



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 Jeremy Sneed, Director of Public Relations with the San Antonio Missions Baseball Club. Jeremy first began working for the Missions in 2019 before returning to the organization in 2021. He served as the Public Relations Assistant in 2019 and began his tenure as Director of Public Relations prior to the 2021 season. Joining Jeremy this evening is Analee Reyes, Social Media & Marketing Manager for the Missions.



The San Antonio Missions are the Alamo City's entry in the Texas League. The Missions, who sometimes play as the Flying Chancas, are the Double-A affiliate of the San Diego Padres. The Flying Chancas honor the matriarch of the Latino family, the Abuela (grandmother), and her symbol of strength, discipline and love with its on-field persona for this special series of events. The Missions play their home games at Nelson W. Wolff Municipal Stadium, which opened in 1994 and seats over 6,200 people with a total capacity of over 9,000.

Jeremy also spent time as a broadcast intern with the Tampa Bay Rays in 2020 prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. He is originally from Schaumburg, Illinois and attended Southern Illinois University. He received his cum laude bachelor's degree in Radio, Television & Digital Media and graduated in 2018. While in college, he served as a radio personality on 101.5 CIL FM and was one of the play-by-play voices for SIU women's basketball. Jeremy is a proud supporter of the Chicago White Sox, Blackhawks, Bears, and Bulls sports teams.



### UPCOMING SPEAKERS

June 6th  
Analyn Jimenez,  
Fraud Prevention

### INSTALLATION CEREMONY AND AWARDS BANQUET

Our Annual Installation Ceremony and Awards Banquet will be held on Tuesday, June 27th at 6:00 p.m. at The Cottage Irish Pub located at 3810 Broadway, San Antonio, TX 78209. More details to follow. **Please mark your calendar for this end of the Rotary year celebration.**



### Birthdays & Anniversaries

Anthony Strickland will be celebrating his birthday on May 29th. Happy Birthday, Anthony.

The San Antonio Northeast Rotary Club's will be celebrating its 36th Anniversary on Friday, May 19th.

If our Rotary club is celebrating its 36th anniversary, that means that Charter Members Bob Barron and Dennis Heath are also celebrating their 36th Rotary Anniversary. Congratulations gentlemen. Thank you for everything that you have done for our club over the years.



At the start of tonight our Happy Bucks pot is up to \$1,180. That means if your ticket is drawn and you draw the Joker tonight, you are going to be going home with at least **\$590**.

### LAST CHANCE TO TURN IN YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS

The District 5840 Raffle benefitting The Rotary Foundation will take place on **this Saturday, May 20, 2023**. Club president Debbie Degollado will pass out the tickets this evening at our meeting. The dollar amount of the tickets you sell will go towards your Paul Harris. The prizes for this year's raffle is a \$1,000 VISA Debit Card awarded to each of the seven (7) tickets drawn.



### May Message from District Governor Dwayne Hopkins

Wow, what an amazing Rotary District 5840 District Conference! We had 200 Rotarians from the District attend this event at the UTSA R.A.C.E. center. A special thank you to PDG Jan Livingston (District Conference Chair) and the entire District Conference Committee for doing such an amazing job in organizing the event. Clearly, an event this size can not happen without a committee doing great work up front, during and after the conference.



UTSA opened their doors for our district and blessed us with Coach Carol Price-Torok as the District Conference Keynote Speaker. The Coach covered key leadership points and the pillars she focuses on in coaching Volleyball at UTSA.

During the District Conference, I was honored to present some amazing awards to Rotarians who have worked very hard this year. Rosie Ramirez was awarded the prestigious "Rotarian Of The Year" award. Max El Tawil was awarded the coveted "Rotary Club President of the Year" award. The "Rotary Club of the Year" award went to the Rotary Club of Fredericksburg Nimitz under the leadership of Club President Cindy Turner. The "Assistant Governor of the Year" was awarded to Sarah Eckart-Maurer from the Fredericksburg Morning Club. The District Golden Leadership Award went to PDG Jerry Hardy. In addition, Leadership awards went to Pam Blankenzee, Susan Burkholder, and Johanna Crespo-Quinones. We also had an opportunity to present the "Rotary Rockstar Challenge" Awards to many Clubs.

As we get near the end of the Rotary year we need to stay focused on our goals. Fellow Rotarians often say the Rotary year is almost done. I return by saying, we are not finished until the last day of our Rotary year. In other words, we still have work to be done. District membership is steady but we need to continue to retain our current members while drawing in new members. Focus, focus, and focus with a kind smile. We have almost reached our goal in Polio Plus with 92 percent of the goal reached. However, we still have 21 clubs who need to turn in contributions. All of us in the District can help with Foundation contributions by enrolling in Rotary Direct. The District still needs about 75 new members to enroll in Rotary Direct to reach our Rotary Direct sign-up goal. In Foundation giving, we have reached about 82 percent of our goal. So, we still have a little work in this area. Keep in mind, our District goals are the goals of each and every club combined together. We are close to reaching every goal but have just a little more work. I am so proud of all the amazing accomplishments by Rotarians in the District. I see people working hard in their communities with pride in Service-Above-Self.

DG Dwayne Hopkins

Rotary  
District 5840

### Club's Celebration Cruise



4 Night Western Caribbean  
May 2, 2024 - May 6, 2024

05/02/24 - Depart Galveston  
05/03/24 - Fun day at Sea  
05/04/24 - Cozumel, Mexico  
05/05/24 - Fun day at Sea  
05/06/24 - Arrive Galveston



ms Carnival Breeze

### Stateroom Pricing including taxes & fees:

- Interior Stateroom: \$488.20 per person with 2 people sharing / \$905.20 for single occupant
- Ocean View Stateroom: \$585.20 per person with 2 people sharing / \$1099.20 for single occupant
- Balcony Stateroom: \$675.20 per person with 2 people sharing / \$1279.20 for single occupant



\$25 per person deposit due by 04/08/23  
Full Deposit of \$150 per person due by 01/03/24  
Full Balance due by 02/17/24

Space is limited - contact Monica Jones to reserve your spot:  
Email: monica@splendorsofttravel.com | Phone: 210-313-7952 (call/text)





We were pleased to welcome Linda Porter-Wenzlaff as our guest speaker on May 2nd. Linda is the Co-Director of the CARE program. She is also the Pooch Parade Coordinator which took place this past Saturday. Therapy Animals of San Antonio is an all volunteer non-profit organization whose mission since 1989 has been to bring people and animals together for healing. This is done with their therapy teams' visits to hospitals and other facilities, educational presentations, and their StoryTails literacy program in the greater San Antonio area, as well as, the CARE program bringing teams with enhanced training to crisis situations across Texas.

After her very informative and interesting presentation, club president Debbie Degollado presented a Certificate of Appreciation for speaking to our Rotary club. Even though Linda's four-legged best friend Indigo Moon could not attend the meeting, we also presented him a certificate.



At our last meeting we inducted Maria Ramirez as our newest club member. Maria classification is Bridge Inspector. Club president Debbie Degollado presented Maria with her Certificate of Membership. Welcome Maria to the San Antonio Northeast Rotary Club.



San Antonio Northeast Rotarians and Madison Interactors will be putting up these signs in the parking lot of Madison High School this Thursday, May 18th starting at 4:15 p.m. Thanks go out to Madison Interact Sponsor Janeen Downen for helping coordinate this project. Please let Dan Clark know if you can help with this service project.

**Rotary Night at the Missions, Flying Chancas**

Becky Robles, Preston McKinney, Becky Goering, and Dan Clark represented the San Antonio Northeast Rotary Club at the Rotary Night at the Missions on Thursday, May 11th. They enjoyed the game as the "Flying Chancas", the alter ego of the San Antonio Missions defeated the Corpus Christi Hooks 3-1. Thanks go out to Rudy Rubio of the San Antonio Pearl Rotary Club for the great selfie. Dan somehow found himself between Balapeño and the Abuela. The good news is that he did not get hit by a flying chancla. A big thanks to Anne Swift, Executive Director for the Rotary Club of San Antonio, for coordinating the great event. We had over 90 folks come out to cheer on the Flying Chancas out on the Fiesta Deck.



**Rotarians in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, USA, tout their town as baseball's true birthplace**  
by Kevin Cook \*

If you're a baseball fan, you probably think of Cooperstown, N.Y., as the game's birthplace. That's why the Hall of Fame is there, right? But the Cooperstown story is a myth. The Hall of Fame itself refers to the "mythical first game" there. That first ballgame, supposedly played in 1839, is the sort of alternative fact the New York American sportswriter Damon Runyon called "the old phonus balonus.

So where did baseball really start? "Right here," says Phil Massery, pointing at the turf beneath his feet. We're at Rotary Park in Pittsfield, a cozy town in western Massachusetts, USA. He and 30 other Rotarians are enjoying a summer barbecue in lieu of their usual meeting at a hotel. The park, with its playground built by Massery and other members of the Pittsfield club, adjoins a Little League diamond. Wherever you go in Pittsfield, baseball is nearby. "I've got nothing against Cooperstown," Massery says, "but people should know the Hall of Fame is there by mistake." He laughs. "I doubt they'll move it here, though."

Sitting in the shade with library director Alex Reczkowski, insurance agent John Murphy, and other local leaders, Massery, a real estate broker, tells the true story of baseball's history. "It starts with Cooperstown, all right, but not the way people think." Back in 1904, sporting goods tycoon Albert Spalding named a panel of experts to determine how the national pastime had begun. But Spalding didn't want to hear that the sport had evolved from English games such as cricket and rounders. He said – and this is a direct quote – "Our good old American game of baseball must have an American Dad." So it got one. The panel declared that Civil War Gen. Abner Doubleday invented baseball in Cooperstown in 1839. Never mind that Doubleday was a plebe at West Point at the time. Never mind that Doubleday never claimed to have anything to do with inventing baseball. (One historian wrote that the man "didn't know a baseball from a kumquat.") Fans and sportswriters bought the story, and the Hall of Fame opened in Cooperstown in 1939 to mark the 100th anniversary of the First Game that never was.



Image by Dave Cutler

"Now flash-forward 65 years," Massery says. In 2004 John Thorn, Major League Baseball's official historian, discovered a document written in Pittsfield in 1791. "George Washington was president. There were still only 13 states. But there was already baseball here in Pittsfield. How do we know? Because kids were knocking windows out of the town church!"

City fathers didn't want rocks, horsehide-covered balls, or anything else pocking the First Congregational meetinghouse. They had paid Charles Bulfinch, the architect who was about to design the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., to build it. So they passed a local law. "For the Preservation of the Windows in the New Meeting House," it read, "no Person, an Inhabitant of said Town, shall be permitted to play at any Game called Wicket, Cricket, Baseball ... or any other Game or Games with Balls within the Distance of Eighty Yards." This was the first known mention of the national game in American history. As Thorn announced at a press conference, "It's clear that not only was baseball played here in 1791, but it was rampant." A Hall of Fame spokesman called the discovery "incredibly monumental." "Pittsfield," crowed then-Mayor James Ruberto, "is baseball's Garden of Eden." George Washington was president. There were still only 13 states. But there was already baseball here in Pittsfield. How do we know? Because kids were knocking windows out of the town church!

Today the Pittsfield Rotary Club holds its regular meetings at a hotel a block from Park Square. It's a long fly ball from there to the spot where schoolkids played 226 years ago. In those days, Park Square was a grassy block at the crossing of the town's main roads. It would have taken quite a clout to launch a ball from there to the meetinghouse. You would think such a shot might earn a kid a hip-hip-hooray. But the descendants of the Puritans frowned on such displays, so we can imagine the young Pittsfielders pioneering something like today's walk-off home run. Somebody smacks a long one, they all wait for the sound of breaking glass and run off as fast as they can.

What was the game like in those days? "The basepaths would have been shorter than they are today," says historian Thorn. "The ball would be smaller than the one we're used to, and softer. Fielders would throw base runners out by 'soaking' them – hitting them with the ball." More than two centuries later, Park Square is a leafy ellipse in the middle of a busy traffic circle. It's a couple hundred feet from there to the towering First Church of Christ on the site of the old meetinghouse and the small plaque beside the church. ON THIS SITE IN 1791, it reads, A NEW MEETING HOUSE OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL PARISH IN PITTSFIELD WAS BEING COMPLETED WHEN SEVERAL OF ITS WINDOWS WERE BROKEN AS A RESULT OF BALL GAMES. But few visitors notice the plaque. Even among people born and raised here, as Massery was, few know that Park Square is a special place. "That's our own fault," he says. "We haven't done enough to get the word out."

At the barbecue, talk turns to baseball. Club President Jeff Hassett recalls his dad's days running the local Babe Ruth League. Another Rotarian remembers his Little League years, when his coach said that "we had a tradition to uphold – years and years of Pittsfield baseball. Thousands of years, I thought. Maybe millions. I was 12!" Reczkowski mentions that the library he runs is where the 1791 document was found. "We've got it in a vault," says the library director, who knows his local lore. "Our minor league diamond, Wahconah Park, is one of only two in America that face west. Did you know that? It means that the batter looks right into the late-afternoon sun. We've got a park that has rain delays and sun delays. And our team, of course, is called the Suns."

Of course they all know why other ballparks face east. It's so the batter has the afternoon sun behind him. That means the pitcher faces west, which is why left-handers are called southpaws. Eric Schaffer used to watch his beloved Chicago Cubs on jumbo screens in Las Vegas casinos. Schaffer, who moved east with his Pittsfield-born wife 20 years ago, likes the "baseball feel" of New England and the regular-folks vibe of the local Rotary club. "It's nice and casual here," he says. "Plus the fines aren't so bad. My cell goes off at a meeting in Pittsfield, OK, I'll pay a dollar. The Vegas Rotary met at Harrah's – there were some high rollers in that club. My phone went off in Vegas and it was, 'Schaffer, that's a \$100 fine.'" He and Massery and the others agree that Pittsfield could use an extra dose of pilgrims' pride. "We should be one of the capitals of baseball," Massery says. "I'm not saying the capital, but we really should be better known."

The Hall of Fame at Cooperstown now recognizes Pittsfield, displaying a copy of the 1791 document near the front door. Serious fans know about the game's roots in Pittsfield. "So why aren't we capitalizing on it?" Massery asks. He did his part by paying for hundreds of baseball caps emblazoned "1791." Local Rotarians wear them. But now he's thinking bigger. He has his eyes on an abandoned building downtown. "We could turn it into a tourist attraction, our own little hall of fame."

And what if someone finds evidence of a still-earlier baseball game? Wouldn't that spoil everything? "I feel good about our claim to fame. We got a lot of attention when the document turned up. Since then, every town in New England has had 13 years to rummage through its records. If they were going to beat us, they'd have done it by now."

\* Kevin Cook is a member of the Rotary Club of Northampton, Massachusetts, and a frequent contributor to *The Rotarian*. His latest book, "Electric October," is about the epic 1947 World Series.