



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

UNITE FOR GOOD



the Nor'easter



Rotary Club of San Antonio Northeast



April 14, 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 Maddie Aguilar, our Global Education Scholar that studied in Madrid, Spain in 2024-2025. Maddie is going to give us a presentation about her time that she spent in Spain and other areas of Europe. The San Antonio Northeast Rotary Club was very proud to be Maddie's Sponsor.



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

April 21st Dr. Elizabeth Mitchell
McNay Art Museum

April 28th Joslyn Campbell
Mobility Worldwide San Antonio

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Paul Harris, the founder of Rotary was born on April 19, 1868.



San Antonio Northeast Rotarians will be volunteering at the San Antonio and South Texas Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association's **TOMORROW** Wednesday, April 15th from 5:45 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The Alzheimer's Association is located at 1100 Northwest Loop 410, Suite 302. Volunteers will be calling those that have participated in the Walk to End Alzheimer's before and remind them that this year's walk will take place on Saturday, November 7th, 2026.



At the start of tonight our Happy Bucks pot is up to \$404. That means if your ticket is drawn tonight and you pull the Joker out of the deck, you will leave with at least \$202.



WANTED

"LET'S GO WESTERN NIGHT"

Hosted by
The Greater Randolph Area Services Program, Inc.
GRASP COMMUNITY CENTER
250 Donalan Drive
Converse, Texas 78109

SPONSORED AND PRESENTED BY:
Randolph Metrocom Rotary Club
Northeast San Antonio Rotary Club

Thursday April 16, 2026
6p.m. to 9:00p.m.

Dinner catered by Bluebonnet Palace
Dinner, Dancing & Prizes
Music by Carlos Barrera

(Western Attire Preferred)
RSVP 210-658-6351

THURSDAY

THURSDAY



The education of Paul Harris: From rascal to scholar

Before he died, Rotary founder Paul Harris requested that memorial donations, in lieu of flowers, be made to The Rotary Foundation to support education. But in his youth, Harris was a mischievous child and an itinerant student.



The school Paul Harris attended as a child in Wallingford, Vermont, circa 1933-38

Harris was born in 1868 in Racine, Wisconsin. Three years later, as the family struggled financially, Paul and his older brother, Cecil, were sent to live with their paternal grandparents in Wallingford, Vermont, in 1871, where Harris attended primary school in a single-room schoolhouse that today serves as the meeting place of the Rotary Club of Wallingford. He was prone to playing pranks and hooky, later attending secondary school in Rutland, Vermont. He was expelled from Black River Academy in Ludlow after only a few weeks.



Paul Harris as a student at the University of Vermont in Burlington

Later in life, he reflected that "the thirst for learning is a New England characteristic. ... I had no objection to reading, assuming that the reading be something sensible; I did not consider "Pilgrim's Progress" nor "Plutarch's Lives" in that category."



Freshman football players at the University of Vermont, including a young Paul Harris, circa 1885. The '89 signifies that the players were to be in the graduating class of 1889.

After attending the Vermont Military Academy, Harris enrolled at the University of Vermont in Burlington in 1885. He tried out for the freshman football team and earned a spot on it. In December 1886, he and three others were expelled for their conduct as members of an underground society. He later wrote that although he was innocent of the particular act that he was accused of, the expulsion was nonetheless justified.

"I ably assisted in the organization of an underground society 'for the subjugation of unruly freshmen.' The operations of this clandestine organization gave new color to life at the University. President Buckham became conscious of the change and banished four of the organization's most faithful workers from college. I was one of the four."

Harris spent the following spring with a private tutor hired by his grandfather, and later in 1887, he began his studies anew at Princeton University. His time at school was cut short, however, by the death of his grandfather in March 1888. Though Harris completed the semester, he did not return for the next academic year.



Paul Harris, shortly after he graduated from the University of Iowa law school in 1891

Instead, Harris spent a year working for the Sheldon Marble Company in West Rutland, Vermont. After the year, he made good on his promise to his grandmother that he would work hard, make something of himself, and honor his grandfather's memory.

He spent the next year working at a law firm in Des Moines, Iowa. After this apprenticeship, he enrolled at the University of Iowa and graduated with a Bachelor of Laws in June 1891. He later received several honorary degrees, including a Bachelor of Arts and a Doctor of Laws from the University of Vermont.

Review from last week

Our friend Jay Higginson from the Randolph Metrocom Rotary Club paid us a visit and gave us an update on this year's GRASP Western Night. The Greater Randolph Area Services Program (GRASP) is an annual event where Rotarians from the Randolph Metrocom and San Antonio Northeast Rotary Clubs volunteer at the GRASP Senior Center and serve a barbeque dinner to the seniors in attendance. This year's event will take place on Thursday, April 16th. Debbie Degollado's ticket was drawn for our weekly raffle but she did not pull the joker. Our happy bucks pot continues to grow.



Our speaker last week was Carlos A. Martinez, Jr. Carlos is a member of the Texas Cavaliers. He gave us a history of the annual Texas Cavaliers River Parade that started back in 1941. He also spoke about the Texas Cavaliers partnering with TEAMability, Inc. TEAMability is a San Antonio-based nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering children and adults with disabilities to reach their full potential. After his presentation, Club Secretary Dan Clark presented Carlos with a Speaker's Certificate of Appreciation and a copy of the Rotary magazine.



The San Antonio Northeast Rotary Club was well represented last Thursday at the annual Rotary Night at the Missions baseball game hosted by the Rotary Club of San Antonio. Even though the Missions, Flying Chanclas, did not win, a good time was had by all.



Join Us at the District 5840 Conference & Club Leader Training

Join us in New Braunfels for the Rotary District 5840 District Conference & Club Leader Training on May 1–2. We kick off at the Brauntex Theatre with an inspiring keynote from JC (James) Clapsaddle, recipient of Rotary International's prestigious Service Above Self Award. In his presentation, "Rotary's Role in Worldwide Peace," JC will share firsthand insights from his experience in Rotary's humanitarian relief efforts and the global impact of our mission.

On May 2nd, we begin with a Peace Pole installation, followed by our District Awards celebration and Club Leader Training for Rotary Year 2026–27.

Raffles will be held throughout the event — two-day attendees receive one raffle ticket, first-time attendees receive two, with more available for purchase.

Don't miss this opportunity for inspiration, celebration, and leadership development.

Register at the link below now to secure early bird pricing while it lasts!

<https://rotary5840.org/events/2026-district-conference-club-leader-training/>

UNITE FOR PEACE
DISTRICT CONFERENCE & CLUB LEADERSHIP SEMINAR
 NEW BRAUNFELS - MAY 1-2
 Guest Speaker: JC CLAPSADLE
 Join us for two inspiring days of fellowship, celebration, and leadership!
 Hear Service Above Self Award recipient JC (James) Clapsaddle
 Peace Pole installation
 District Awards Celebration
 Club Leadership Seminar for 2026-27
 Raffles throughout the event
FRIDAY - BRAUNTEX THEATER
SATURDAY - COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT
 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

A visit to the seed bank: preserving the future of our history

by Christian Clauwers

As a documentary photographer and explorer, my work has always centered on humanity's fragile relationship with nature. Over the past decade, I have documented the retreat of glaciers, the erosion of coastlines, and the disappearance of entire ecosystems across the Arctic, Antarctic, and Pacific. These experiences compelled me to seek out the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, a place where our shared history and future are stored, frozen deep within the permafrost.

I first wanted to visit the Seed Vault because I saw it as more than just a scientific repository. To me, it is a symbol of resilience and hope, a silent promise that even in times of crisis, we can safeguard the genetic memory of our planet. My photography often captures loss and vulnerability, but the vault represents continuity. It bridges the fragility of our present with the possibility of renewal.

Walking through the tunnels carved into Arctic rock, what impressed me most was the humility of the place. There is no spectacle or grandeur, only shelves of sealed boxes, each containing the seeds of civilizations. Wheat, rice, maize, sorghum ... humble grains that feed billions. Behind every sample lies a story of farmers, cultures, and landscapes. What struck me is that while wars are fought over power and borders, here nations (including North Korea) quietly collaborate to protect what is essential for all of us: the foundation of life itself.

What worries me most about climate change is how rapidly the safety nets of humanity are being tested. I have seen Pacific atolls disappearing under rising seas, permafrost collapsing and releasing ancient methane, coral reefs crumbling into bleached rubble. Climate change does not only alter landscapes, it erodes cultures and displaces communities. Standing inside the Seed Vault, I asked myself: if the permafrost melts, if the political will fails, then what?

This is why the work Rotary is doing inspires me. Rotary connects local action to global vision. Whether it is restoring ecosystems, supporting communities facing disaster, or investing in education, Rotary embodies the principle that solutions are not only technical but also human. What compelled me to become a Rotarian was precisely this combination of pragmatism and hope. In my expeditions, I have seen that resilience comes from collaboration, from people who decide together that the future is worth protecting. Rotary makes that collaboration real.

Visiting the Svalbard Seed Vault left me with a sense of responsibility. My photographs may not stop the seas from rising, but they can spark conversations that lead to change. The vault reminded me that while we preserve the seeds of tomorrow, we must also nurture the soils of today. That dual task, safeguarding the future while acting in the present, is what drives my work as a visual storyteller and as a Rotarian.



Inside the Svalbard Global Seed Vault.
 Photo by Christian Clauwers

Christian Clauwers is an internationally renowned Belgian documentary photographer, explorer, environmental advocate, and impact storyteller. He has been a member of the Rotary Club of Antwerpen-Oost, Belgium, since 2022.