



PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION MONTH



Rotary creates environments of peace

As a humanitarian organization, peace is a cornerstone of our mission. We believe when people work to create peace in their communities, that change can have a global effect. By carrying out service projects and supporting peace fellowships and scholarships, our members take action to address the underlying causes of conflict, including poverty, discrimination, ethnic tension, lack of access to education, and unequal distribution of resources.

Our commitment to peacebuilding today answers new challenges: how we can make the greatest possible impact and how we can achieve our vision of lasting change. We are approaching the concept of peace with greater cohesion and inclusivity, broadening the scope of what we mean by peacebuilding, and finding more ways for people to get involved. Rotary creates environments where peace can happen.

PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION MONTH

Every February, Rotary International observes **Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month**, a time to focus on fostering peace, preventing conflicts, and promoting nonviolent solutions worldwide. This theme underscores one of Rotary's six areas of focus: **Promoting Peace and Conflict Prevention**. With millions affected by violence, war, and social unrest, Rotary plays a crucial role in building bridges of understanding and reconciliation.

The Importance of Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention

Peace is not merely the absence of war but a state where individuals and communities thrive through justice, equity, and security. Conflict and violence displace millions every year, making peace initiatives essential to global stability. Through education, dialogue, and strategic interventions, peace can be cultivated at both local and international levels.

The Importance of Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention

Rotary International works towards peace in several ways, including:

1. **Rotary Peace Centers:** Established in partnership with leading universities worldwide, these centers train peace fellows in conflict resolution, diplomacy, and sustainable development.
2. **Community-Based Peace Projects:** Rotary clubs organize initiatives addressing the root causes of conflict, such as poverty, discrimination, and lack of access to education.
3. **Mediation and Dialogue:** By facilitating conversations among conflicting parties, Rotary helps to de-escalate tensions and foster mutual understanding.
4. **Scholarships and Grants:** Through global grants, Rotary funds peace and development programs, empowering local leaders to create sustainable peace solutions.
5. **Youth Engagement:** Programs like Rotary Youth Exchange and Rotaract encourage young leaders to become ambassadors of peace in their communities.

Peacebuilding and conflict prevention are fundamental to creating a world where all individuals can live with dignity and security. Rotary's commitment to these goals continues to make a global impact. This February, let us all reflect on ways we can contribute to a more peaceful world, both through Rotary and in our daily lives.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

This month, as we come together for the International Assembly and the Presidential Peace Conference, we celebrate The Magic of Rotary — a unique blend of global connection, vision, and action that empowers us to create lasting change.

One of the most inspiring examples is our Rotary Peace Fellowship program, a cornerstone of Rotary's mission to build a more peaceful and just world.

For more than 23 years, Rotary Peace Fellowships have been transforming communities. Our Rotary Peace Centers, hosted at leading universities around the globe, have educated over 1,800 fellows who now work in more than 140 countries.

These centers cultivate expertise in fields like conflict resolution, sustainable development, and peacebuilding, preparing fellows to tackle some of the world's most pressing challenges. This program exemplifies how Rotary turns vision into action, creating a ripple effect of hope and change.

This month during the Presidential Peace Conference, we celebrate a significant milestone with the opening of our newest peace center in Istanbul. This center will focus on training leaders to address peacebuilding challenges in the Middle East and North Africa, further extending Rotary's impact.

Peace fellows are dedicated champions of transformation, addressing critical issues such as refugee resettlement, youth and women's empowerment, and reconciliation in conflict zones. Many founded vital organizations or hold leadership roles in governments, nongovernmental organizations, and international institutions like the United Nations and World Bank.


One inspiring story is that of Ntang Julius Meleng, a 2024 Rotary Peace Fellow at Makerere University in Uganda. Through his Social Change Initiative, Julius has worked to empower young people in Cameroon to take active roles in peacebuilding and leadership.

His project provided training in conflict prevention, civic engagement, and leadership to youths and community officials in areas affected by conflict, equipping people to drive sustainable peace efforts. Julius harnessed Rotary's global network to overcome obstacles, including limited funding and security risks, and make a meaningful impact.

The Rotary Peace Fellowship gave Julius the tools and support to turn his vision into reality. His work embodies *The Magic of Rotary* — the transformative power of connecting people, sharing resources, and uniting for a common purpose.

As we reflect on the achievements of our peace fellows and celebrate Rotary's enduring commitment to peace, let us also recognize the role that everyone in our network of 1.2 million members plays in creating magic through service.

Together, we can amplify our impact, inspire new generations of leaders, and build a brighter, more peaceful future.



STEPHANIE A. URCHICK
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
PRESIDENT
RY 2024-2025

Presidential Peace Conference in Istanbul

The RI Presidential Peace Conference in Istanbul was one of the best examples of Rotary's vision for peace and understanding. With over 1,000 Rotarians from 88 different countries, this great gathering showed how we can build a culture of global peace and cooperation.

Thanks to President Stephanie Urchick's innovative approach, this event—usually held before the Rotary Convention—gained even more meaning by taking place in Istanbul, a city that has been a crossroads of civilizations for centuries. The organizing team, led by RIDE Şafak Alpay (Chair, RI Presidential Peace Conference 25) and PDG Murat Çelik (Host Organizing Committee Chair), worked with great dedication to ensure everything ran smoothly. Their experience and leadership were a true reflection of Rotary's values.



N. ALTAN ARSLAN

PP 2005-2006 RC ANKARA KIZILAY

PDG 2018-2019 D2430

RPIC 2023-2026 ZONE 21B

The conference was also a strong example of Rotary's commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). It was inspiring to see people from different nations, cultures, languages, and religions come together for a shared purpose—peace. While we may look different, speak different languages, or have different beliefs, this event proved once again that peace and understanding are powerful forces that unite us all.

Hosting such an important event in Turkey also gave new life to the famous principle of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder and eternal leader of our nation: “Peace at home, peace in the world.” His universal message—that war is only justifiable when a nation's very existence is at risk, and that peace must always come first—was in perfect harmony with the spirit of this conference. It is a great honor that our country contributed to world peace by hosting this event.

Now, as we reflect on this inspiring conference, we must think about how Rotary can further support global peace and develop new projects. Could this event lead to new regional or global peace initiatives in the future? If we want to answer yes, then it is clear that we all need to work even harder.

Cheers to many more years of Rotary

The day after the closing bell of the Presidential Peace Conference brought yet another joyful occasion for us Rotarians. On February 23, 2025, Rotary turned 120 years old, celebrating its milestone anniversary with the same excitement and happiness in over 200 regions worldwide.

One of these celebrations took place in Istanbul, hosted by the Istanbul Rotary Club with the special participation of President Stephanie Urchick. Coming right after the great success of the Presidential Peace Conference, this event was filled with enthusiasm and joy.

Of course, similar celebrations happened in every country where Rotary is present. However, virtual gatherings—introduced into our lives during the pandemic—have given a whole new dimension to these anniversary celebrations. One of the best examples is Sun Never Sets in Rotary (SNSR), a 24-hour online event that brings together countless Rotary clubs worldwide.

SNSR is a brilliant innovation, turning the challenges of the pandemic into an opportunity for connection and unity. It is an inspiring example of how Rotarians use creativity and technology to strengthen our global bond. This event allows people who have never met in person to come together in a way that perfectly reflects Rotary's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) commitment.

It takes great effort and dedication to organize such a meaningful event. My deepest gratitude to all the Rotarians who contributed to SNSR and to everyone who participated in celebrating the birth of Rotary with such passion.

See you next month
DO GOOD IN THE WORLD

Rtn. N.Altan Arslan
PP 05-06 Ankara Kızılay RC
PDG 18-19 D.2430
RPIC 23-26 Region 25



Rotary Hosted Peacebuilders in Istanbul

Peace experts and Rotary members from 88 countries explored challenges and solutions for sustainable peace.

Renowned peace experts and Rotary members from across the globe gathered in Istanbul, Türkiye, from 20-22 February for Rotary's 2025 Presidential Peace Conference, "Healing in a Divided World." They exchanged ideas and inspired action to create lasting peace in the world.

Led by Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick, the three-day event featured discussions on reducing polarization, the role of technology and media, the intersection of peace and environmental issues, and practical guidance for fostering inclusive, community-led peacebuilding efforts to ensure sustainability.

"Rotary is an organization founded on the principle of advancing world understanding, goodwill, and peace," said Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick. "This conference showcased Rotary's ongoing efforts to build peace and provided a platform for collaboration and dialogue. Peace is not only the absence of war but also the quality of life—a vision this conference sought to explore and advance."

Prominent voices who brought diverse expertise and perspectives on peacebuilding included Elizabeth Spehar, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support; Nada El Agizy, Director of the Sustainable Development and International Cooperation Department at the League of Arab States; Kumi Naidoo, South African Human Rights and Environmental Justice Activist; and Dr. Ayça Demet Atay, Associate Professor at Near East University in North Cyprus, a Rotary Peace Fellow alumna, and founder of the Rotary Club of Peace in Istanbul.



Rotary Hosted Peacebuilders in Istanbul

“This conference presented a unique and valuable opportunity where participants gained practical guidance and fresh perspectives on implementing peacebuilding strategies in their regions and beyond,” said Şafak Alpay, Conference Chair, member of the Rotary Club of Istanbul-Sisli, and a past Rotary International Director. “We were delighted to welcome Rotary members from around the world to Istanbul, where they fostered meaningful connections and inspired action.”



Rotary Hosted Peacebuilders in Istanbul

The event also marked the launch of the Otto and Fran Walter Rotary Peace Center at Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul, Rotary's newest peace center and the first dedicated to peacebuilding in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Offering a professional development certificate focused on Positive Peace, the center equipped peace and development professionals with practical tools and knowledge to drive peacebuilding efforts and create meaningful change in their organizations and communities.

Since 2002, more than 1,800 peace fellows from over 140 countries have been trained, preparing them for leadership roles in government, NGOs, and international organizations.

Rotary has made peacebuilding the cornerstone of its global mission. By addressing the root causes of conflict through service projects, humanitarian aid, academic training, and youth exchanges, Rotary has created environments where peace could happen.



Rotary Hosted Peacebuilders in Istanbul

Rotary members throughout the world have developed and implemented sustainable, community-driven projects that fight disease, promote peace, provide clean water, support education, help mothers and children, grow local economies, and protect the environment. Over the last 100 years, The Rotary Foundation—Rotary’s charitable arm—has awarded US \$5.5 billion to help clubs work together to perform meaningful, impactful service.



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Presidential Peace Conference in Turkish Media



A Thousand Rotarians Gathered for the 2025 Presidential Peace Conference, “Healing in a Divided World,” from February 20-22. Stephanie Urchick summarized the purpose of the conference by stating, “Rotary is an organization dedicated to advancing world understanding, goodwill, and peace. It provides a platform for collaboration and dialogue. Peace is not just the absence of war; it is also about improving the quality of life. This is the vision that this conference sought to explore.”

A thousand Rotarians from around the world gathered in Istanbul from February 20-22 for the 2025 Presidential Peace Conference, “Healing in a Divided World.” Renowned peace experts and nearly a thousand Rotary members attended this significant event. The number may not seem high, but far more people wanted to participate; however, Istanbul was not fully prepared for such a large-scale gathering. This revealed an interesting issue: Istanbul, despite its ambitions in congress tourism, lacked a hotel and convention center capable of accommodating and hosting meetings for all participants in one place. While Antalya had such facilities, Istanbul did not. The only hotel in Istanbul capable of hosting a thousand people with multiple conference rooms was Hilton Bomonti, and even it could not accommodate more. For this event, Rotary reserved the entire hotel.

INSISTING ON ISTANBUL

Hosting this conference in Istanbul was crucial. As a city that bridges East and West, Istanbul is at the heart of the Middle East and holds significant historical and cultural importance. It is a city that peacebuilders must experience firsthand—a city home to countless refugees from the Middle East and Asia, including Syria and Afghanistan, seeking peace, work, and education in another country. At the same time, many of its own residents, overwhelmed by its cosmopolitan chaos, pursue visas to migrate to Western countries. With an ever-changing population count, Istanbul never sleeps. It houses sacred sites for all three monotheistic religions and connects Asia and Europe with its three bridges. Despite its complex nature, Istanbul is statistically safer than commonly assumed. Contrary to popular belief, crime rates such as theft and murder are relatively low, while prisons are predominantly filled with political prisoners.

TURKISH ROTARY'S CONTRIBUTIONS

During the press conference on the Rotary Peace Conference, Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick was joined by Conference Chair Şafak Alpay, a member of the Rotary Club of Istanbul-Şişli and a past Rotary International Director. Alpay highlighted Rotary's contributions after the earthquake, explaining that Rotary clubs provided \$2.6 million in aid, established seven container settlements, and introduced the first mobile hospital equipped with an operating room and 25 patient beds. Stephanie Urchick reiterated the conference's goal: "Rotary is an organization dedicated to advancing world understanding, goodwill, and peace. It provides a platform for collaboration and dialogue. Peace is not just the absence of war; it is also about improving the quality of life. This is the vision that this conference sought to explore."

SPEAKERS AT THE CONFERENCE

The conference featured prominent figures in peacebuilding, including: • Elizabeth Spehar, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support • Nada El Agizy, Director of Sustainable Development and International Cooperation at the League of Arab States • Kumi Naidoo, South African human rights and environmental justice activist • Dr. Ayça Demet Atay, Associate Professor at Near East University in North Cyprus, a Rotary Peace Fellow alumna, and the founder of the Rotary Club of Peace in Istanbul.

ROTARY PEACE CENTER

One of the most significant announcements at the conference was the establishment of the Otto and Fran Walter Rotary Peace Center at Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul. This center, focused on Positive Peace, will offer professional development certificates for students from around the world, providing peace and development professionals with practical tools and knowledge. Many universities in Istanbul applied to host the center, but Bahçeşehir University won the bid. Since its inception, Rotary has trained over 1,800 peace fellows from more than 140 countries at its seven Peace Centers worldwide. The opening of one in Istanbul was a key reason for choosing the city as the conference location. The conference agenda went beyond discussions on war and peace; it also addressed issues that enhance the quality of human life, such as environmental protection, sustainability, access to clean water, disease prevention, vaccination, and education. So far, The Rotary Foundation has provided \$5.5 billion in funding for these efforts worldwide. IS PEACE JUST A HOPE?

During the conference, journalists raised critical questions: Can a peace conference be complete without Ukraine? Can a discussion on Gaza be meaningful without Palestinian voices? In a world where global leaders do not prioritize peace, is peace truly possible? Stephanie Urchick responded by reaffirming Rotary's principle of staying out of politics, stating, "Our goal is to create hope, to talk about peace, and to explore ways to achieve it." As Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founding leader of the Republic of Turkey, wisely said: "Peace at home, peace in the world." However, peace, unfortunately, often remains just a hope discussed in conferences. In today's world, global leaders seem more focused on producing and selling weapons than on fostering peace. While war drums beat in the U.S., Russia, China, Iran, and Saudi Arabia, a genocide is unfolding in Gaza. Beirut has burned to the ground. Ukraine lies in ruins under Russian occupation. Bloodshed continues in Sudan and across Africa. Yet, in Istanbul, people talked about peace—because, at the very least, peace must be talked about.

By Yazgülü Aldoğan , Journalist

Rotary Turns 120 February 23, 2025 – Istanbul

Istanbul Rotary Club celebrated Rotary's 120th anniversary with its traditional Ladies' Night event at Mandarin Oriental Hotel, featuring Rotary International President Stephanie A. Urchick as a special guest.

The club's 3249th meeting began with an opening speech by Club President Sinan Dallı. This was followed by speeches from District Governor İlter Ergülbüz (D.2420), Past Rotary International Director (2014-16) Şafak Alpay, and Rotary International President Stephanie A. Urchick.

During the evening, Club President Sinan Dallı and his wife Canay Dallı presented a specially designed Iznik ceramic plate to Rotary International President Stephanie A. Urchick as a token of appreciation. Later, PDG Gülperi Gürpınar, Chair of District 2420 The Rotary Foundation Committee, addressed the attendees before Major Donors and Paul Harris Fellows were awarded their pins by the Rotary International President.

The event continued with the cutting of Rotary's 120th birthday cake. Rotary International President Stephanie A. Urchick, DG İlter Ergülbüz (D.2420), DG Kerem Muradi (D.2430), DG Mert Korur (D.2440), and Istanbul Rotary Club President Sinan Dallı took part in this symbolic moment.

This memorable night celebrated 120 years of Rotary's global service and served as a powerful symbol of unity, fellowship, and collaboration among Rotary leaders from different districts.





Istanbul Rotary Club Peace-Themed Essay Competition

To celebrate the establishment of the world's 7th Rotary Peace Center in our country, the Istanbul Rotary Club Peace-Themed Essay Competition Award Ceremony was held on February 19, 2025, at Bahçeşehir University Future Campus, with the participation of Rotary International President Stephanie A. Urchick.

The competition received 470 applications from 41 countries. The award ceremony began with a speech by Istanbul Rotary Club President Sinan Dallı, who introduced the project and its objectives, followed by the presentation of the awards.

During the event, Bahçeşehir University Rector Prof. Dr. Esra Hatipoğlu, District Governor (DG) İlter Ergülbüz (D.2420), Past Rotary International Director Şafak Alpay, Rotary Foundation Chair Mark Maloney, and Rotary International President Stephanie A. Urchick delivered speeches on peace.

The winners of the competition were:

- 1st place: Maryjane Klunder from Georgian Bluffs, Ontario, Canada, a Youth Exchange Student in Thailand – \$3,000
- 2nd place: Artina Hamidi from Ankara, Turkey, originally from Iran – \$2,000
- 3rd place: Jorja de Beer from Welgemoed, Cape Town, South Africa – \$1,000

The winners received their symbolic checks from Rotary International President Stephanie A. Urchick.

In addition to the total \$6,000 cash prize, Istanbul Rotary Club covered the winners' travel, accommodation, and sightseeing expenses. During the event, Certificates of Appreciation were also presented to the competition's sponsors: New York Rotary Club, Ms. Aslı Kırar, and Stuttgart Rotary Club.

You can access the winning essays by scanning the QR code below.



Istanbul Rotary Club Peace-Themed Essay Competition



ROTARY'S 2025 SYLVIA WHITLOCK AWARD

AYDA ÖZEREN

**PDG DISTRICT 2440 TÜRKİYE HAS BEEN HONORED
WITH THE SYLVIA WHITLOCK AWARD**



The Sylvia Whitlock Award is an honor given annually by Rotary International to a Rotary member who actively contributes to the advancement of women in Rotary. This award is named after Dr. Sylvia Whitlock, the first female Rotary club president. In 1987, she served as president of the Rotary Club of Duarte, California, and led efforts to promote women's participation in Rotary worldwide.

The award was created in 2017 by a group of Rotarians and became an official RI award in 2021. Nominations are accepted each year from August 1 to August 31. Any Rotary member in good standing, regardless of gender or length of membership, can be nominated.

This award aims to promote female leadership in Rotary and strengthen the role of women in the organization. As Magic Team, we are delighted to share that D2440 PDG Ayda Özeren has been honored with the Sylvia Whitlock Award for the 2024-25 Rotary year.



AYLIN ÖZKAN
MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE
CHAIR
DISTRICT 2430 TÜRKİYE

SUPPORT ACTIVITIES OF THE ROTARY 2430 DISTRICT MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE IN THE HATAY EARTHQUAKE REGION

As the Rotary 2430 District Mental Health Committee, we continue to stand by the citizens affected by the earthquake with our efforts in the Hatay region. Between February 16-25, we met with the local people in the İskenderun Piri Reis Neighborhood and Arsuz, with the contributions of the Arsuz Municipality. During this time, we held in-depth question-and-answer sessions with the citizens and engaged in deep conversations to address their emotional and psychological needs.

Additionally, we laid the foundations for emotional support projects to be launched in the container cities with the Health and Social Services Department of the Hatay Metropolitan Municipality, starting in March 2025. The planned emotional regulation and art therapy activities for children and adults are of great importance in contributing to the psychological healing of the earthquake-affected individuals.

Another significant event in the earthquake region was the first Rising Hopes concert we organized in cooperation with the Defne Municipality on February 25, at the Selim Tevfik Eskiocak Anadolu High School Conference Hall. This meaningful event not only provided moral support but also allowed the local community to come together in solidarity, finding strength in each other. The concert featured valuable artists such as United Nations Peace Ambassador Diego Carniero and long-time Rotary supporter Orçun Utlu, offering an unforgettable experience to the participants.

As the Rotary 2430 District Mental Health Committee, we continue our efforts to contribute to the psychosocial recovery in the earthquake region, in collaboration with strong partners such as Rotary ICC Deutschland - Turkey, Healing Hearts, Istanbul Fatih Rotary Club, and Terapial.

With all these efforts, we continue to support the emotional recovery processes of individuals affected by the earthquake. We would be delighted to have everyone who wants to help join us, and together, we aim to make a greater impact through our collective strength.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Rotary Inter-Country Committees successfully organised a Summit within the scope of Presidential Peace Conference at İstanbul Hilton Bomonti Hotel. More that 100 participants from 20 countries took place. At the Summit Türkiye - Albania/Kosova ICC Protocol and Memorandum of Understanding is signed with the presence og RI President Stephanie Urchick, TRT Trustee Chair Mark Maloney and RI General Secretary & CEO John Hewko



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Rotary Turns 120

As Anatolia Rotary Club, we celebrated Rotary's 120th anniversary by displaying posters on billboards all over our beautiful city of Adana.

For 120 years, Rotary Clubs around the world have been working with a passion for serving humanity, striving to make societies more livable by promoting kindness, solidarity, and social development.

This 120-year journey is not just a civil society movement; it is also a global force that unites hearts, nurtures hope, and endeavors to make the world a better place.



ARPIC ALAEDDIN DEMIRCIOĞLU
DISTRICT 2420/2430/2440



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RunRotary, an annual race held in the city of Antalya, Turkey, is organized by the Antalya Rotary Clubs and Rotary Zone 2430. This year's event carries the inspiring motto "We Run for Healthy Generations!" Runners from all over the world are invited to join, either in person or as virtual participants. By participating, they can contribute to a noble cause—supporting the provision of free HPV vaccines. Join us in promoting health and unity through this meaningful event! Visit runrotary.com for more information.



The poster for the RunRotary 2025 International Marathon features a vibrant design with blue and orange geometric shapes and patterns. At the top right, the Rotary District 2430 logo is displayed. The main title "RUNTALYA 2025" is in large, bold, orange and blue letters, followed by "INTERNATIONAL MARATHON" in blue. Below this, the motto "We Run for Healthy Generations" is written in black, followed by a series of right-pointing chevrons. The date and location "6 April 2025 | Antalya, Türkiye" are prominently displayed. A call to action encourages participants to be virtual runners and visit runrotary.com for more information. A circular inset image shows a group of runners on a city street, with the text "SUPPORT FOR FREE HPV VACCINES FOR OUR GIRLS" curved around the top of the circle. A small blue circle with a white arrow points to the right at the bottom left.

Rotary
District 2430

RUNTALYA 2025

INTERNATIONAL MARATHON

"We Run for Healthy Generations" >>>>>>>>

6 April 2025 | Antalya, Türkiye

be a virtual runner, and run for good
for detailed info visit;
runrotary.com

RunRotary Highlights;
Run, International Marathon,
Project RunRotary, Support for
FREE HPV VACCINE, Antalya,
Türkiye, participate as a Virtual
Runner, Collect Donation
Worldwide, Open to All Rotarians in
the World.

SUPPORT FOR FREE HPV VACCINES FOR OUR GIRLS

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF



ARPIC SERTAÇ GÜMÜŞ
DISTRICT 2452

District 2452 - Bahrain: RC Salmaniya organized A Pizza Day for the Bahrain Down Syndrome Society

The Rotary Club of Salmaniya organized a Pizza Day for the Bahrain Down Syndrome Society. The venue and cooking lessons for the Down Syndrome children were kindly taken care of by the Chefs' team at Cico's restaurant, much to the delight of the children.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

District 2452

Interact Club of Manama spread warmth to Workers during unexpected cold winter

Kindness in action! This Friday, February 14th, our Interactors (youth of RCM) spread warmth by distributing 95 hoodies/sweatshirts to workers at two different camps in Sitra where they were most needed. We're so grateful to @wecarebh for their invaluable help in locating these camps and providing contacts. Thank you for making this possible!



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

District 2452 - Bahrain: Britus EarlyAct Club Joins Beach Cleanup Initiative

As part of its commitment to community service, the Britus EarlyAct Club actively participated in a beach cleanup on Friday, February 7, 2025. This initiative was one of the club's key community projects, aligning with its mission to instill leadership, responsibility, and environmental awareness in young students.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

District 2452 - Cyprus

Rotary Club of Kyrenia Cosmopolitan Supports Akçiçek Hospital's Children's Ward

On Monday, 24th February, Rotary Club of Kyrenia Cosmopolitan (RCKC) made a meaningful contribution to the children's ward at Akçiçek Hospital in Kyrenia. Through the generous donations of the Club's Foundation Chair, Dennys Garmash, RCKC purchased an Oxisense Desktop BTO Pulse Oximeter and a BM-100A Transcutaneous Jaundice Detector.

Vice President Ayten Benoit, Secretary Alpay Celebi, Foundation Chair Dennys Garmash, and Chair of Service Projects Seyide Celebi had the honor of presenting these essential medical devices. The donation was warmly welcomed by the hospital's doctors, as the jaundice detector will allow them to assess newborns' jaundice levels non-invasively, eliminating the need for blood tests.

RC Kyrenia Cosmopolitan is committed to supporting the local community and proud to contribute to the well-being of newborns and children in need.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RC Kyrenia Cosmopolitan invited Sari Huczkowski as guest speaker - D2452 Cyprus

RC Kyrenia Cosmopolitan organised an Informative Session on Omega-3 Balance with Sari Huczkowski due to January being the Vocational Services month.

On 13th February, Rotary Club of Kyrenia Cosmopolitan was delighted to welcome Sari Huczkowski, a dedicated Health Ambassador and Licensed Nutritionist specializing in fatty acids.

Sari delivered a highly informative presentation on the importance of Omega-3 balance in the body, the health implications of an imbalance, and how to restore it through balance oils. The session provided valuable insights into how proper nutrition can enhance overall well-being.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RC Kyrenia Liman invited Ayten Benoit as a guest speaker - D2452 Cyprus

January in Rotary is the Vocational Service Month. RC Kyrenia Liman, invited Ayten Benoit as the guest speaker.

On 29th January, RC Kyrenia Cosmopolitan's Vice President Ayten Benoit, delivered an inspiring presentation on 'The Power of Now' at RC Kyrenia Liman's meeting.

The talk explored the mind's tendency to shift between the past and future, the impact this can have on our well-being, and how meditation serves as a powerful tool to anchor us in the present moment. Following the presentation, Ayten guided the attendees through a relaxation meditation, allowing them to experience mindfulness first hand.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Joint District Public Image Seminar 2451 & 2452: Strengthening Rotary's Impact Across Borders

Rotary Districts 2451 and 2452 came together in Cairo for a dynamic seminar aimed at enhancing Rotary's visibility and outreach. Representing District Governor Hussain Al Jaziri, DGN May Monla Chmaitelly attended alongside District 2452 Public Image Chair Rola Hamdan and a dedicated team of Rotarians from Bahrain, Lebanon, the UAE, and Sudan.

The seminar provided a platform for exchanging best practices in storytelling, digital engagement, and strategic communication. Through insightful discussions and collaborative efforts, the District 2452 Public Image Committee played a pivotal role in developing strategies to amplify Rotary's message and strengthen its presence across the region.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Webinar on Branding for Growth: Expanding Rotary's Reach and Influence D2452 Public Image Committee

On 24 February, Rotary District 2452 Public Image Committee Chair Rola Hamdan organised an engaging Public Image Webinar by inviting PDG Andre Suharto as the keynote speaker.

PDG Andre Suharto shared his experiences on effective strategies to enhance Rotary's appeal, grow membership and amplify our community impact. This was a fantastic opportunity to exchange ideas, connect with fellow Rotarians and gain valuable insights into branding and outreach.



Rotary District 2452 THE MAGIC OF ROTARY

DISTRICT PUBLIC IMAGE WEBINAR

Branding for Growth:
Expanding Rotary's Reach & Influence

in the presence of: **keynote speaker:**
PDG Andre Suharto
EPNC (Zones 10B & 10C)

February 24, 2025

Armenia 7:00PM • Bahrain 6:00PM • Cyprus 5:00PM
Georgia 7:00PM • Jordan 6:00PM • Lebanon 5:00PM

DG Hussain Al Jaziri

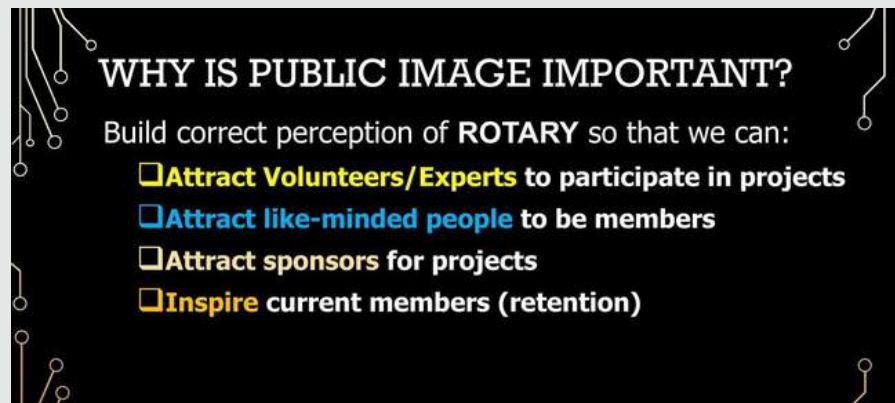


WHAT IS ROTARY PUBLIC IMAGE

It is about what our community & our members think of Rotary by what we

- ☐ say
- ☐ write
- ☐ do

Rotary
PEOPLE OF ACTION



WHY IS PUBLIC IMAGE IMPORTANT?

Build correct perception of **ROTARY** so that we can:

- ☐ **Attract Volunteers/Experts** to participate in projects
- ☐ **Attract like-minded people** to be members
- ☐ **Attract sponsors** for projects
- ☐ **Inspire** current members (retention)



BRANDING FOR GROWTH: EXPANDING ROTARY'S **REACH & INFLUENCE**

ANDRE SUHARTO
URBAN KUCHING ROTARY CLUB
DISTRICT 3310 (BRUNEI, SINGAPORE & PART OF MALAYSIA)

Rotary

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Fellowship Dinner and Club Banner Exchange in Istanbul

Rotarians who are the members of RC of Famagusta, RC of Nicosia Aspelia, RC of Kyrenia St Hilarion, RC of Nicosia Sarayonu, RC of Kyrenia Liman, attended the Rotary Peace conference held in Istanbul, as well as the Integrating Unofficial Diplomacy and Civil Society Engagement in Cyprus Peacebuilding breakout session panelists Dr. Maria Hadjipavlou and Prof. Sertaç Sonan, were the guests of RC of Istanbul Barbaros Metropolitan and RC of Marmara D2420.

It was a very warm fellowship dinner where all Rotarians mingled to get to know each other and exchanged ideas. Also, a ceremony of club banner exchange was held. This meeting leads to new friendships..



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Celebrating Rotary International's 120th Anniversary with Fellowship and Fun - D2452 Cyprus

RC Liman and RC Kyrenia Cosmopolitan came together to celebrate Rotary International's 120th anniversary with a wonderful Tapas & Sangria event at Villaggio Templos Restaurant. The evening was filled with fellowship, laughter, and dancing, as members from Rotaract Club of Kyrenia Cosmopolitan and RC St. Hilarion also joined the celebration.

Rotarians were honored to welcome distinguished Rotarians, PDG Kevork Mahdessian and PDDG Katerina Kalavas, who added to the spirit of the occasion.

A special highlight of the night was welcoming RCKC's newest member, Dagmar Susanne Thiel, who received her Rotary pinning from PDG Kevork Mahdessian.

A big thank you to everyone who joined this memorable evening—looking forward to many more moments of Rotary fellowship!





Nikos Margaropoulos
District Governor 2024-25
RID 2475 / GREECE
MONTHLY MESSAGE
FEBRUARY 2025

ARPIC MARIA MASTORA
DISTRICT 2475

My dear Rotary family,

February has been declared by Rotary International as Peace and Conflict Resolution Month. The promotion of Peace is one of Rotary International's areas of focus (peace building and conflict prevention, disease prevention and treatment, water sanitation and Hygiene, maternal and child health, basic education and literacy , community economic development, environment), which is working for a more peaceful world by taking initiatives in this area.

Among these is the training of Leaders through Rotary Peace Centers, which operate in 8 universities on 5 continents, providing and supporting programs that study and address the root causes of conflict. This program gives us an opportunity to reflect on the fundamental role of our organization in promoting global understanding and peace.

Every year, more than 130 scholars from all over the world are trained in these centers. They are equipped

with the knowledge and skills necessary to become catalysts for positive change in their communities. in their communities. Since the program's inception, more than 1,600 people have graduated and are now working in more than 140 countries.

Rotary does not only target large projects; however, its main focus is to support the initiatives of Districts and Clubs in the design and implementation of small and medium scale projects in local communities, through District and Global Grants. These, among other things, strengthen relationships among Rotarians both at the District level and at the international and global level. I am therefore pleased to inform you that 8 out of 9 District Grants submitted and approved on the initiative of Clubs in the District have already been implemented and we are awaiting the completion of the last one.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

We have also submitted our proposal/application for the District's Global Grant for the supply of cardiopulmonary resuscitation equipment for the islands of Anafi, Lipsi and Halki, which was immediately supported by six (!) foreign Rotary Districts. This confirms the value of international cooperation and the reliable and strong position of our District.

I was informed of the very successful presence of DGE Stefanos Anastasopoulos and his wife, rnt Rachel Topalidou, at the International Assembly in Orlando, USA, where both were trained for their demanding roles in the new Rotary Year. There they had the opportunity to confirm, but also to strengthen, the excellent relations between our District and Rotary International Leaders. We will have the opportunity to learn about these experiences and new developments concerning our Organization, as well as about the new programs of Rotary International and the Rotary Foundation, during the Training Seminars that will be held on March 8th and 9th at OASIS Hotel in Glyfada.

This month we will have the pleasure, but also the honour, to welcome to our District the President of RI

Stephanie Urchick, who will visit us for three full days from February 24-27. She will have the opportunity to meet with government officials, to visit structures where clubs and the District have implemented programs of service, to get to know our country and its cultural heritage, and to meet Rotarians and Rotaractors, both in Athens and Thessaloniki, as well as in Volos. May her dedication, as well as the dedication of every RI President, to the ideals and service work of our world organization, be an inspiration to us all, so that we may continue not only to experience, but also to transmit the magic of Rotary.



Nikos Margaropoulos
District Governor 2024-25
RID 2475 / GREECE

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Presidential Peace Conference and ICC Summit - Greeks from D2475

The 2025 Presidential Peace Conference and the ICCs summit are successfully completed! We had in Istanbul 4 unforgettable days full of inspiration, motivation, fellowship, hope and activity! We enjoyed these days so much! I met my rotarians friends of life and I met new ones, we were 1000 people from 88 countries!

Happy birthday Rotary! Congratulations to all the organizers!



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 e-CLUB GREECE & RC HALANDRI, PREVEZA, PSYCHIKO

Give the Gift of Access 1.0

The program "Give the Gift of Access 1.0", a program designed by the Rotary E-Club of Greece and implemented with the contribution of RCs' Halandri, Preveza and Psychiko, continues its journey with unabated pace throughout Greece.

After the Archaeological Museums of Aigio, Patras and the Museum of Press, next stop is the Museum of Cycladic Art, the Museum of Ancient Olympia and the Archaeological site around it.

On February 5th, two wheelchairs were delivered to the Museum of Cycladic Art in Athens, which will serve our fellow citizens with mobility difficulties during their visit to the museum.

Immediately after the handover ceremony the representatives of RCs' enjoyed a private guided tour with the excellent archaeologist Mr. Hraniotis, in the museum's temporary exhibition entitled "Cycladic women and the life of women in the Cyclades and their position in the society".

Worth mentioning for the necessity and usefulness of the offer of the wheelchairs is that even before their departure the representatives of the RCs', were very pleased to see one of the two wheelchairs they had just delivered was used by a visitor to the museum.

The next stop of the "Gift of Access 1.0" Program is the complex of Archaeological sites and Museums of Ancient Olympia.

On February 10th, President-elect Giagos Iglesis and the PAG George Stavropoulos, both members of Rotary e-Club Greece, representing the other RCs' handed over two wheelchairs in a modest ceremony to Dr. Erofilis - Iris Kollias, Head of the Antiquities authorities of Ilia, for the needs of the Archaeological sites of Ancient Olympia.

The representatives of the Clubs analyzed the Program, the size of the action and the reciprocal benefit that will have such a contribution to the culture of our country.

As Mrs. Kollias said, this action makes culture more accessible to vulnerable groups adding another positive sign to our fellow human beings who are hindered, nationally but especially globally.

During the signing of the relevant handover protocol, Dr. Kollias thanked the Rotary Clubs involved in the Programme and stressed the usefulness of their offer, given that the service until today had only one wheelchair which has been out of use for some time. The two wheelchairs offered, one will be used in the Museum of Ancient Olympia and the other in the wider Archaeological site for the needs of visitors.

We will close with the proposal - wish of the Head of the Antiquities Authority of the Ilia Region Dr. Kollias: "Let's hope that the program "Give the gift of access 1.0" for the disabled visitors of museums throughout the country will be as the Olympic Flame for the dissemination of our culture and may there be imitators to repeat such remarkable acts as yours.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 e-CLUB GREECE & RC HALANDRI, PREVEZA, PSYCHIKO
Give the Gift of Access 1.0



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC ILIOUPOLIS & PIRAEUS EAST Tasting of Olive Oil

Within the framework of the "Vocational Service month", on January 14th, RCs' Ilioupolis and Piraeus East held an action dedicated to the introduction and methodology of tasting Extra Virgin Olive Oil. We were "initiated" to this process by Mr. Yiannis Karvelas - Business Consultant and specialized Olive Oil Taster.

The participants, after a brief presentation, had the opportunity to try 12 different samples of olive oil, in a "blind" test, with guidance and highlighting the characteristics that characterize both the excellent and the defective product.

The organizers warmly thank the speaker Mr. Karvelas for the knowledge that he shared with us.

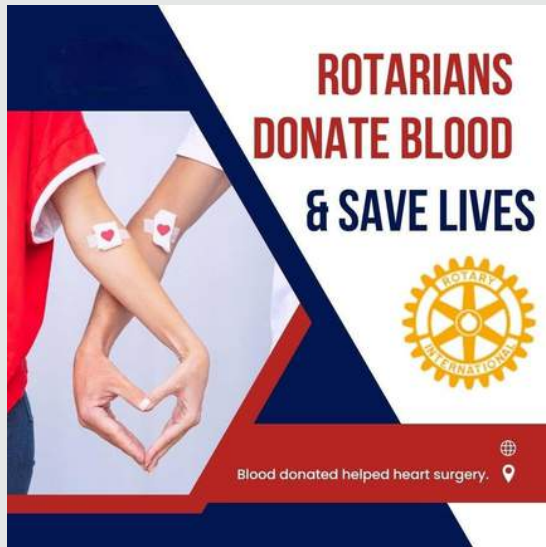


THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC SANTORINI OIA Blood Donation

On behalf of the Voluntary Blood Donation Committee of D-2475, a big thank you to RC Santorini Oia, who despite the difficult circumstances, they do not deviate from the goal of continuous and selfless offer to the unknown fellow human being.....!!!!

Thanks to such offers the Blood Bank of D-2475 can be active and especially useful for every Rotarian who will ask for help.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC VOULA PANORAMA

RC Voula- Panorama delivered three walking aids for the children hosted at the Annex for the Rehabilitation & Rehabilitation of Children with Disabilities in Voula (PIKPA). These aids will help the children with mobility problems to move around in the rooms and premises as well as in the physiotherapy area.



RID 2475 - RC VOULA PANORAMA Collection of plastic cups

New collection of plastic caps by RCf Voula-Panorama

We thank wholeheartedly once again RC Voula-Panorama for the new large quantity of plastic caps collected and offered with great love to the PANHELLENIC ASSOCIATION FOR THE PREVENTION OF ROAD ACCIDENTS AND SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS "LOVE LIFE CARE", supporting our fellow citizens with mobility difficulties to acquire a wheelchair.

We are very lucky and grateful to have you always by our side!!!!



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC IRAKLIO EL GRECO

RC Iraklio-El Greco always stands by those in need, offering practical support and love. As part of our social action, we delivered to the "Mission of Love" a new large quantity of essentials, such as:

- Women's, men's and children's clothes.
- Shoes for all ages
- Baby items
- A baby stroller for a family in need

Many thanks to our members and friends of our Club who contributed to the collection of items. Every donation, big or small, is appreciated!



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC ATHINAI OMONIA Excursion in Peloponese

All things have a beginning and an end. So the excursion of RC Atinai- Omonia came to an end. On Friday February 7th, 46 Rotarians and friends set off for Lagadia in the Arcadia Mountains in Peloponese. We visited Dimitsana with its sights and ended on Sunday, February 9th, in the picturesque Vytina. We spent a beautiful relaxing three days with very low temperatures but good food, good wine but above all good company!

BECAUSE THE ROTARY IS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, FRIENDSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP!



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - ROTARY e-CLUB GREECE

PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR 2024-2025 AWARD BY ROTARY e-Club GREECE

Rotary e-Club Greece, on the occasion of designation of January by RI I as Vocational Service Month, on January 29th, in an official online event, awarded the distinguished Chef, Author and Volunteer, Mr. Iakovos Apergis, as "Professional of the Year".

The event was opened by RID 2475 DG Nikos Margaropoulos. The remarkable awardee was addressed by the well-known and appreciated Chef and food connoisseur Mr. Elias Mamalakis, the General Manager of Vassiliou Trofinko and 7 Seas Company, Mr. Xenofon Lourantos, Marketing Communications Consultant of Sugarmint, Mrs. Anna Kafkia and from Rotary e-Club Secretary Mr. G. Stavropoulos.

With modesty, simplicity and heartfelt words, Iakovos presented his professional, voluntary and authorial work and his professional career to date, managing to excite the audience and kept the interest of all those who attended the event undiminished.

A particularly emotional moment was when the daughter of the award-winning Iakovos Apergis, Aphrodite, intervened to say a few heartfelt words for her father and for his award and when the children of the Drapetsona Facility joined in to congratulate their volunteer and teacher.

A special event for a special man who, although not a Rotarian, combines all the characteristics of a real Rotarian. It is worth mentioning that the event, apart from the ZOOM web platform, was also broadcast live on the Club's YouTube channel and was watched by almost three hundred people at the same time!!!! You can watch the event on the YouTube channel of Rotary e-Club Greece by simply following the link : <https://youtu.be/xTskpfITpzY?si=B71su54LLXAPUdnd>



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC PERISTERI ANTHOUPOLIS

A festive masquerade party for the Children of ELPIDA

RC Peristeri- Anthoupoli, visited the Association "ELPIDA" (Parents and Guardians for the Disabled of West Attica), and offered to the children of the structure, happy moments, with a festive masquerade party with mascots, popcorn and various Halloween accessories for everyone!



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC MARATHON NEA MAKRI PROVISION OF 120 MEALS TO FELLOW CITIZENS OF SANTORINI

R.C. Marathon – Nea Makri, responded promptly to the urgent request of the Deputy Mayor of Athens, Olga Dourou, to provide 120 meals to our fellow citizens from Santorini, who are being hosted at the Municipality of Athens facilities in Agios Andreas.

With a sense of social responsibility and solidarity, the club demonstrated exceptional responsiveness and flexibility immediately providing dinner for 120 individuals, effectively ensuring their dignified living conditions. This initiative, supported by a local catering entrepreneur, highlights the club's deep commitment to the Rotary motto "Service Above Self," promoting social contribution and strengthening a sense of solidarity and support for those in need.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC DIONYSOS

Delivery of floodlights to Detention Center

RC DIONYSOS responded to the urgent request of the Youth Detention Centre of Avlona for the immediate need to replace led-type floodlights.

On February 5th they delivered to the responsible Manager of the Detention Center 5 boxes with 60 led floodlights, in order to cover lighting needs.

We thank the company LEDLINK and its owner George Vlachos, member of our Club!



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Margarita Bogdanova
District Governor 2024-2025
Rotary International
District 2482 - Bulgaria
Monthly Letter



ARPIC ARKAN APTURAHMAN
DISTRICT 2482

МАРГАРИТА БОГДАНОВА
Дистрикт гуверньор 2024-2025
Ротари Д-2482 България

Rotary
District 2482



Dear Friends,

With the arrival of Baba Marta, we welcome the first month of spring, which we Rotarians have dedicated to one of our key areas of focus – ensuring access to clean water and effective sanitation.

Despite Bulgaria's abundance of water resources, official data shows that nearly 3% of the country's population experienced water shortages in 2024.

Clean water is not only a fundamental human right but also a crucial factor for health, sustainable development, and well-being. Let us harness the energy and resources of our clubs to implement projects that will improve people's lives.

Rotary clubs can contribute through various initiatives, such as:

- Providing water filtration systems for schools and social institutions;
- Organizing awareness campaigns on the importance of clean water and hygiene;
- Supporting the construction and improvement of sanitation facilities in communities with limited access;
- Collaborating with local authorities and international partners to develop sustainable water supply solutions.

Friends, March is filled with festive events:

- On March 3rd, we celebrate Bulgaria's National Day.
- On March 8th, we mark International Women's Day.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Margarita Bogdanova District Governor 2024-2025 Rotary International District 2482 - Bulgaria Monthly Letter

On **March 13th**, we celebrate the birthday of Rotaract, our young friends. By honoring this day, we express our gratitude to the young members of Rotary who, with enthusiasm and innovation, continue and develop our organization's traditions. Let us support their energy and ideas and engage in more joint initiatives.

Between **March 9-15**, the **International Ski Fellowship of Rotarians (ISFR Ski Week)** will take place in **Pamporovo** – a wonderful event celebrating friendship and sports, providing an opportunity to meet friends from many countries in an informal setting. **Registration is available at <https://www.isfr.eu/>.**

On **March 22nd**, the **Presidents-Elect Training Seminar (PETS)** for Interact will be held, equipping young leaders with valuable knowledge and skills for their role in the Rotary community. During this event, we will launch the district initiative **"Addiction Prevention"** for youth, conducted in partnership with national and regional media.

Alongside the Interact PETS, on March 22nd in Stara Zagora Mineralni bani, the traditional **training for newly inducted Rotarians** will take place. Hurry to register for these events – registration is open on the district's website.

Intensive preparations are underway for one of Rotary's major events – the **Presidents-Elect Training Seminar (PETS)**, which will take place on **April 5-6 in Plovdiv**. At the same time, the district team training for DGE Plamen Tsvetkov will also be conducted.

And finally, friends, **save the date – June 14, 2025!**

On this day, we will hold the **Annual Conference of District 2482** (again in Plovdiv), symbolically marking the conclusion of the 2024-2025 Rotary year. At the same event, the **Governor transition will take place**. We invite Club Presidents who wish to hold their official club leadership transition at this event to join us in this celebration.

A huge thank you to all Rotary clubs that hosted my visits in February: Sofia Tangra, Sofia International, Dobrich, Balchik, Kavarna, and Sofia-Nextum In every club, I meet people who truly embody the magic of Rotary!

Thank you for your tireless work and dedication, making the world a better place every day! May this month be filled with meaningful initiatives and inspiring moments for all of us.

March 1, 2025

Margarita Bogdanova

District Governor 2024-2025

Rotary International

District 2482 – Bulgaria

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL FEBRUARY 9 – 13, 2025

Over a thousand participants filled the massive hall of the Congress Center at the Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel in Orlando, Florida, on the morning of February 10. This impressive number of Rotarians, their partners, Rotary leaders, trainers, facilitators, and volunteers all eagerly awaited the opening of the Rotary International Assembly.



I felt extremely proud to see the flag of Bulgaria. The applause was relentless as the flags of all the countries represented at the forum were brought in. People from near and far, from different countries and districts—smiling, positive, and determined—were all eagerly waiting to share their Rotary experiences, gain insights, and spend five unforgettable days together.

The President-Elect of Rotary International, **Mario Cesar Martins de Camargo**, was welcomed with thunderous applause. The future President of our international organization is from Brazil. A trademark of all attendees from this country is the smiles that never leave their faces. **Mario and his wife, Denise, are perfect examples of this.**



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL FEBRUARY 9 – 13, 2025

"Your Ticket to the World." This was the title chosen by the organizers for the General Opening Session of the Assembly. I was eager to find out what message lay behind this theme. Everyone in the hall, just like me, was holding their breath, their eyes fixed on the grand stage or the screens placed throughout the venue, attentively listening to the opening speech of the President-Elect.

"The greatest asset of Rotary is not our history, our projects, or even our unparalleled global reach. It is our members—the most qualified team of volunteers on the planet." With these words, Rotary International President-Elect Mario César Martins de Camargo began his address to the audience, sharing a roadmap for growth and revitalization of membership through **"innovation, continuity, and partnership."**

Mario issued a call to action for the rejuvenation of Rotary, the attraction of new members, and new perspectives for strengthening our service to communities around the world.



"For everything to stay the same, everything must change." Quoting Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa from *The Leopard*, Mario unveiled the key goals for the upcoming Rotary year: **innovation, adaptation to a changing world, the creation of satellite clubs, cause-based clubs, corporate clubs, passport clubs, and other examples of flexibility.** He placed particular emphasis on continuity, highlighting that conflicts at the top are a ticking time bomb that often leads to a decline in membership. He urged: **"Let us build a legacy of collaboration upon which future leaders can continue to build."**

Partnerships leading to increased membership are another key focus. Mario highlighted that partnerships **with business associations, professional organizations, and academic institutions** can help attract new members while ensuring diversity in professions and perspectives. **"Such partnerships eliminate the false dilemma of 'quantity versus quality'.** Increasing membership is not just about numbers; it is about renewing our collective strength and securing our mission," he added.

Each District Governor-Elect faces the challenge of increasing membership. Mario's strategy involves **continuous recruitment of new members to counter aging clubs**, thereby enhancing our capacity for service. **"More members mean more helping hands and more resources for investment in our communities,"** he emphasized.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL FEBRUARY 9 – 13, 2025

The message that Mario conveyed was to make "recruiting" and "retaining" members a core value of the clubs, one that we pass on from one generation to the next.

"By doing this, we ensure that Rotary will remain vibrant and impactful for decades to come," Mario added.

The end of his speech was extremely powerful, and in a few sentences, Mario conveyed the essence of his brief message of unity to all Rotarians:

"Rotary members are people of action. We do not wait for change to happen, we make it happen. And what do people of action do? We unite for good."

And this is our presidential message for 2025-26:

UNITE FOR GOOD!



In a world often divided, Rotary stands as a beacon of unity and hope. Our projects bring together people of all races, religions, genders, ideologies, and economic backgrounds, uniting us in a common goal: **UNITE FOR GOOD.**

As you carry out this mission, remember one of the greatest joys of Rotary: creating friendships around the world and having fun.

Let us embrace this journey of growth together. Let us build Rotary to unite for good and secure a brighter future for all.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL FEBRUARY 9 – 13, 2025

Fueled with enthusiasm after learning the message of Mario Cesar Martins de Camargo, we were inspired to work on creating new clubs by the Rotary International General Secretary, John Hewko. **"The International Assembly in Orlando aims to train the new District leaders. But as President-elect Mario pointed out, some of these challenges, especially regarding membership, have remained the same for a very, very long time."** With these words, Rotary International General Secretary John Hewko began his speech.

Bold, innovative, revolutionary — this is what is required from all of us to make life in Rotary more flexible for future members and exciting for current ones.



John Hewko made an interesting comparison between club affairs and running a small business. If a businessman wants to open a café, he buys equipment, rents space, and hires staff. **"This might be successful, but it will have greater success if the owner knows the needs of the community."**

The key, according to Hewko, lies in research — finding the right location, potential customers, and building relationships with neighboring businesses that can direct clients to the new café. Rotary clubs must do the same: **"Recognize that they are marketing a product, and that product is the club experience."**

Most importantly, this product must offer value to the people we want to attract to our organization. In many parts of the world and in far too many of our clubs, this is no longer happening, Hewko added.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL FEBRUARY 9 – 13, 2025

He pointed out that the most important part of what we offer is the service we perform in our communities and the impact we create. The RI General Secretary, a member of the Rotary Club of Kyiv, gave an example of the Rotary clubs in Ukraine, where the military conflict has brought many hardships. At the same time, it has mobilized Rotarians, and thanks to the projects they have implemented, their number has grown by 50%.

At the heart of this growth were the needs of the community, partnerships with local leaders, empathy, and the creation of an environment that people want to join. Just like the café example, people want to buy our product — the club experience.

A special survey by Rotary International provided interesting results. People who helped implement Rotary projects and initiatives were surveyed. The research showed that a large portion of them had no interest in becoming members of Rotary. At the same time, only 5% of people who were members of different service organizations expressed interest in joining Rotary.

"Maybe 5% seems like a small number, but on a global scale, that's 400 million people," summarized John Hewko and added:

"We must engage our members and other participants in the way they enjoy most — whether it's solving problems close to home or partnering to help people in other countries around the world. And to do this effectively, Rotary must follow the wisdom of Paul Harris, who said that 'Rotary must be evolutionary at all times and revolutionary on occasion.'"

Many calls for unity followed, and several speakers shared their experiences in Rotary, conveying their messages:

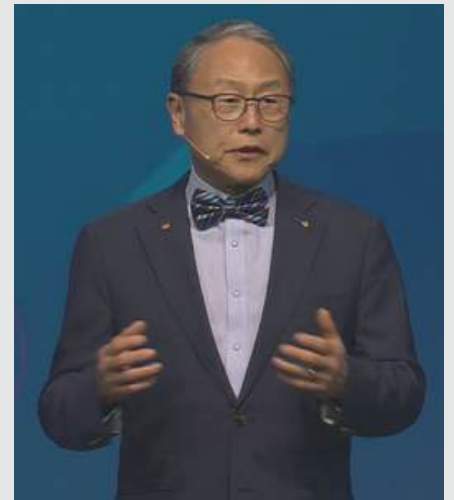
About the growth of our organization, the opportunities that open up for Governors and their partners, successful changes through innovation, the impact and sustainability of our clubs, sharing the value of Rotary, cultural differences in the global world, and partnership.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL FEBRUARY 9 – 13, 2025

During the four days of intensive training, we learned how to manage conflicts, how to build new clubs, and what resistance to change we might encounter. We explored how to effectively tell our Rotary stories to build a positive public image of Rotary. We also discussed membership and the satisfaction of growing our clubs.

Special attention was given to topics dedicated to our Rotary Foundation, global initiatives to fight polio, and how the power of trust in leadership, along with applying the Four-Way Test, can build stronger teams.



Some of the topics were presented by **Past Presidents of Rotary International Jennifer Jones and Mark Maloney**, as well as **President Nominee Sangkoo Yun**.

On the last day of the assembly, we also heard the message from Holger Knaack – the future chair of the Rotary Foundation Board of Trustees. He shared that our Rotary Foundation is unique in that the decisions on how to allocate funds are made at both the District and Global levels, while the areas of focus provide many alternatives.



"Our Foundation has brought us to the brink of eradicating polio and has become a key partner of health systems worldwide. Our partners recognize our unique strengths," shared Holger Knaack.

He reminded that every contribution to the Foundation is matched by the Gates Foundation, which means that a total of \$150 million is spent annually on the fight against polio.

The goal set by the Foundation's trustees for 2025-2026 is to raise \$500 million. Alongside this, we must all do our part to raise awareness about the Paul Harris Society, where Rotary members commit to making contributions to the Annual Fund every year.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL FEBRUARY 9 – 13, 2025



One of the final speeches was delivered by the current President of Rotary International, Stephanie Urchick. She began by sharing that she initially belonged to a club that prioritized good food over ideas for projects.

"Making every Rotary club enjoyable is more than just having a good time. It's a strategy for increasing membership and a vital component of Rotary's Action Plan. When we align our clubs with the vision of the Action Plan, we create an environment where members feel energized and excited to participate."

Growth and retention must be everyone's focus, and to increase membership, we need to talk about how great it is to be part of Rotary, Stephanie Urchick added. According to her, this can be achieved through a few simple steps, the first of which is for clubs and their leaders to be easy to find — through up-to-date profiles on the Rotary International website, increasing engagement, exploring members' interests, and measuring their satisfaction.

"When we make Rotary a place where people can't wait to return, we create an environment where everyone feels valued and inspired. Because members may come for fun, but they will stay to be part of the incredible impact that Rotary makes on the world."

This message from Stephanie Urchick was later discussed with the other District Governors-Elect, and we concluded that we cannot offer pleasant experiences to our members without touching their hearts, creating fertile ground for ideas, and fostering shared experiences.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL FEBRUARY 9 – 13, 2025



Stephanie Urchick emphasized that the most impactful examples of Rotary are the Peace Centers. To date, more than 1,800 Rotary Peace Fellows have graduated from these centers, making a difference in over 140 countries.

She was excited to share that the newest Peace Center is at Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul, set to open just hours after the Assembly in Orlando. The center was established with a \$15.5 million donation from the Otto and Fran Walter Foundation and will train leaders dedicated to addressing challenges in the Middle East and North Africa.

"Let us embrace the vision of our Action Plan Unite for Good and bring meaning, friendship, and fun into everything we do. Together, we will lead boldly, laugh often, and continue changing the world with the Magic of Rotary." This was the final message of Stephanie Urchick.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL FEBRUARY 9 – 13, 2025

After each of the eight general sessions dedicated to the topics described above, the District Governors-Elect proceeded to the special discussion rooms. Each time, we were in different rooms and at different tables, allowing me to meet and exchange information with more than 150 future Governors from various parts of the world throughout the training and all nine discussion panels.

I could not summarize common rules for a successful District or even for a successful Club, as Rotary International includes clubs with more than 300 members, small clubs with 15 members, Districts spanning more than one continent, and others located in a single city. This diversity presents different challenges — best practices are applicable for some and not for others, and their problems are fundamentally different.

Some Districts are growing rapidly, while others maintain a stable number of members. The different regions, population density, community issues, and many other factors provided opportunities to discuss various ways to develop Districts, with diametrically opposed views — each applicable to different countries and regions.



The discussions were led by experienced facilitators, whose role was not to judge who was right or wrong, but to give everyone the opportunity to speak, ask thought-provoking questions, and ensure that the discussions stayed within the framework of the designated topic.

The topics were diverse — of course, we started with how to best convey the message of Mario Cesar Martins de Camargo so that it touches all our members. We moved on to questions related to leadership, the Action Plan, Strategic Plans, opportunities to encourage the creation of new clubs of different types, fundraising, international cooperation, club experiences, public image, and many, many more.

Each topic included a case study on which we had to reflect and provide our own proposals for its resolution.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL FEBRUARY 9 – 13, 2025

"Three-Year Strategic Goals" – this is the new key that opens wide the door for future Rotarians and Rotaractors to implement meaningful projects in service to the community, increase contributions to the Rotary Foundation and donations to the End Polio program, as well as achieve new accomplishments for clubs and Districts.

This key illustrates the desire of the District Governor, Governor-Elect, and Governor-Nominee to collaborate. It is a symbol of continuity.

The Three-Year Strategic Goals are something new for Districts and clubs, and they were given special attention during a meeting led by Zone 21 Director Daniel Tanase with all Governor-Elects from our zone and Zone 22.



Daniel Tanase emphasized how to encourage our clubs to set their own "Three-Year Strategic Goals", how to help them achieve them, what role Rotary International plays in this process, how to conduct a health check of their clubs, and measure their members' satisfaction.

I am convinced that many clubs already conduct these surveys, and I would encourage friends who haven't done so yet to definitely measure the vitality and pulse of their clubs to inspire themselves for new achievements.

I dare to say that together with DG Margarita Bogdanova and DGN Alexander Petrov, we have worked well as a team and set the direction to convey the message of **"Three-Year Strategic Goals" to the clubs in our District.**

"Three-Year Strategic Goals"! For me, they are encapsulated in the acronym **TRIUMPH (Three-Year Results Implemented Successfully, Motivationally, Focused).**



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL FEBRUARY 9 – 13, 2025

In fulfilling their duties, District Governors are often away from home for long periods of time, and at the same time, they rely heavily on their families to carry out some of their Rotary responsibilities. Some Governors travel with their partners to visit clubs, others involve their families in organizing events, while some are happy to be welcomed back after long days of absence by someone who encourages their work in Rotary, supports their efforts in community service, and celebrates their successes.

Partners play a key role in the success of Governors, and this is nothing new to Rotary International. That's why the training in Orlando actively involves them through special sessions, discussions, and roundtables.

In an honest interview with the partners of the District Governors-Elect, Mario César Martins de Camargo and his wife Denise shared their "journey" in Rotary.

Mario shared that he has been connected to Rotary since the age of 7. His father was a member of the São André Club and took him to various club events. Several years later, due to work commitments and at his mother's request, his father left the club. It was then that Mario began to reflect on the importance of the role of partners in the mission of Rotarians. In his youth, Mario remained connected to Rotary by participating in Rotary youth exchanges. One day, the Rotary club invited his father to renew his membership, but he replied that there was a better-prepared Rotarian in the family. Thus, at the age of 23, Mario began his Rotary journey with the São André Rotary Club.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL FEBRUARY 9 – 13, 2025

Six months later, Mario and Denise began their marriage. The day before their wedding, the club organized a small pre-wedding ceremony for them, which impressed Denise. At the age of 35, Mario became the President of his club. Before accepting this important role, he asked his wife Denise if she would be willing to take on this challenge together, and she agreed. Mario was deeply involved with his club, and Denise helped him, so Rotary became a part of her life.

Denise describes the year when Mario was District Governor as a competition, but at the same time, as a year that brought them closer together because they shared many powerful emotional moments. Due to the travels with him, she made many friends in Rotary, and everyone asked if she would join the organization, but she always declined, saying, "I will become a Rotarian, but hold on, it's not the right time yet."

One day, when Mario became a Director at Rotary International, he asked her if she would take on a challenge: to create a satellite club for their club. She gladly accepted. The club initially consisted of 18 people, and today it is a strong club of 40 Rotarians.

This is why, during the Assembly in Orlando and the preliminary GNLS and GELS, Rotary International encourages the participation of family members, especially partners, in the training sessions.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL FEBRUARY 9 – 13, 2025



The International Assembly is an innovative forum that creates the right experiences for all participants, aiming for them to feel comfortable and at ease, to "swim in their own waters." This year was no exception when it came to new ideas. One of them was grouping the partners into different streams, with the conditional names "beginner" for non-Rotarians and "advanced" for those partners who are Rotary members. My partner, Galya, was in the "advanced" group, as she is a member and even the President of the Rotary Club "Ruse – Danube," which I am also a part of.

She had the opportunity to interact with members of clubs from all over the world during the daily roundtables dedicated to various topics – Membership, The Rotary Foundation, Storytelling for Inspiration, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Global and District Projects, and many, many more.



For the first time this year at the International Assembly, groups of five District Governors-Elect and their partners were formed into so-called "Cohorts".

On the very first evening, after the official opening of the Assembly, we were extremely excited to meet our new friends from "Cohort 25":

- Santosh Marathe – DGE from District 3131, India
- Juan Chang Chang – DGE from District 3480, Taiwan
- Jenny Chang – DGE from District 3523, Taiwan
- Sandra Knoesel – DGE from District 6690, USA

The meeting was not like the usual ones. It started in a standard way with the exchange of information about our Districts, the number of clubs, the number of members, and key community service projects. Suddenly, we noticed that an envelope with a message from the organizers had been left on our table. **Surprise!**

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL FEBRUARY 9 – 13, 2025

Each “cohort” had to work as a team and, within a short time, demonstrate that as a newly formed group, they could face challenges and step out of their comfort zone. We became part of a massive competition among the many “cohorts” through various activities and role-playing games. With motivation, ambition, and passion, all members of our “cohort” took part in the challenge, quickly overcoming cultural and language barriers, and working together seamlessly. Before we knew it, this experience strengthened the friendship between us, making us forget that we came from different corners of the world. That evening felt friendly and collaborative — as if we had known each other for years and had been doing this every day.

Our friend Sandra from the USA and our friend Santosh from India shared their joy and willingness to visit Bulgaria. Our friends from Taiwan, Juan and Jenny, extended a warm invitation to visit them in 2026.

In the following days, we shared breakfasts and dinners, talking about the Assembly, the messages, and the inspiration. On the last day, we said goodbye with smiles and a promise to be united for something new and good — Next meeting: Rotary International Convention 2026 – Taipei, Taiwan.

The “Culture Night” is a traditional part of the International Assembly’s program in Orlando. It is a moment when all attendees showcase their equality in Rotary and their diversity in regions, cultures, countries, districts, and zones.



During the event, everyone presented their nationality, customs, traditions, and worldview. In the hotel's Congress Center, 34 booths were set up, each representing one of the Rotary International zones. At each booth, the countries from the respective zones showcased their unique items and souvenirs.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL FEBRUARY 9 – 13, 2025



At the suggestion of Director Daniel Tanase from District 2241 – Romania and the Republic of Moldova, our vibrant Zone 21 was represented with a unique collection of hats and souvenirs from the 35 countries located in Europe and part of Asia. Each District Governor-Elect was prepared with gifts from their region, informational materials, and brochures.

Our District 2482 was represented with rose water from our friend Vesko Kolev from Kazanlak and martenitsa business cards of the District. These cards also contained messages from the members of our clubs, which we gathered during the Conference in Ruse in November 2024.



The focus of this event was also on the vibrant variety of outfits. Many attendees wanted to take photos with us, drawn by the unique Bulgarian embroidery on our Severnashki traditional costumes. The corridor of the hotel's Congress Center turned into a kind of street where countless languages could be heard, and one could immerse in the colors of the nations united in more than 500 Districts of Rotary International, creating a sense of unity in our global community.

The "House of Friendship" was a dedicated space where we met new friends daily, communicated, and exchanged ideas. This special area encouraged international understanding and collaboration. Several booths attracted particular attention.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

FEBRUARY 9 – 13, 2025



First and foremost was the booth dedicated to Paul and Jean Harris. The photos and objects from their home immersed us in the atmosphere of 120 years ago, when the foundation of our organization was laid. Seeing how the founders of Rotary lived and diving into the sources of their daily lives was an incredible experience.



At the booth dedicated to Rotary International's fight against polio, there was a massive "Iron Lung" on display. This type of mechanical ventilator was widely used during the 20th century, especially during the epidemics. The sight of the device took our breath away and made us shudder with horror, imagining the pain and suffering of those afflicted by the disease.

However, hope was also present at the same booth. Seated on a chair, the PolioPlus Bear Ambassador watched over us. The special donation box was full, and many people were waiting in line to contribute to the final eradication of this disease.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL FEBRUARY 9 – 13, 2025

Two other booths were dedicated to the upcoming Rotary International Conventions — the one in Calgary, Canada in 2025 and the one in Taipei, Taiwan in 2026. The smiling faces of the presenters made it impossible to remain indifferent. Standing in front of the booths, each of us painted pictures in our minds — of our future travels to Canada and Taiwan, of our meetings with Rotarians from all over the world, and of the Magic of Rotary coming to life through Unite for Good.

I strongly believe that throughout the year we will fulfill the message of the Rotary International President to unite and create good.

More information about the Rotary International Assembly and the leaders' messages can be found here:

www.rotary.org/ia25

All other presentations are available here:

[https://brandcenter.rotary.org/en-us/search?](https://brandcenter.rotary.org/en-us/search?tab=0&dt_keyword=International+Assembly+%28IA%29&q=%22February+2025%22&tt_lang=EN&dt_lang=EN)

[tab=0&dt_keyword=International+Assembly+%28IA%29&q=%22February+2025%22&tt_lang=EN&dt_lang=EN](https://brandcenter.rotary.org/en-us/search?tab=0&dt_keyword=International+Assembly+%28IA%29&q=%22February+2025%22&tt_lang=EN&dt_lang=EN)

Plamen Tsvetkov – District Governor Elect of District 2482 – Bulgaria

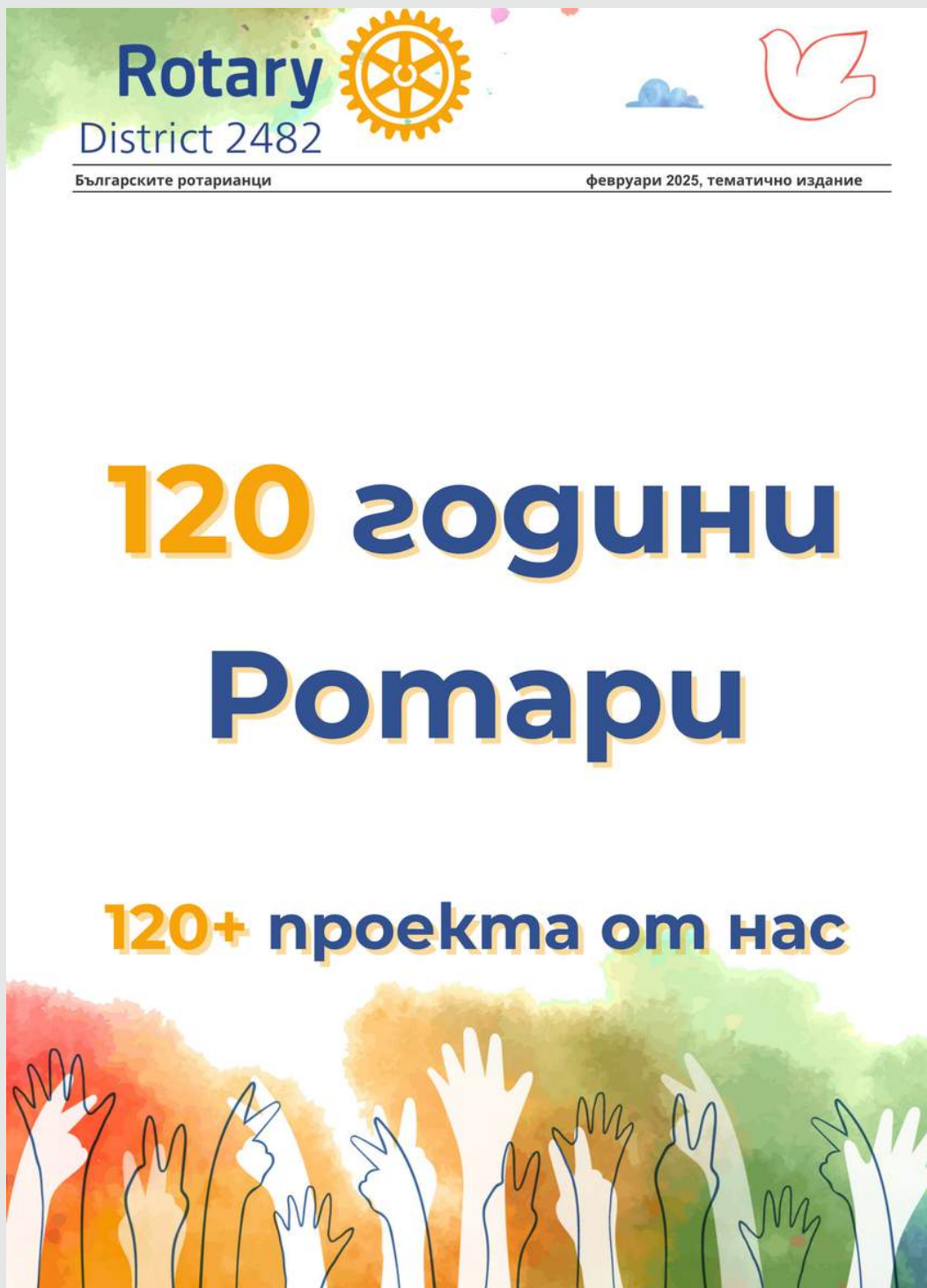


120 YEARS OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

On the occasion of the 120th anniversary of Rotary International, our District Public image Team has prepared a special edition of the monthly newsletter, which includes 120+ projects.

This is just a part of the projects that have been implemented in our district!

Follow the link to read it : <https://pubhtml5.com/huxjl/ymde/>



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

We support sports and health - for our communities
Rotary Kazanlak supports winter sports.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

To be remembered

We cherish traditions and support Bulgarian communities abroad.

Rotary club of Nesebar

As our national holiday, March 3rd, approaches, we at the Rotary Club of Nesebar, together with the "Lyuben Karavelov" Secondary School in Nesebar, have prepared and sent two projects to the Bulgarian school "Vasil Aprilov" in Dallas, USA. The projects include a board with notable Bulgarian Revival figures and a newspaper titled "Golden Age."

Our initiative is to showcase and remember our glorious Bulgarian past, which was created by individuals—active and awakened people. And for a bright future, Ivan Vazov said: "It is important for a nation to know its past well."



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

For the health of our children Prevention of spinal deformities Rotary Club Smolyan

We have created a methodological foundation for the prevention of spinal deformities. We conducted training for primary school teachers on proper posture for students and provided information about the benefits of physical activity. Following this, we introduced a daily gymnastic routine into the educational process with the support of the Regional Education Office – Smolyan.

The project initially covered around 2,543 students from the Smolyan region, ranging from grades 1 to 4.

A video with exercises was created for the project, which the children accepted with interest and found fun, and this naturally brings us satisfaction.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

We support local communities and their development

Traditional awards and honorary diplomas from the club to distinguished creators and figures from Yambol

On November 7, 2024, the Rotary Club of Yambol held a ceremonial meeting in celebration of the Day of the National Revival Leaders. During the event, the club presented its traditional awards and honorary diplomas to distinguished artists, cultural figures, and scientists from Yambol, as well as to upper-grade students who, through their achievements over the year, earned prize places in national and international competitions.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

We support local communities and their development

Homemade wine competition

Rotary Club Asenovgrad

The Rotary Club of Asenovgrad traditionally awards a prize in the competition for the best homemade wine. The prize is an oak barrel.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Warmth and care for the youngest patients at MBAL Blagoevgrad Rotary Club Blagoevgrad-Center

This winter, the youngest patients in the pediatric department of the Blagoevgrad hospital will be warm and in a more comfortable environment!

On the eve of the cold months, in October 2024, the local Rotary club extended a helping hand and provided better conditions for the children by renewing the heating system and activating gas for it. After more than 13 years without major repairs, the department now receives not only warmth but also the hope that care for the youngest will always be a priority.

This act of kindness and dedication shows that together we can make the world a better place—especially for those who need care and comfort the most.

"Before the renovation, there was no central heating in the department, only storage heaters. Mothers had to bring additional heating devices to keep the room warm enough. However, this changed after the renovation. The children are comfortable now," said the senior nurse of the department, Antoaneta Borisova, in "Day Begins."

"Our main achievement is that we united many people for the cause and succeeded in completing a full renovation of the building's heating system, which is not only a pediatric department but also houses the maternity ward upstairs. I feel a significant change compared to the first time we came here," added Vasil Pipev from the Rotary Club of Blagoevgrad.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

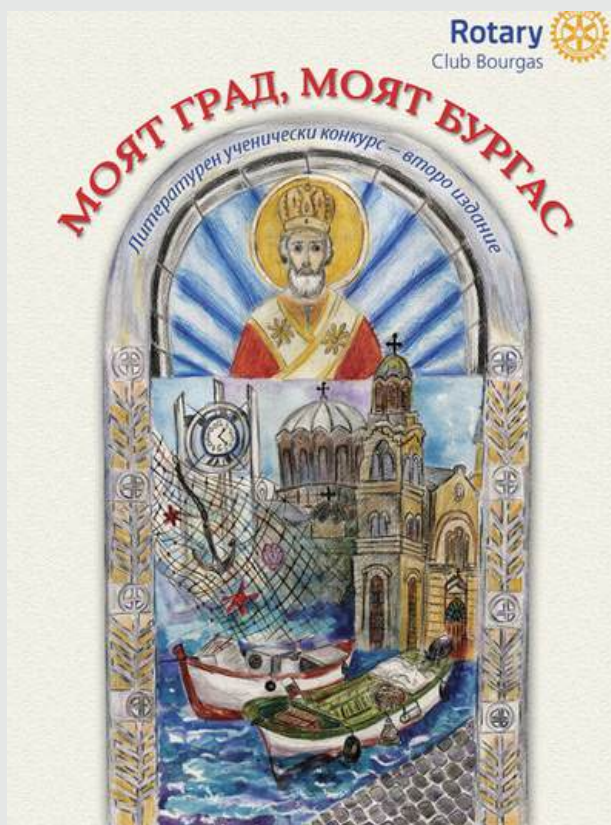
My City, My Burgas - Children

Rotary Club Burgas publishes a collection of nominated and awarded works



In 2022-2023, Rotary Club Burgas organized a literary student competition with the support of the Burgas Municipality and the Interact Club Burgas. We published a collection titled after the competition, "My City, My Burgas."

The book contains works by young Burgas authors and artists who were nominated or awarded in the competition organized by the Rotarians of the oldest club in Burgas. This was the second edition of the competition, which takes place every five years.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

PROJECT "GIVE THE OPPORTUNITY"

Rotary Club Burgas-Pyrgos

The mission of ROTARY CLUB BURGAS-PYRGOS is to support the young talents of the city of Burgas in the fields of science, art, and sports. The specific goal of the project "Give the Opportunity" is to improve the environment and conditions for the realization of talented children and young people up to the age of 19, who are organized in club activities based on their interests, providing them with greater opportunities for development and expression. This project in our club started in 2008. Over the years, Rotary Club Burgas-Pyrgos has supported more than 50 projects worth over 100,000 BGN.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

**For the health and life of our children
Children's Traffic Safety Training Ground, Rotary club Aytos**



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

**For the health and life of our children
Children's Traffic Safety Training Ground, Rotary club Aytos**



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

For the health of the people
Free check-ups and skin screening
Rotary Club Bansko-Razlog



Превенция

Ракът на кожата е един от типовете рак, който може най-лесно да бъде избегнат. Основният рисков фактор, излагането на UV, може да бъде сведен до минимум, като се промени отношението ни към слънцето. Носенето на защитни дрехи, избягването на директната слънчева светлина между 11ч и 15ч през лятото (когато UV радиацията е най-силна), търсенето на сянка и редовното нанасяне на слънцезащита са основните средства за защита от UV лъчите.

Първичната профилактика се състои в това да се предотврати развитието на болестта преди тя да настъпи и се състои главно в ограничаване излагането на UV. Вторичната профилактика включва откриването на рака на кожата в най-ранните му стадии, така че да може да се лекува успешно. Това означава да правите редовни самостоятелни прегледи, да познавате собствените си рискови фактори и да посещавате редовно дерматолога си за проверка на кожата.

Тел. за контакт:
Д-р Паула Лозанова
0895682040
Д-р Симеон Георгиев
0887565452
Д-р Каролина Стайкова
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LILOV DENT
dental practice

Ротари клуб
Банско - Разлог



Рак на кожата

рискови фактори, симптоми, превенция



PAULA FINES
CLINIC



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Rotary for the Earth

We planted trees together with our little friends

Rotary club Berkovitsa



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

**We support our communities
With a donation of a respirator for premature babies
Rotary Club Varna**



**We support our children
Awards for the talented children of Varna
Rotary Club Varna Euxinograd**



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Children's Ward, MBAL "Stefan Cherkezov" Rotary Club Veliko Tarnovo



Donors' Alley in the city of Vratsa Rotary Club Vratsa initiated its own project for the construction of the Donors' Alley in Vratsa



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Rotary Club Gabrovo donates gifts with a message to first-grade students



We support our talented children, our future Folk costumes for the children's dance ensemble "Gornobanche" Rotary Club Gorna Banya



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

For the health of our children - we support local communities and their development

Air purifiers for kindergartens

Rotary Club Dimitrovgrad



Child Health

Improving the physical activity of children in early childhood

Rotary Club Dobrich



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

**We launched a new initiative dedicated to the youngest residents of our city
“Clean Teeth with Pinko, Dino, and Rotary”
Rotary Club Dupnitsa**



**For the health of our children
Prevention and fight against diabetes in the Municipality of Kavarna and
Shabla
Rotary Club Kavarna**



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Monument to Orpheus near Kardzhali
Rotary Club Kardzhali - June 11, 2005



We support local communities and their development
First bike lane in Kyustendil
Rotary Club Kyustendil



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Campaign to raise awareness among parents of children from kindergartens in the city of Mezdra Rotary Club Mezdra



Rotary Club Momchilgrad – host of the 69th International Bicycle Tour of Bulgaria!



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

**Free New Zagora
Children's Drawing Contest
Rotary Club Nova Zagora**



Rotary Club Pazardzhik supports mental health with a donation



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

**For a better life for people
Building a Multisensory Room
Rotary club Pomorie**



NATIONAL PROJECT OF ROTARY CLUB PLOVDIV PULDIN "National Awakening Leaders and Me"



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Project “Great Bulgarians”

Let the names of our educators,
writers, and revolutionaries, who
contributed to the spiritual revival
and liberation of the Bulgarian
people, be remembered!

Rotary Club Radnevo



COMFORT FOR THE PATIENTS
OF THE PULMONARY HOSPITAL
NEW BEDS, EQUIPMENT, AND
FURNITURE IN THE HOSPITAL
FOR PULMONARY-
TUBERCULOSIS DISEASES

Rotary Club Ruse



For a better life in our
communities

Let's improve the lives of children

Rotary Club Svishtov



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

CHILD HEALTH AND ADDICTION PREVENTION CROSS FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST ADDICTIONS ON THE DAY OF NATIONAL AWAKENING LEADERS

Rotary Club Ruse Danube



PREVENTION OF SPINAL DEFORMITIES IN CHILDREN

Rotary Club Sevlievo



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

**SPORT, CULTURE, HEALTH, AND EDUCATION FOR THE PEOPLE OF
SILISTRA**

**Over 30 projects and events in support of children and adults from Silistra
Rotary Club Silistra**



Disease Prevention

Donated equipment to hospitals across the country

Rotary club Sofia Triaditsa



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Annual competition

Rotary Club Sofia-Balkan and the National Academy of Arts



Disease Prevention

END POLIO - Information Campaign

Rotary Club Sofia Vitosha



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Annual competition

Rotary Club Sofia-Balkan and the National Academy of Arts



Disease Prevention

END POLIO - Information Campaign

Rotary Club Sofia Vitosha



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

We support healthcare for a quality life

Support for UMHAT "Prof. Dr. Stoyan Kirkovich" for an innovative capillary electrophoresis system

Rotary Club Stara Zagora



With love for children

Screening for eye diseases for first-grade students from two municipalities

Rotary Club Tutrakan



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

We support local communities and their development

Awards for gifted children

Rotary Club Stara Zagora-Beroe



We support local communities and their development

Donation to 490 first-grade students for the National Awakening Leaders

Day

Rotary Club Targovishte



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

For the health of our children

Campaign for the prevention of children's vision

Rotary Club Haskovo Aida



End Polio

Take an item - donate hope for life

Rotary Club Shumen



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

A Big Touch to Little Hearts: Pajama Party by Antalya Rotaract Club, District 2430

What started five years ago with a simple request from Akdeniz Hospital's Oncology Department has now become a cherished tradition. Every year, the Pajama Party project grows, bringing joy and comfort to children undergoing treatment.

A Warm Touch to Little Hearts

With decorated rooms, special gifts, fun activities, and cozy pajamas, we create a day filled with happiness for these brave children. Each year, we add new themes, featuring mascots, clowns, magicians, and games to make unforgettable memories. Stronger Together!

ARPIC NISA ILDIZ ÇELEBIOĞLU
ROTARACT
DISTRICT 2420/2430/2440

This project thrives thanks to our supporters and volunteers. As Antalya Rotaract Club, we are proud to bring hope and smiles to little hearts.

The Pajama Party is more than just an event—it is a celebration of love, solidarity, and sharing. And we will continue to keep this tradition alive every year.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Rotaract Club of Ankara Tandoğan & Rotaract Club of Ankara İncek

Disaster Awareness Seminar by Ankara Tandoğan Rotaract Club and Ankara İncek Rotaract Club
On February 16, 2025, in collaboration with Ankara İncek Rotaract Club, we held a Disaster Awareness Seminar at Başkent University.

Our esteemed speakers, Dr. Tanju Baş and Ergun Padır, Head of AKUT Ankara Seminar Unit, provided valuable insights on disaster preparedness, effective response techniques, and disaster awareness.

Raising awareness about natural disasters remains a crucial responsibility, and we are proud to contribute to a more informed and resilient community.

Together, we stand stronger against disasters!



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

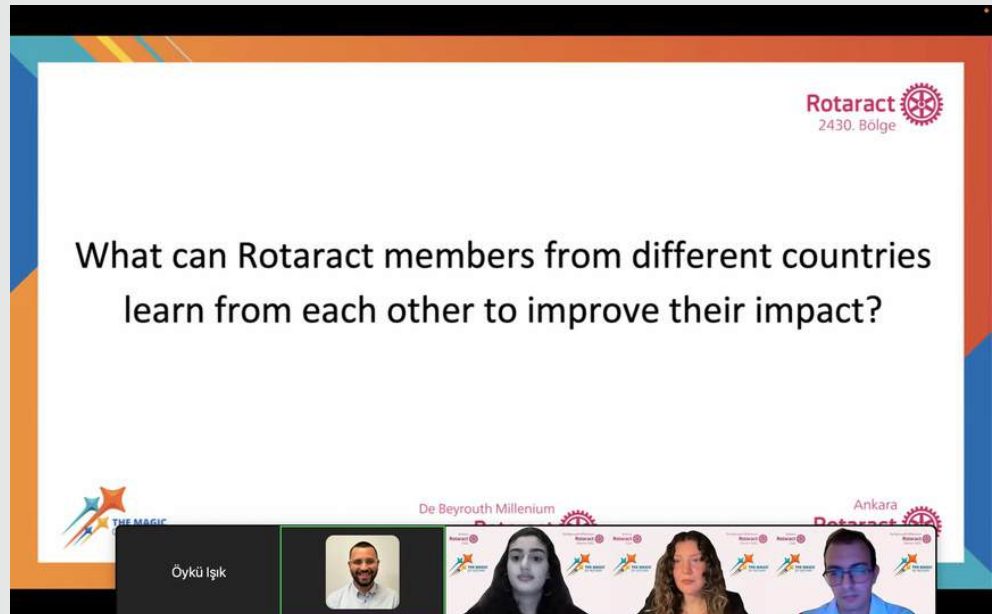
Ankara Rotaract Club- D2430

As Ankara Rotaract Club, we proudly collaborated with Rotaract Club de Beyrouth Millenium to organize Voices for Peace, an online discussion addressing the profound impact of the 2023-2024 war in Lebanon. The event took place on February 11, 2025, bringing together young Rotaractors from Lebanon with backgrounds in psychology to share their insights.

During the discussion, our speakers shed light on the devastating effects of the war on Lebanon's cities and communities, the material and psychological toll on both youth and adults, and most importantly, how the Lebanese people have shown remarkable resilience and solidarity in the face of such adversity.

We also explored the crucial role of Rotaract clubs in providing support and humanitarian aid during these uncertain times. The efforts deployed by Rotaractors in Lebanon have made a significant impact, demonstrating the power of service, community, and international collaboration.

Through Voices for Peace, we aimed to amplify the voices of those affected and highlight the strength of a united community. We are grateful to all participants and supporters who joined us in this meaningful conversation. Together, we continue to stand for peace, resilience, and hope.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Rotaract Club of Ankara Koru- D2430

On February 6, 2025, as Ankara Koru Rotaract Club and Ankara Koru Rotary Club, we visited Hatay to commemorate the anniversary of the earthquake. At 4:17 AM, we participated in the silent march. Later, we visited Samandağ State Hospital to see the kindergarten built with the support of our Dancing on the Grass Project. We also visited Atatürk Middle School, where a sports field was constructed as part of the same initiative.

Additionally, we brought small gifts for the children and held discussions on potential future projects. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our Ankara Koru Rotary family for being part of this meaningful journey.

Wishing for a term where we continue to experience and share the magic of Rotary.



Rotaract Club of Ankara Beysukent- D2430

Little Geologists Project

On February 3, 2025, as part of the Disaster Projects Committee, we launched the “Little Geologists” initiative under the Basic Education and Literacy focus area.

Understanding natural disasters and the Earth’s processes from a young age helps build a more aware and resilient society. With this goal, we sent educational geology books to 50 students at Söğüt Primary School in Malatya, allowing them to explore geology through fun learning activities. This is just the beginning! We aim to reach more students by not only providing books but also visiting schools to introduce them to the wonders of our planet. With Rotary’s magic, we strive to raise a generation that grows up with science!



ZİÇEV Adana Visit by Adana Çukurova Rotaract Club

On February 20, 2025, Adana Çukurova Rotaract Club visited the Foundation for the Training and Protection of Mentally Handicapped Children (ZİÇEV) Adana Branch. Club members spent quality time with the individuals at the foundation, engaging in conversations and sharing in their joy. During the visit, potential projects that could be implemented at ZİÇEV were discussed, and areas where support could be provided were identified. Committed to positively impacting society, **Adana Çukurova Rotaract Club** will continue its efforts in social responsibility projects in the coming term.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Çorbada Tuzun Olsun:One Evening, One Hope, Rotaract Club of Suadiye - D2420

On the streets of Istanbul, we supported the homeless, who were searching for more than just a meal, but a piece of humanity, through Çorbada Tuzun Olsun Association. Together with Suadiye, Sarıyer, and Maslak Rotaract Clubs, we reached those in need of food in Maçka Park, offering lentil soup, pasta, and halvah prepared by our volunteer chefs.

It wasn't just about filling stomachs, but about leaving behind a sense of hope and a smile. The gratitude in the eyes of those we served reminded us all of humanity at its finest. One evening, one meal, but a great awareness... Our pinch of salt was part of that evening.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Financial Literacy Training: Building a Stronger Future, Rotaract Club of Suadiye - D2420

As Suadiye Rotaract Club, we hosted an inspiring event to highlight the crucial role of financial literacy in both individual and societal well-being. We had the pleasure of welcoming Azra Yazıcı, the youngest board member of the Financial Literacy and Access Association (FODER), as our guest speaker.

During the session, participants gained valuable insights into budget management, saving, and investment strategies, learning how to make more informed financial decisions. Interactive segments helped raise awareness about the long-term impact of daily financial habits.

By the end of the training, the importance of establishing strong financial foundations was once again emphasized, encouraging participants to take more conscious steps toward their financial future. With the belief that knowledge is power, we will continue to raise awareness about financial literacy.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Bringing Joy to Children in Dialysis: A Sustainable Initiative, Rotaract Club of Etiler-D2420

On January 13, 2025, we visited the pediatric dialysis unit for the first time to organize engaging activities for children undergoing treatment. It was a heartwarming experience—one that left a lasting impression not only on the children but also on us as professionals.

Recognizing the need for continuity, we decided to turn this initiative into a sustainable program. To achieve this, we planned another visit on February 24, 2025, and began structuring a long-term model. Instead of limiting our support to one-time visits, we envisioned a system where the initiative could thrive beyond our direct involvement.

To ensure sustainability, experienced professionals will now train and supervise students specializing in relevant fields. These students will then take on the role of facilitators, regularly visiting the dialysis unit to conduct creative and interactive activities with the children.

This model serves a dual purpose:

1. Providing consistent support and engagement for children in dialysis, offering them moments of joy and creative expression.
2. Enhancing experiential learning for students, allowing them to apply their academic knowledge in real-life settings under professional supervision.

Our goal is to build a community-driven support system, where children undergoing long-term treatment receive not just medical care but also emotional and social enrichment through structured, meaningful interactions.

This initiative is not just about a single visit—it's about creating a ripple effect of care, compassion, and learning that continues to grow.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Rot'Art Buddy by Ankara Maltepe Rotaract Club

Rot'Art Buddy is a collaborative project that unites different Rotaract clubs to support and empower women entrepreneurs. Through this initiative, we organize hands-on workshops—such as ceramics, painting, or other creative activities—at women-led businesses. This not only provides a platform for skill-sharing and artistic expression but also helps promote these enterprises by increasing their visibility and engagement within the community.

Beyond fostering creativity, Rot'Art Buddy strengthens inter-club connections, encouraging teamwork and collaboration among Rotaract members. By supporting women-owned businesses, we contribute to a more inclusive and sustainable entrepreneurial ecosystem, reinforcing the impact of social responsibility within our network.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ROTARACT D 2483

REM PRAG

(23-26.01.2025.)

It was a great honor to represent our country at REM Prague and to be a part of such an inspiring event for all our members.

Our members presented EUCO and contributed to the broader vision of our organization which made the experience even more meaningful. The support and connection with fellow members from different countries created an incredible atmosphere, making this event truly unforgettable.

ARPIC ALEKSANDAR RADOJICIC
DISTRICT 2483

Being in such a diverse and dynamic environment allowed our members to exchange ideas, share experiences, and learn from others who are equally passionate about making a difference. Engaging in discussions with representatives from various countries deepened their understanding of international collaboration and the impact we can achieve together. The opportunity to showcase our country's values, culture, and contributions within the Rotary community filled them with immense pride.

As they reflect on this journey, they are filled with gratitude for the opportunity to represent both their country and EUCO at such a prestigious event. This experience has reaffirmed their commitment to service, leadership, and international collaboration. They look forward to applying everything they have learned and continuing to contribute to the Rotary community with even greater passion and dedication.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Circle around the forest

Krug oko šume

The "Circle around the forest" trail race took place in Pančevo Forest on January 25th, with 480 participants registered. All funds raised from the event were donated for the renovation of the changing rooms at the Tamiš Rowing Club. The event, organized by the Rotaract Club "Mihajlo Pupin" and the Tamiš Rowing Club from Pančevo, not only promoted sports, a healthy lifestyle, and nature but also supported local community initiatives.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Belgrade visit – Rotaract club Milano Europa Fenice

During the weekend of 14th and 15th of February, members of Rotaract Belgrade Singidunum, welcomed dear friends, members of Rotaract Milano Europa Fenice for their visit of Belgrade. Together, they have visited Kalemegdan fortress, Temple of Saint Sava and park Tašmajdan. Also, it was a pleasure to show our Italian friends all the beautiful traditions, and to enjoy rakija, ćevapi and a night out at Kafana. Since members of Rotaract Belgrade Singidunum visited Milan back in October, both of the clubs agreed this is just the beginning of their sincerely beautiful collaboration. They will join other clubs of Europe in EUCO Belgrade in May. It will be our pleasure to host them all.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Wine night by Rotaract clubs of Niš

The Wine night is a traditional event organised every year by Rotaract clubs in Niš (Rotaract Club Niš, Rotaract Club Niš - Constantine the Great, Rotaract Club Niš - Centre and Rotaract Club Niš - University), where everyone gathers for a fundraising evening, enjoyed over a wide variety of wines. A number of wineries have recognized the efforts and supported the event throughout the years. The gathering attracts a large number of attendees from outside the Rotaract community, allowing a wider audience to get acquainted with our work. This year the four Rotaract clubs rallied once again for a night of fundraising and good wine. Through the funds gathered we supported "Judo for all", a local sports club's initiative that provides judo lessons for kids with special needs. This donation helps the club keep running smoothly and allows the classes to remain free of charge.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ROTARY D2483

1. REPORT FROM THE FESTIVAL "KNOWLEDGE FOR THE FUTURE" IN RUM, 26.02.2025

- 2.
3. On 26.2.2025, the third festival "Knowledge for the Future" was held at the Sports Center "Ruma" in which 31 teams participated in the disciplines of drone, mBot robot 1 and mBot robot 2.
- 4.
5. The festival was organized and valuable prizes were provided by the Rotary Clubs of Belgrade Čukarica, Ruma, Sremska Mitrovica and Stara Pazova.
- 6.
7. Thank you to the Sports Center "Ruma" for the hospitality and the Secondary School "Milenko Brzak Uča" for organizing the festival.
- 8.
9. Based on the achieved placements and the number of points, the following schools secured participation in the final review on April 12th this year at the "Ranko Žeravica" Sports Hall in New Belgrade:

10.

11. DRONE CONTROL AND PROGRAMMING

- 12.
13. 1st place Elementary School "Jovan Jovanović Zmaj" Sremska Mitrovica - 275 points
14. 2nd place Elementary School "23. Oktobar" Golubinci - 265 points
15. 2nd Place Elementary School "Laza K. Lazarević" Šabac - 265 points
16. 3rd Place Elementary School "Veljko Dugošević" Ruma - 227 points
17. 4th Place "Petefi Šándor" Hajdukovo - 225 points

18.

19. MANAGEMENT AND PROGRAMMING MBOT ROBOT 1

- 20.
21. 1st Place Elementary School "Dušan Jerković" Ruma - 250 points
22. 2nd Place Elementary School "Nata Jeličić" Šabac - 223 points
23. 3rd Place "Laza K. Lazarević" Šabac - 199 points

24.

25. MANAGEMENT AND PROGRAMMING MBOT ROBOT 2

- 26.
27. 1st Place Elementary School "Laza K. Lazarević" Šabac - 305 points
28. 2nd Place Elementary School "Dušan Jerković" Ruma - 255 points
29. 3rd Place Elementary School "Dositej Obradović" Irig - 225 points
30. 4th Place Elementary School "Petefi Šándor" Hajdukovo - 220 points

Festival Coordinator Festival Technical Director
PDG Vladimir Matić Vladimir Lalošević

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ROTARY D2483

REPORT FROM THE FESTIVAL "KNOWLEDGE FOR THE FUTURE" IN RUM, 26.02.2025



15.02.2025. RC Sremska Mitrovica - joint meeting of regional clubs - D2483, D1913 and D1910.

The Rotary Club of RC Sremska Mitrovica, together with the Rotary Clubs of RC Vukovar, RC Vinkovci, RC Osijek, RC Bijeljina and RC Novi Sad Neoplanta, attended a joint meeting and gathering in Lovas, Croatia, further strengthening the friendship and cooperation between the three Rotary districts - 2483, 1913 and 1910. This meeting enabled a sincere exchange of ideas, experiences and plans, with a special focus on strengthening regional cooperation. In a warm and friendly atmosphere, members reaffirmed their commitment to the values that make up Rotary - serving the community, supporting each other and continuously contributing to positive changes in our region.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Activities of the members of the Rotary Club "Mihajlo Pupin" from Pančevo

The ICC Summit held in Istanbul was attended by representatives of our District 2483, including Duška Mrvoš, a member of our club. Our district delegation was represented by: Violeta Marković from RC "Sava", president of ICC Serbia & Montenegro - Turkey; Duška Mrvoš from RC "Mihajlo Pupin", Pančevo, District Rotary Friendship Exchange Chair (RFE), president of ICC Serbia & Montenegro - India 3011 and 3012; Marko Mitrašinović from RC "Smederevo" - National ICC Coordinator and Vladimir Matić from RC "Čukarica", District International Service Chair (IC), president of ICC Serbia & Montenegro - USA 6910.



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