



**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

April 1, 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?

The San Antonio Northeast Rotary Club is planning to host a Trivia Night fundraiser in the near future. Think of tonight's meeting as a Club Assembly on how to host a successful trivia night. We are asking for all club members to come to tonight's meeting and share their input on when, where, and how we can host a great event. Please bring your ideas.

## How to Host TRIVIA NIGHT

### UPCOMING PROGRAMS

April 8th **Dr. Tarah Hadley**  
Senior Director of Veterinary Care  
San Antonio Zoo



We do not have any scheduled speakers after Dr. Hadley speaks to us on April 8th. Club members are encouraged to try and arrange for speakers starting April 15th. Please contact Dan Clark if you have any questions.

### Birthdays & Anniversaries

Dan Hernandez will be celebrating his 3rd Rotary Anniversary on April 5th.



At the start of tonight our Happy Bucks pot is up to \$47. That means if your ticket is drawn tonight and you pull the Joker out of the deck, you will leave with at least \$23.50.

**FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER**

FRIDAY, APRIL 04, 2025 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM  
AGGIE PARK EVENT CENTER  
6205 WEST AVE. SAN ANTONIO, TX 78213

52 CARD DRAW | HEADS OR TAILS | WINE RAFFLE  
DONATION BOARDS TO INFLUENCE CHANGE

\$50 PER PERSON | \$400 PER TABLE (8)

FREE ADMISSION FOR MAJOR DONORS AND ENDOWMENT DONORS THAT GAVE \$10,000 IN RY24-25

PROCEEDS TO FUND THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

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## DG Kristen Salazar's Message for April

The theme for April is Environmental Month. This month we are reminded of our responsibility to protect and preserve the planet for future generations. Rotary's commitment to Supporting the Environment, our newest area of focus, calls on us to take meaningful action to combat climate change, reduce waste, and promote sustainability in our communities.



This month, I encourage each club in our district to initiate or participate in projects that foster environmental stewardship. Whether it's tree planting, clean-up drives, recycling initiatives, or awareness campaigns, every effort counts. Small actions, when multiplied by many, create a significant impact. Let us work together to create a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable world. As People of Action, we have the power to drive change—not just for today, but for generations to come.

PDG Monica and I are looking forward to seeing many of you on April 4th at the Foundation FUNdraiser! If you haven't already registered please do so ASAP by visiting <https://rotary5840.org/50118/Event/CloudEventDetail?Permalink=2025-foundation-fundraiser>.

I'm also excited to see so many of you at the Celebration of Districts, May 2nd - 4th in San Marcos. The hotel has agreed to extend access to the room block rate to April 8th so make sure you book your room before then. You can register for the event, book your room, and view the program at <https://rotary5840.org/events/celebration-of-districts/>. Members from District 5870 and 5840 have been working hard on this event for several months now and we can't wait to celebrate with so many of our AMAZING Rotarians! Highlights of the weekend include:

**Casino Night:** Roll the dice and try your luck at our thrilling Casino Night. Enjoy a variety of classic games such as blackjack, roulette, and poker, all in a friendly and spirited atmosphere. Theme is speakeasy/roaring twenties.

**Fellowship:** Connect with fellow Rotarians and guests from both districts as we celebrate the bonds that unite us in service and friendship.

**Entertainment:** Delight in live music, dancing, and entertainment throughout the evening, creating moments of joy and celebration. Join us as we come together to celebrate the spirit of Rotary and the power of friendship. See you there!

Rotary District 5870

Rotary District 5840

## Celebration of Districts

MAY 2-4, 2025

SAN MARCOS, TX  
EMBASSY SUITES

We were pleased to welcome Susan Burkholder from Ransomed Life as our speaker last week. Susan is the Lead Trainer for Prevention Education with Ransomed Life. The mission of Ransomed Life is to prevent Child Sexual Exploitation and provide holistic mental health care and restoration services for youth and families that are at-risk or have already experienced exploitation. Susan gave a very powerful and informative presentation to the club members in attendance. After her presentation, club president Russell Sturgeon presented Susan with a speaker's certificate of appreciation. There was no need to give Susan a copy of the Rotary magazine because Susan is a member of the Fair Oaks Ranch Rotary Club. Susan welcomes the opportunity to speak to other area Rotary clubs.



We continue to distribute the approximate 4,000 disposable gowns given to the San Antonio Northeast Rotary Club. Like the one shown here.



## Texas Diaper Bank



Don Yeaton from the San Antonio Northwest Rotary Club picked up 1,000 of the gowns, and along with San Antonio Northwest Rotary Club

president Richard Trefflich, on the left in the blue shirt. Transported the gowns to the University of Texas at San Antonio - Laboratory Animal Resource Center.

Carmen Maglievaz picked up 500 of the gowns for the patient care technician program for the school where she works. DGN Bobby Martinez rode along to help load the boxes into the back of the pickup.



Thanks again to Linda Lopez of the Texas Diaper Bank for thinking of the San Antonio Northeast Rotary Club to help distribute the disposable gowns to organizations that need them.

Club members are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items for the Madison Interact Club's Food Pantry to our meetings.



Suggested items to bring include canned meats / proteins, dried / canned fruits and vegetables, snack sized breakfast bars, crackers, jerky, fruit snacks, ready to eat / just add water items such as pasta / sauce, rice (flavored or regular), mac-n-cheese cups, ramen, soup, stew, boxed meals, microwaveable means (not frozen), and Chef Boyardee. Paper goods such as toilet paper, paper towels, napkins, tissues, paper plates, plasticware, and paper cups are also needed.

Speaking of the Madison High School Interact Club, the club held its latest meeting on Monday, March 31st. Even though the school year, you can see from the attached photo that the club still has a lot of events planned before school lets out for the Summer. Thanks to Interact Club sponsor Janeen Downen and all the Madison Interact Club members for all the projects they work on in our community.



## Rotary Night at Missions Baseball

Join us for a great night at the ballpark. Ticket price includes food, beer and soft drinks. We'll have a private deck. Tickets are limited so sign up today.

- Thursday, May 22nd
- Buffet opens at 6:00 p.m.
- Game begins at 7:05 p.m.
- Fiesta Deck
- \$35.00 person
- All food and drink included



The San Antonio Missions Fiesta Deck is an all-inclusive, private, multi-level deck. It includes an ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT meal that includes hamburgers, hot dogs, beef and chicken fajitas, and nacho bar. Plus, snack on popcorn, cookies, and chips and salsa throughout the game while washing it down with refreshing Coca-Cola products or ICE COLD BEER!! (Food is available from 6-9 or until the 7th inning, whichever comes first.)

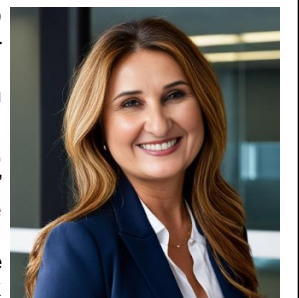
Click the following link to purchase tickets: <https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/3FXRB75T3KV5A>

## Rotary honors a teacher and mentor with the 2025 Sylvia Whitlock Leadership Award

**This Turkish Rotarian has promoted women's financial literacy, funded scholarships for girls, and provided relief to earthquake victims**

by Etelka Lehoczky

The 2025 recipient of Rotary's Sylvia Whitlock Leadership Award combines a longstanding commitment to empowering women with a talent for teaching and mentorship. Ayda Özeren, a member of the Rotary Club of Izmir-Günderdogdu, Izmir, Turkey, is an author, mediator, and professional speaker whose work has touched the lives of as many as 11,000 women and girls. "We have to change the leadership process. We should make more women leaders," she says.



Özeren has spent years conducting financial literacy workshops for women as well as organizing mentorship opportunities and tutoring programs for girls. She published a book and donated all the proceeds to funding girls' scholarships. In 2023-24, as governor of Rotary District 2440, she took the lead in relief efforts for victims of the 2023 Turkey-Syria earthquakes. "I find her remarkable and inspiring, because whatever she does, she does it with her heart," says Yeşim Yöney, a member of the Rotary E-Club of District 2440, who co-nominated Özeren for the award. "She's a hard worker, a good planner, and she is somebody who is positive, who embraces people. I think that's a very important thing in a leader."

Özeren studied political science, international relations, and marketing. While pursuing a career in the banking industry, she learned how to be a teacher. She began conducting financial literacy seminars after her bank developed a program to provide startup funding to female entrepreneurs. Through Rotary, she led similar classes for women in rural areas, factories, and schools. She visited more than 100 factories and small manufacturing companies, educating around 8,000 women about finances and economic empowerment. It was by teaching others, Özeren says, that she learned how to lead. "As a result of doing so many coaching programs, I became a facilitator. I became a trainer," she says. "At the same time, I started tutoring in a university, giving lessons in strategic management. It was a little tough, it was very challenging for me, because I had to study each subject first before I could give a lecture to the students."

Özeren found her next avocation almost by accident. She decided to try writing a blog, called Diary of a Banker, and discovered her talents as a communicator. In 2021 she published a book, "Aziz Coguz Biziz" (the title, she explains, translates roughly to "We are more when we are together"). She resolved to donate her royalties to pay for scholarships for girls, funding around 1,000 scholarships. "Nobody pushed her to write a book," Yöney says. "She just said, 'I'm going to donate all the proceeds to empowering girls with scholarships.' She's a strong personality. As a woman leader myself, I really admire her."

Özeren pursued many economic relief projects after the 2023 earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. She led efforts to provide mobile health care and dental facilities. Through a project called The Golden Needle, she helped women find work making traditional textiles. She also collaborated with city governments to distribute olive and sumac saplings to women in the farming sector, enabling them to continue farming after their crops were destroyed. The latter initiative helped keep the farmers on their land and is expected to employ more than 2,000 people by the time it's finished. "I was the district governor-elect at the time, so I just worked a lot to raise funds and get funding to the right places," she says. "In those times you don't think, you just help." A Rotarian for more than two decades, Özeren has served as her club's president, a Rotary Public Image Chair, and her district's executive secretary as well as the governor of District 2440. She is a member of The Rotary Foundation's Cadre of Technical Advisers. She got her start in Rotaract and still maintains close relationships with her Rotaract friends. "I'm still proud of being a Rotaractor. I still have that Rotaract spirit," she says. "I always keep in touch with Rotaractors and try to get them involved in the international world of Rotary."