Minneapolis in 2029!"

St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter

"This event marks a significant opportunity for our vibrant Twin Cities community to showcase our spirit of service, diversity, and leadership," said Saint Paul Mayor Melvin Carter. "We look forward to hosting more than 15,000 attendees and providing an ideal setting for connection, collaboration, and the exchange of ideas that will undoubtedly contribute to positive, lasting change in communities worldwide."

Mayor Tim Busse

"Bloomington is looking forward to working with Minneapolis and St. Paul to make the Rotary International 2029 convention a huge success. With the Mall of America and our experience welcoming the world to Minnesota, I know Rotarians are going to really enjoy their time here. And I know from my own experience with historic Rotary #9 in Minneapolis that our Host Organizing Committee and all our volunteers will be ready to shine in 2029."

Melvin Tennant – President & CEO, Meet Minneapolis

"We have a robust and active Rotary community. We are excited and eager to help our local Rotarians showcase the spirit of Minneapolis to their fellow members," said Meet Minneapolis President and CEO Melvin Tennant. "Our city's tourism and hospitality workers have built a reputation for their welcoming, inclusive, and authentic spirit of service. I know they will help create memorable experiences for all Rotary International Convention attendees."

