



ENVIRONMENTAL MONTH



Rotary shares an interest in protecting our common legacy: the environment.

We are committed to supporting activities that strengthen the conservation and protection of natural resources, advance ecological sustainability, and foster harmony between communities and the environment. We empower communities to access grants and other resources, embrace local solutions, and spur innovation in an effort to address the causes and reduce the effects of climate change and environmental degradation.

ENVIRONMENTAL MONTH

Each April, Rotary International celebrates **Environmental Month**, dedicating time, energy, and resources toward preserving and restoring our natural world. This important observance highlights Rotary's ongoing commitment to sustainability and its recognition that protecting the environment is essential to building a better future for all.

In 2020, Rotary officially added the environment as its **seventh area of focus**, acknowledging that environmental degradation affects every aspect of life—from health and food security to economic development and peace. As Rotarians, we understand that a healthy planet underpins every humanitarian goal we pursue.

April is not only the month of Rotary's environmental focus but also home to **Earth Day on April 22nd**, a global movement that encourages action on climate change and environmental justice. Together, these observances offer a timely reminder that we each have a role to play in protecting the planet we share. Throughout the month, Rotary clubs around the world organize a variety of projects aimed at environmental protection and awareness. These include:

- **Tree planting and reforestation** to combat deforestation and improve biodiversity.
- **Community clean-up drives** to remove litter from public spaces, parks, and waterways.
- **Educational campaigns** to promote recycling, conservation, and sustainable living.
- **Partnerships with local environmental organizations** to enhance impact and outreach.
- **Support for renewable energy and green technologies** that reduce carbon footprints.

These projects not only make a tangible difference in local communities but also raise awareness about global environmental issues. They foster community spirit and demonstrate the power of collective action. Rotary's commitment to sustainability also means advocating for long-term change. Clubs are encouraged to adopt eco-friendly practices in their own operations, minimize waste at events, and integrate sustainability into all service efforts.

Even small actions—such as reducing single-use plastics, conserving water and energy, or supporting local farmers—can have a big impact when multiplied across Rotary's global network.

Environmental stewardship is not just about protecting nature—it's about creating healthier, safer, and more equitable communities. The choices we make today will shape the quality of life for generations to come.

As we observe Rotary Environmental Month, let's reflect on our connection to the Earth and commit to being thoughtful stewards of its resources. By taking action now, we can help build a more resilient, sustainable, and peaceful world.

Together, we are not just people of action—we are people of the planet.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE



STEPHANIE A. URCHICK
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
PRESIDENT
RY 2024-2025

As the chill of winter gives way to the warmth of spring, we have an opportunity to rejuvenate our commitments to each other and to the communities we serve.

A shining example is the Rotary Club of Windsor-Roseland in Ontario, whose members support a program providing hot meals to people facing homelessness and food insecurity. On any given evening, the Soup Shack run by Feed Windsor-Essex serves up to 130 people, offering nourishment and a sense of community and care.

Club member and Past District Governor Aruna Koushik got the club involved after seeing a news segment about the Soup Shack.

Koushik collaborated with club members to quickly approve the purchase of a stove, pots, and pans for its new permanent space. Soon after, club members met with the Soup Shack team, toured the new location, and presented a check for 3,000 Canadian dollars (about US\$2,000) to support its efforts. They also committed to volunteering their time to prepare and serve meals once the facility is operational.

This exemplifies how Rotary members can come together to address community needs, foster engagement, and make a tangible impact. By identifying opportunities for service and mobilizing resources, we not only support those in need but also strengthen our bonds with each other and with the communities we serve.

As we embrace the renewal that spring offers, let's take inspiration from the Windsor-Roseland club. Consider these ways to reinvigorate engagement within your club:

Identify emerging needs: Stay attuned to the evolving challenges in your communities. Engage with local organizations to understand where your club's support can make the most difference.

Mobilize resources quickly: When opportunities arise, act swiftly. Leverage the skills and networks within your club to gather resources, from financial contributions to equipment to volunteer time.

Foster collaboration: Encourage members to take initiative and collaborate on projects. Empowering individuals to lead and contribute their unique talents enhances engagement and drives success.

Commit to ongoing involvement: Beyond initial contributions, pledge continued support.

Regular service keeps members connected and reinforces the club's commitment to sustained impact.

By embracing these approaches, we can harness the energy of spring to renew our dedication to service and engagement. Let's seize this season as an opportunity to revitalize our efforts, strengthen our connections, and continue making a positive difference in the world.

This is The Magic of Rotary — transforming lives, inspiring hope, and creating lasting change for the communities we serve.

SHAPING THE FUTURE: ROTARY AND YOUTH

May – Youth Service Month

Dear Rotary Family,

As we all know, May is celebrated as Youth Service Month in Rotary. During this month, we focus especially on projects that support young people—because one of Rotary’s core values is to inspire the next generation and help them reach their full potential. We believe that the more we pass on the idea of “Service Above Self” to youth, the stronger and more lasting our impact will be.

Interact: First Step into Service

Interact Clubs are for young people aged 12 to 18. These clubs give students the chance to learn about teamwork, leadership, and community service. It’s more than just a school activity—it’s the beginning of their journey as future leaders.

Young Interactors learn how to help others, solve problems creatively, and understand different cultures. Many of them later become Rotaractors and eventually, full Rotary members.

Rotaract: Young Spirit, Real Impact

Rotaract Clubs are for young adults aged 18 to 30. These clubs help them grow as leaders, plan creative projects, and take action in their communities. Rotaract is a space for young people to learn leadership and make a difference—locally and globally.

Many Rotarians began their service journey as Rotaractors. That’s why Rotaract is so important for Rotary’s future.

Working Together: Stronger Connections

It is very important to build strong partnerships between Interact, Rotaract, and Rotary clubs. Young people today are full of ideas, energy, and creativity. They often lead successful and innovative projects. We, as Rotarians, should support them, respect their leadership, and share our experience when needed.

Let’s work with them—not just for them.

RYLA: Discovering Leadership

The Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) program is one of our best ways to support youth. It helps young people (ages 15–30) discover their strengths, grow their confidence, and become responsible leaders.

In RYLA, they learn about teamwork, communication, ethical leadership, and community service. It’s not about teaching leadership—it’s about helping them find their own leadership style.



N. ALTAN ARSLAN

PP 2005-2006 RC ANKARA KIZILAY

PDG 2018-2019 D2430

RPIC 2023-2026 ZONE 21B

SHAPING THE FUTURE: ROTARY AND YOUTH MAY – YOUTH SERVICE MONTH

Youth Exchange: Life-Changing Experiences

The Rotary Youth Exchange Program gives students (ages 15–19) a chance to live in another country, learn a new language, and experience a different culture. There are two main types:

- * Long-Term Exchange: One school year abroad
- * Short-Term Exchange: 3–6 weeks, usually during summer

Through Youth Exchange, students become open-minded, independent, and more understanding of the world. They are also peace ambassadors who build global friendships.

Mentorship: Guiding the Way

Mentorship is a key part of our youth work. As Rotarians, we can guide young people by sharing our life and work experience. We give them not only knowledge, but also inspiration, courage, and hope.

Conclusion: Youth Are Our Future

Every investment we make in youth is an investment in the future of Rotary. Today's youth are tomorrow's service leaders. Let's walk with them, listen to them, and build a better future—together.

See you next month

With love and respect,

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

COMPLETION OF FIRST COHORT PEACE FELLOWS PROGRAM AT BAU FUTURE CAMPUS İSTANBUL

Years of devotion and dedicated is now bearing fruit for peace. BAU, TRF, RI, Host Area D2420 and D2430/D2440 are now celebrating realisation of peace fellows' on-site education. As they are departing to leave and travel back to their homes, İstanbul is not whispering farewell to their ears. Rather yearning for their arrival in early Jan 2026 to receive successful implementation recognition, of their Peace Initiative Projects.

Fellows have come from a diverse culture of countries, including Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Kenya, Pakistan, Somali, South Africa, Türkiye, USA and Yemen. BAU campus offered an excellent facility. Including lodgings inside the dormitories, cafeteria, sports centre, library, and infirmary. Remotely situated in greenery forests, BAU Future Campus is easily accessible by road and metro.

They have received lectures designed around a modular curriculum for a 10 week duration. Each model has been augmented with site visits to various historical and cultural locations, including Ankara the capital city of Türkiye. Local Rotary clubs assisted enthusiastically these stopovers. Fellows have been received by provincial administrations, authorities and the civilian organisation to exchange ideas and thoughts. Here is a very brief summary of the learning scheme designed and actualised by the BAU distinguished academicians.

1-Mandatory Module

IPA - Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Workshop

Weaving Art and Design Workshop "Perpetual Peace"

2-Sustainable Development Module

NGO Visit (KAGİDER/Women's Entrepreneurs Assoc. of Turkey & ASAM/Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants)

3-Conflict Resolution Module

Community Engagement Events in Istanbul

HLO/ULMER Academy of Local Governance - Thematic Cohort Workshops

Meeting with Mediterranean Women Mediators Network (Türkiye Antenna)

Aromatic Scent Workshop "Scent of Peace"

NGO Visit: Hayata Destek Derneği/Support to Life Association

4-Diplomacy and Cooperation Module

Policymaking in peace & development

ULMER/HLO - Thematic Cohort Workshops (Gastrodiplomacy for Refugee Integration)

Fellows were able to observe the Rotary customs as they were invited to host club meetings. They have witnessed at first hand the accomplishment of Rotary members' community engagement programs. Overwhelmed by scenes on the spots where the involvement of local as well as the world Rotarians together with The Rotary Foundation helped to improve the earthquake victims' lives. They were able to deliver talks to introduce themselves during D2420 host clubs meetings, specifically during the District Governors official visits. Connections they have found and build in these meetings will certainly not to be forgotten and remembered instantly as opportunities arise.

COMPLETION OF FIRST COHORT PEACE FELLOWS PROGRAM AT BAU FUTURE CAMPUS İSTANBUL

It was also a time for fun and enjoyment. They were present at prominent events such as concerts, a basketball match and additional ancillary district ceremonies. One such experience were lived-in the Presidential Peace Conference held in İstanbul. Near to 1000 participants have become aware of the programs effectiveness and Rotary Senior Leaders had the chance to meet and discuss with the fellows. The Campus visit and the opening of the Peace Pole were memorable times. As pure and white snowflakes descended from above painting a picturesque peace landscape.

As they embark on their new journey, we say goodbye to our, now everlasting friends in perpetuity. Spring is in the air in İstanbul. Now is the time, like the unfurling petals of a peony flowers blossoming, their talent potential is ready for peace. They will spend the next eight months in their resident locations to work out the details to achieve their proposed peace initiative. During the off-site process, progress will be addressed and shared through on line communications. They may be far away from our eyes during this period however will be very close to our hearts.

Spearheaded by our fellows, the role of education in nurturing understanding, empathy and ultimately a more peaceful world desire will continue to live within BAU Future Campus.

As we are waiting to accept the next phase of the cohorts, The Host Area Coordination Committee (HAC) is available and accessible to continue fulfilling this caring responsibility.

Our special thanks goes to all those who have contributed to the selection process. Appreciation conveyed to all the support provided by Bahçeşehir University and the Rotary Family for sustainable operations.

Suat Baysan

BAU Peace Centre

Host Area Coordination Committee

HAC Committee Chair 2024-27

ROTARY PEACE CENTER BAU REPORT

Workshop 1: Gastrodiplomacy

On Friday, the first community engagement event was held at Güzelburç Antakya Restaurant, with Anna Maria Beylunioğlu-Atlı leading a session on Gastrodiplomacy. As participants enjoyed Antakya's delicious dishes, they learned how food can be a tool for diplomacy. The interactive event allowed attendees to share their experiences and discuss the power of food in connecting cultures.

No Antakya experience is complete without Turkish coffee and fortune-telling, and this event was no exception. It was a heartwarming success, leaving everyone with a deeper appreciation for how food brings people together.



First Field Visit – Giresun & Ordu

On February 27–28, 2025, with the participation of BAU staff and fellows, RPC conducted the first field visit to Giresun and Ordu. The visit focused on sustainable agriculture, green growth, and the role of women's labor in local development.

Peace Fellows had insightful meetings with Ordu Chamber of Commerce President Levent Karlıbel and Ordu Metropolitan Municipality Business Development Director Sancar Eser, discussing regional trade, sustainability efforts, and the impact of climate change on agriculture.

On the second day, Peace Fellows stayed at Zifin Hotel and attended an online lecture by Prof. Ayşe Özcan-Buckley, who provided an in-depth analysis of hazelnut production in Giresun and its economic significance at both local and national levels.

This inspiring visit offered a valuable opportunity to observe sustainable development in action and engage with local stakeholders



ROTARY PEACE CENTER BAU REPORT

Workshop 2)

On Friday, March 7th, our Peace Fellows had the pleasure of joining a captivating weaving workshop led by Fırat Neziroğlu. They explored the harmony of color, texture, and form while immersing themselves in the deep-rooted traditions of Anatolian weaving. Thank you for guiding us through this enriching experience! Fırat Neziroğlu is a distinguished artist who reinterprets traditional Anatolian weaving through a contemporary lens. For over 25 years, he has journeyed across Anatolia, researching and reviving ancient fabrics and looms, and collaborating with local artisans to preserve this cultural heritage. His art has been exhibited in global cities such as London, Paris, and New York, with custom pieces created for dignitaries including the Queens of England and Thailand.

He has been featured at renowned platforms like the Lausanne Biennale and New York Fashion Week. As a Wearable Technologies Advisor at Information Valley, he continues to innovate in the field of sustainable textiles and bio-based fibers. His signature technique is now taught in textile programs around the world, and his international workshops—"Weaving Like Fırat Neziroğlu"—continue to inspire new generations of artists and designers.



Workshop 3)

As part of our extracurricular activities, we had a wonderful perfume-making workshop with Koku Akademisi. The session started with a brief history of scents, then our fellows learned to identify base, middle, and top notes, and how to blend them into a balanced fragrance.

Each fellow created their own unique perfume—choosing scents that reflect their personality and bring them joy. Now, they carry a special fragrance that will always remind them of this meaningful day at the Rotary Peace Center.



ROTARY PEACE CENTER BAU REPORT

Field Visit 2 : Southern Türkiye

The second field visit began in Mardin, where the Rotary Peace Center staff and fellows engaged with impactful civil society organizations and visited Mardin Bahçeşehir College — a prominent educational institution shaping the region's future.

In Mardin, the group met with two inspiring organizations dedicated to women's empowerment and community development:

ÇATOM (Multi-Purpose Community Center) provides education, vocational training, and certification programs to support refugee and local women entering the workforce. Through the center's workshops, women can also create and sell handmade products, generating sustainable income.

MOKİD (Mardin Joint Women's Cooperation Association) offers literacy courses, vocational training, and psychological, social, and legal counseling. Their women-led initiative, MOKİD Mutfak, is a commercial kitchen that fosters entrepreneurship and economic independence for women.

Both organizations are making important contributions to gender equality, social change, and sustainable development.

The Rotary Peace Center extends its heartfelt thanks to all the individuals and teams working tirelessly to create a better, more peaceful future. Special appreciation goes to Mr. Ömer Boz, Principal of Bahçeşehir College, for his invaluable support and commitment to education and community impact.



Gaziantep: The second stop of the field visit was Gaziantep, where the Rotary Peace Center staff and fellows continued their learning journey.

The day began with a visit to **KAGİDEM**, a center that supports women entrepreneurs through training, consultancy, and mentorship. The team observed how the organization empowers women to launch their own businesses and contribute to the local economy.

Later, the group joined an event hosted by **Gaziantep Rotary Club and Rotary District 2430**. Local Rotarians shared their impactful earthquake relief work, including the distribution of emergency supplies, setup of temporary housing, and mobile hospitals. Their dedication to community response in times of crisis was deeply appreciated.

The visit also included meetings with **Bahar Organization and Welthungerhilfe (WHH)**, both providing essential humanitarian aid to refugees and local communities in Turkey and Syria. Their efforts in health, food security, and resilience-building programs were highlighted as key contributions to regional stability. During the same event, the group met **Ayşe Ceren Bilgin, Project Manager for the Union of Medical Care and Relief Organizations (UOSSM)**. She shared valuable insights into the organization's medical and humanitarian work in vulnerable communities.

The Rotary Peace Center extends its sincere thanks to all participants for their inspiring work and generous contributions. Their efforts underscored the importance of collaboration and collective action in supporting and rebuilding communities.



ROTARY PEACE CENTER BAU REPORT

The final stop of the field visit was Hatay, a region deeply impacted by the earthquake. The Rotary Peace Center staff and fellows were honored to host JCI and Save the Children at Bahçeşehir Antakya College, where they learned about the organizations' crucial work in disaster response, community recovery, and child protection.

JCI is a network of young leaders and entrepreneurs who coordinate volunteer efforts in disaster zones, distribute aid, and develop community rebuilding projects. They also collaborate with local authorities to support recovery processes.

Save the Children focuses on protecting children in crisis situations by ensuring their safety, offering psychosocial support, distributing essentials, and ensuring continued access to education. Their child-centered approach is essential for long-term recovery.

The team expressed their deep gratitude to **Hatay Bahçeşehir College** for their warm hospitality. Special thanks were given to **Sefer Kaplan**, founder and president of **BK Hatay**, and the entire school team for their incredible support in hosting this meaningful gathering.

A special acknowledgment was also given to **Yusuf Gasseloğlu**, who translated *The Little Prince* into Arabic with Latin letters for the **Anadolu Dillerinde Küçük Prens** project by **Sivil Düşün**, aimed at preserving regional languages. His work makes classic literature more accessible to Arabic-speaking communities, offering children in Antakya the chance to enjoy the story in their native language.

The Rotary Peace Center also thanked Yusuf Gasseloğlu for gifting a copy of the book to fellow **Morad Al-Qadi** as a thoughtful gesture.



ROTARY PEACE CENTER BAU REPORT



ROTARY PEACE CENTER BAU REPORT

Field Visit 3: Ankara

On Monday, April 7th, we carried out the first stop of the Ankara field visit with a visit to the FAO in Türkiye & Sub-regional Office for Central Asia.

Our visit to the FAO in Türkiye & Sub-regional Office for Central Asia started with a brief information session about FAO's structure, mission, and accomplishments in Türkiye and the region. The lively debate that followed afterward included FAO's monitoring and assessment mechanisms, contributions to the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, activities in conflict zones, and its partners, among which is Bahçeşehir University as of 2022. Other themes of particular importance were the empowerment of disaster-ridden and refugee communities through capacity building, family farming to conserve biodiversity, and the future of food. We thank the FAO Office for their time and invaluable insights.



On the first day of field visit in Ankara continued with a tour of Anıtkabir, the mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. As the founding father of the Turkish Republic, Atatürk's legacy is deeply embedded in this site. Anıtkabir stands as a powerful representation of Turkey's national identity, secular statehood, and modernizing reforms. Mustafa Kemal Atatürk once said, "Peace at home, peace in the world." His vision for a modern, peaceful Republic was rooted in education, gender equality, legal reform, and diplomacy. These ideals remain vital in efforts to build inclusive and resilient societies today.

In the afternoon, the Fellows met with representatives from the AK Party Foreign Affairs Unit, who shared their work on diaspora engagement and citizen diplomacy. The unit prepares regular reports on the Turkish diaspora's status and needs, and maintains close collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through monthly briefings. Their efforts focus on understanding and responding to the needs of Turkish citizens living abroad, ensuring a sustained and strategic connection with global Turkish communities.



ROTARY PEACE CENTER BAU REPORT

On the second day of their visit to Ankara, the Rotary Peace Center staff and fellows had the privilege of visiting the Embassy of Canada. The discussions focused on strengthening Canada–Turkey relations, particularly in areas like immigration and peacebuilding. Holly White, Second Secretary at the Embassy and a Rotary Peace Fellow alumna, shared her heartfelt perspective on peace from the viewpoints of a peacebuilder, a Rotarian, and a diplomat. The conversation also highlighted Canada’s diplomatic approach and its commitment to global peacebuilding efforts. The team expressed sincere gratitude to Holly White for her warm hospitality and valuable insights.



ROTARY PEACE CENTER BAU REPORT

Later in the day, the group visited the Department of International Relations at METU, where they engaged in discussions on regional conflicts, grassroots civil society movements, and peace and security theories. The visit emphasized how academic knowledge informs diplomatic practice. The Rotary Peace Center extended sincere thanks to Prof. Özgehan Şenyuva, Prof. Meliha Altunışık, Assist. Prof. Dr. Derya Göçer, and all participating faculty members for their warm welcome and insightful contributions. Their perspectives created an inspiring space for dialogue between academia and peace practitioners.



As the final meetings of their second day, the Rotary Peace Center staff and fellows visited the **International Labour Organization (ILO) Turkey Office and the Directorate of Communications**.

At the **ILO Turkey Office**, the group gained valuable insights into the organization's role in setting global labor standards and promoting social justice. Discussions focused on the ILO's efforts to improve labor conditions, protect workers' rights, and strengthen social security systems, with a special emphasis on Turkey's labor policies and strategies. The ILO representatives provided an overview of the organization's history and ongoing work to ensure decent work for all.



ROTARY PEACE CENTER BAU REPORT

The final visit of the day was to the Directorate of Communications, where the team learned about Turkey's media policies, digital transformation, public relations, and strategic communication efforts. The discussion highlighted the critical role of communication strategies in diplomacy, especially in using media to manage public perception and influence both domestic and international audiences. They also presented on humanitarian aid assistance, underscoring the importance of effective communication in coordinating such efforts.



Field Visit 4: Cyprus

The Rotary Peace Center staff and fellows are sincerely grateful to **Mustafa Akıncı**, former President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, for kindly welcoming them.

As part of the **Rotary Peace Center certificate program at Bahçeşehir University**, the Peace Fellows had the honor of meeting Mr. Akıncı and engaging in an insightful discussion on the Cyprus issue. The team deeply appreciates his generosity in sharing his experiences and perspectives.



ROTARY PEACE CENTER BAU REPORT

During their recent trip, the Rotary Peace Center staff and fellows had the honor of visiting the TRNC Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Minister Ertuğruloğlu provided a comprehensive overview of the Cyprus issue in its historical context and explained the official stance of the TRNC, emphasizing that a two-state solution is the only viable path forward, supported by solid reasoning. He also highlighted the crucial role Turkey plays in supporting this ongoing process.

Foreign Minister Tahsin Ertuğruloğlu has been serving as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus since 2016. His leadership and diplomatic efforts continue to play a key role in shaping the future of the island.



On the last day of their visit to Cyprus, the Peace Fellows from the Rotary Peace Center at Bahçeşehir University began their day with a meeting with Prof. Dr. Ahmet Sözen, Chair of the Department of Political Science & International Relations and Director of the Cyprus Policy Center. He delivered an insightful seminar on the Cyprus Conflict, providing valuable perspectives to support their research on peace-related topics.

Under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Ahmet Sözen, Rotary Peace Center visited Varosha (Kapalı Maraş). This area, once a bustling resort town, has remained closed since the 1974 Turkish invasion of Cyprus and stands as a key symbol of the island's division. The visit provided valuable insights into its historical and political importance in the context of the Cyprus conflict.



ROTARY PEACE CENTER BAU REPORT



Farewell party



This document was prepared by Bahçeşehir University (BAU)

COUNCIL OF LEGALISATION 2025

About 480 Rotary members from around the world, each representing a single Rotary district, are gathered April at the Hyatt Regency in Chicago, Illinois, USA, for the 2025 Council on Legislation. They will vote on 78 proposals to change Rotary International's constitutional documents.

"This Council represents the heart of Rotary's democratic process and the best of our international spirit," said Rotary International President Stephanie A. Urchick at the opening session. "The gathering is one of Rotary's most powerful expressions of multiculturalism. Here, voices from every corner of the globe come together – not to compete, but to collaborate."

The Council on Legislation, which meets every three years, is Rotary's version of a congress. Representatives selected by their districts gather to consider proposals designed to move Rotary forward and adapt to the changing times.

Follow this year's coverage below

Daily recaps

[Download preliminary voting results](#)

Monday, 14 April

Representatives approved a measure to decrease the number of members needed to charter a new Rotary club from 20 to 15. Supporters said it would remove barriers to starting new clubs and help Rotary grow and expand its reach. The Council also defeated a pair of measures to set an age limit for Rotaractors.

Opponents cited the low number of current Rotaractors over the age of 40 in arguing that limits were unnecessary and said such restrictions could force members out of Rotary.

They also rejected limiting the number of honorary members a club can have to 5% of the club's active membership. Opponents noted that many clubs use honorary membership to stay in contact with former members, many of them longtime Rotarians with valuable expertise to offer.



COUNCIL OF LEGALISATION 2025

Tuesday, 15 April

After 45 minutes of debate, the Council approved an increase in the dues that every member pays to Rotary International of US\$3.50 in the first year and US\$3.75 in the following two years. Supporters said the increase is needed to meet rising costs and continue providing essential resources and services to clubs. They said that the dues increase is below the inflation rate, indicating that RI is working to cut costs and manage revenues responsibly. Opponents felt that dues increases may hurt membership and wanted more transparency from RI about what cost-cutting has been done.

Representatives also approved a measure allowing the Board to test additional new governance models in districts beyond those approved by the Council three years ago. A governance pilot is currently being tested in districts in RIBI, New Zealand, and Australia, with some modest success in membership growth.

Supporters noted that the system in which governors oversee districts dates back to the early days of Rotary. They argue that trying new governance models can help Rotary adapt to future needs and train and develop new leaders.

In another measure, representatives agreed to allow the Board to consider factors such as culture and language, not just the number of Rotarians, in deciding zone boundaries.

Wednesday, 16 April

Representatives voted to require that the five-year financial forecast presented at the beginning of each Council include updates on specific process improvements and cost-reduction measures taken by RI. Several representatives wanted RI to provide more details about cost reductions to justify any increase in dues.

In a similar measure, the Council approved commissioning a regular professional analysis of processes and cost structures in RI's administration. They declined to require, however, that Rotary's annual report include an itemized list of every expense over US\$1 million.

After considerable debate, the Council voted to make holding a district conference optional.



ROTARY : POWER OF GOODNESS
ZONE 21 & 22 VIDEO COMPETITION



Power of Goodness
Video Competition

To all Rotary et Rotaract clubs of Zone 21 & 22

Power of Goodness

Video Competition

DEADLINE EXTENDED

11/05/25, at 11:59 PM (Ankara Tme)

www.thepowerofgoodness.com

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF



**ARPIC ALAEDDIN DEMIRCIOĞLU
DISTRICT 2420/2430/2440**

**Bahçeşehir University (BAU) Rotary Peace Scholars in
Ordu (District 2430):
Meaningful Visit on Sustainable Agriculture and Local
Economy**

Meaningful Visit on Sustainable Agriculture and Local Economy
BAU Rotary Peace Center Peace Scholars made a series of important contacts in Ordu and Giresun as part of their field visits. 13 Peace Scholars from 12 different countries met with Ordu Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OTSO) President and OBB ORTAR A.Ş. Board of Directors President at BAU Farm Giresun.

The scholars received detailed information about the studies carried out on the development of local agriculture and trade.

As part of the program, the delegation also visited Kybele Chocolate Park. During the visit, Bord of Directors informed the guests about both Kybele's production processes and OBB's studies in the field of sustainable agriculture in Ordu.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RunRotary 2025: Running for a Cause in Antalya, Türkiye

The annual RunRotary 2025 race, held in the heart of Antalya, brought together 136 dedicated Rotarian runners in an inspiring display of athleticism and philanthropy. Through their collective efforts, an impressive 1,500,000 Turkish Lira (USD 40,000) was raised, directly funding the HPV vaccinations for 450 young girls from families receiving social assistance from local municipalities. This initiative underscores Rotary's commitment to community health, ensuring access to preventive care for those in need.



The event also highlighted the generosity of participating individuals and clubs, with M. Cem Alaybeyoğlu leading individual contributions at TL 140,000, followed by Ayla Ergül (TL 105,700) and Ayşe Mine Ergün (TL 93,415). Among the clubs, Antalya Perge Interact Club raised the highest amount with TL 170,305, followed closely by Eskişehir Anadolu Rotary Club (TL 154,000) and Antalya Kaleiçi Rotary Club (TL 146,350). RunRotary 2025 was not only a test of endurance but a triumph of generosity, proving once again that running can change lives.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

TOGETHER, WE CONNECT: TWIN CLUBS' CULTURE, ART & GASTRONOMY TOUR IN APRIL, IN ADANA

As Adana Koza Rotary Club family, we had the great pleasure of hosting both of our twin clubs in Adana from April 3–7, 2025. It was a true joy to meet and spend time with our fellow Rotarians and their families from Beograd Passport Rotary Club (District 2483, Serbia and Montenegro) and București Levant Rotary Club (District 2241, Romania and the Republic of Moldova), and to further strengthen our bonds of friendship.

As a preliminary step in hosting and organizing the program, our club members dedicated their effort to creating a meticulously crafted program, with a special focus on culture, art history, and gastronomy in the Çukurova region. With strong collaboration and team work we ensured that our guests experienced four unforgettable days in our home town, fully immersing in the cultural richness and culinary heritage of the region. Accompanied by professional guides, the tours in Adana, Tarsus and Gaziantep not only deepened fellowships but also created lasting memories for all.

Our friends from Beograd Passport RC also joined us on April 5 at the 17th ROFIFE Gala and Award Ceremony in Gaziantep organized by RI D. 2430 International Rotary Short Film Festival District Committee. Sharing the excitement and joy of the evening was a highlight and the nighttime visit to the museum—exclusively arranged for Rotarians—was an unforgettable experience for all.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

TOGETHER, WE CONNECT: TWIN CLUBS' CULTURE, ART & GASTRONOMY TOUR IN APRIL, IN ADANA

The timing of our twin clubs' visit coincided perfectly with the 13th International Adana Orange Blossom Carnival, giving us the opportunity to enjoy the vibrant festival parade, explore its colorful activities, and experience local stalls and festivities together. As for the gastronomy, throughout the tours and evening gatherings, we carefully selected venues that offered the most authentic regional flavors.

Following an enriching four-day program full of fellowship, we bid farewell to both of our twin clubs as they returned home, reaffirming our determination to reunite at the earliest opportunity, to further strengthen our bonds of friendship, and to collaborate on impactful service projects for improving lives in communities. We truly believe that this significant Rotary program—which fosters international goodwill, understanding, and cooperation—will serve as a remarkable beginning for a long-lasting relationship, opening doors to future international events and projects.

For our young Adana Koza Rotary Club, which had its charter less than a year ago, this joint program in April will be an unforgettable milestone, creating opportunities for new friendships, nurturing lasting bonds, and fostering international service partnerships. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all fellow Rotarians and their families who devoted their time, effort, support, commitment and enthusiasm to bring this to life and make it happen.

Rtn. Tijen Türeli
Adana Koza Rotary Club
Club President 2024–2025



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ADANA KOZA ROTARY CLUB- EMPOWERING HOUSEWIVES BY BROADENING HORIZONS THROUGH “EVKA”

The Adana Koza Rotary Club, between February 13th and March 3rd, 2025, carried out the “EVKA” – Housewives' Horizon Widening Project in six sessions, covering 10 topics. Through these sessions, we directly impacted 305 housewives, and considering their family members, approximately 1200 people were reached both directly and indirectly. This project aimed at raising awareness, informing, and educating housewives was implemented in collaboration with Yüreğir District Municipality.

The seminar topics in the EVKA project included:

1. “Food Security and Healthy Nutrition” and “Environmental Awareness” by Rtn. Prof. Dr. Turgut Cabaroğlu
2. “My Child, Our Future” and “Raising Healthy Children” by Prof. Dr. Oğuzhan Kırdök
3. “Women's Legal Rights” by Attorney Zehra Akarpınar
4. “Family Communication” and “Child and Adolescent Psychology” by Rtn. Prof. Dr. Banu İnanç
5. “Mother and Child Health” by Rtn. Dr. Seher Evrücke, and “Gynecological Diseases and Early Diagnosis” by Rtn. Prof. Dr. Cüneyt Evrücke
6. “GİKA” – Women Entrepreneurs “Hand in Hand Towards Economic Freedom” by GİKA District Committee Adana Coordinator Meltem Aydın

These interactive sessions provided a platform for addressing critical issues and responding to questions raised by the participants.

We appreciated the presence and the continuous support of Yüreğir Municipality Vice President and the Director of Women and Family Services at our horizon-broadening meetings for housewives. This collaboration not only helped enhance Rotary's visibility to both municipal authorities and citizens but also laid the groundwork for future joint projects, paving the way for future successful partnerships.

Rtn. Tijen Türel
Adana Koza Rotary Club
Club President 2024–2025



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

"TOGETHER, WE SERVE: A JOURNEY TO HATAY DEĞİRMENYOLU TO NURTURE HOPE THROUGH THE BRIDGE OF FELLOWSHIP"

As Adana Koza Rotary Club, the series of projects we brought to life in Hatay Değirmenyolu-- 200 km away from Adana and severely affected by the February 6, 2023 earthquake--can be seen as projects that bridge distances, foster unity and connection, build bridges of hope and nurture resilience. It was a deeply emotional experience for us, filled with moments that made us say, "We're so glad to be here," and "We're proud to be Rotarians". Beyond the kilometers, it became a remarkable example of solidarity, cooperation, and collective action among Rotary clubs from 2 Rotary districts, Rotarian & Rotaractor collaboration, and Rotary & other NGOs partnership. Additionally, the service projects stood out for the variety of their themes. We implemented various projects with different areas of focus, in terms of education/awareness raising, fulfilling specific community needs, and health screenings.

WITHIN THE SCOPE OF EDUCATION AND AWARENESS (December 7 and December 25)

*PHASE I – December 7 / EDUCATION AND AWARENESS-RAISING:

Through the collaboration among Adana Koza Rotary Club (RI D 2430), Galatasaray Rotary Club and Galatasaray Rotaract Club (RI D 2420), together we organized and held a full day of simultaneous, multiple interactive educational seminars and awareness-raising events at Değirmenyolu Primary School and Hatay's Defne Değirmenyolu neighborhood. These interactive sessions enabled the participants to share ideas and problems, have access to reliable information, get responses to their questions concerning the topic of the seminar. The education and awareness-raising seminars were as follows:

- 1) "Protecting Eye Health and Preventing the Onset and Progression of Myopia"- Rtn. Prof. Dr. Gülhanım Hacıyakupoğlu (103 students) (followed by an entertaining mini fun and educational quiz)
- 2) "Oral and Dental Health"- Rtc. Dr. Mehmet Kutluhan Uçuk, Rtc. Dt. Gamze Akman & Rtc. Dt. Sila Başa (for elementary and preschool children; 175 students). After the session, 390 toothbrushes and tubes of toothpaste were distributed.
- 3) "Goal Setting"- Rtn. trainer Belkis Karabucak (for 8th-grade students)
- 4) "Breast Cancer and Early Diagnosis" – Prof. Dr. Arif Güngören (for women living in Değirmenyolu neighborhood and school parents; 120 participants)
- 5) "Cervical Cancer, HPV Vaccine, and Its Importance"- Prof. Dr. Arif Güngören (for women living in Değirmenyolu neighborhood and school parents; 120 participants)
- 6) "Coping with Our Emotions" – Rtn.Prof. Dr. Banu İnanç & Specialist Psychological Counselor Makbule Akdeniz



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

"TOGETHER, WE SERVE: A JOURNEY TO HATAY DEĞİRMENYOLU TO NURTURE HOPE THROUGH THE BRIDGE OF FELLOWSHIP"

*PHASE II – December 25 / EDUCATION AND AWARENESS-RAISING

Returning to Hatay Değirmenyolu Primary School for a second time, we implemented a full day of educational and awareness-raising seminars and events through the cooperation of Adana Koza RC and Galatasaray RC:

1) "Effective Communication Skills, Courtesy and Etiquette Rules" – Rtn. Assist. Prof. Dr. Silvia Akıncı (at the end of the session, participants received books on this topic--provided by RI D.2430--as gifts)

2) With the motto "Let's Protect Nature and the Environment, and Care for All Living Beings," we offered three awareness-raising sessions: "Reduce Plastic Use," "Water is Life," and "Let's Learn About and Protect Endangered Species in Our Region" (particularly those in Yumurtalık Nature Reserve and Akyatan Lagoon). These were followed by another fun and educational quiz.



WITHIN THE SCOPE OF COMMUNITY NEEDS (December 25, 2024)

1) "Gifts that Embrace with Love" - Through the collaboration of Adana Koza RC and Galatasaray RC, we delivered over 400 heartfelt gifts to students and mothers of Hatay Değirmenyolu Primary School, which serves 317 students. These included colorful wool scarves, hats, gloves, socks, baby clothes, sweets, chocolate, and 30 newborn-clothing gift sets—all to warmly embrace the children and families in the New Year. Many of the scarves and hats were lovingly handmade by our members, their spouses, friends, and family. Volunteers—both familiar and new—responded with touching generosity and support. Members of the Turkey Charity Association (TYSD) Adana Branch also partnered with us by donating a large number of gift packages and joined us in Değirmenyolu for the gift distribution.

2) "Hygiene Supply Donation"- In response to a need expressed by the community, we provided 336 packages of sanitary products for women.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

"TOGETHER, WE SERVE: A JOURNEY TO HATAY DEĞİRMENYOLU TO NURTURE HOPE THROUGH THE BRIDGE OF FELLOWSHIP"

WITHIN THE SCOPE OF HEALTH SCREENING (December 25, 2024)

"Protecting Heart Health and Preventing Hypertension" - Through cooperation of Adana Koza RC and Galatasaray RC , Rtn. Dr. Seher Evrückeand medical technician Furkan Günüvar provided training to 50 students. Following the session, all students had their blood pressure individually measured. Three students were found to have high blood pressure and were recommended for follow-up. One student showed signs of irregular heart rhythm and was referred to a pediatric cardiology clinic after contacting the family. Follow-up for these students is ongoing.

We believe our Hatay Değirmenyolu project series stand out for its rich content, project variety, wide-ranging and strong partnerships, as well as the support and interest it received from the community. These projects also contributed significantly to the public visibility and perception of Rotary. Alongside social media coverage, the first phase of our project was also featured in the press. <https://antakyagazetesi.com/defnede-rotarynin-umut-etkinligi/>

The residents of Hatay Değirmenyolu, including school staff, parents, and students, welcomed us with genuine warmth and hospitality. Through the music of the saz and heartfelt folk songs, the unspoken grief of past losses found a voice. A bridge of friendship has formed between us—one that we believe will last for many years to come. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our devoted club members, speakers, trainers, to our partner clubs Galatasaray Rotary Club and Galatasaray Rotaract Club, also to Turkey Charity Association (TYSD) Adana Branch and all volunteers, Değirmenyolu Primary School, and the people of Değirmenyolu.

Rtn. Tijen Türeli
Adana Koza Rotary Club
Club President 2024-2025



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Access is Not a Luxury, It's a Human Right! No Room for Fear!" carried out the **Adana Taşköprü Rotary Club**

Under the project titled "Access is Not a Luxury, It's a Human Right! No Room for Fear!" carried out by the Adana Taşköprü Rotary Club, 100,000 sanitary pads were distributed in the previous term. Building on the impact of this major social responsibility initiative, the goal was expanded for the new term to distribute 150,000 sanitary pads.

To support women and girls in need, particularly in earthquake-affected areas, active fieldwork was conducted. As part of the project, 35,000 pads were distributed in Antakya Expo Rotary Container City, 45,000 in Antakya Qatar Friendship Container City, 30,000 at the Adana Girls' High School Dormitory, 15,000 in Adana Container City, and 25,000 at Hatay Defne Değirmenyolu Primary School.

Thus, the goal of 150,000 sanitary pads was successfully reached, providing significant support to women and girls in the region. This meaningful initiative by the Adana Taşköprü Rotary Club also plays a vital role in raising awareness within the community.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

TOGETHER FOR THE FUTURE : HATAY

On April 19–20, as **Ankara Kızılay and Antakya Rotaract Clubs**, we carried out a very meaningful and inspiring project in Hatay, a city that is still recovering from the major earthquakes of recent years. Our aim was to support the local community, bring smiles to children's faces, and invest in their future through educational and cultural activities.

A Day Full of Smiles and Science

Our first stop was Maşuklu Hayrettin Çolakoğlu Primary School, located in the Güzelburç Container City. We provided the school with essential supplies for sports, music, arts, and stationery. To celebrate National Sovereignty and Children's Day, we organized a joyful event with music, dancing, and a clown show, creating unforgettable memories for the children.

We also introduced students to various career paths, including Molecular Biology and Genetics, Psychology, Dentistry, Dietetics, and Engineering. Through interactive experiments and live microscope observations, many children experienced the excitement of scientific discovery for the very first time.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

TOGETHER FOR THE FUTURE : HATAY

Exploring Hatay's Rich Heritage

After our school visit, we explored Hatay's cultural and historical treasures with museum tours. As one of Turkey's most historically rich cities, Hatay offered us a deeper understanding of the region's unique heritage and the importance of preserving it for future generations.

Honoring a Master of Traditional Craft

On the second day, we recognized and celebrated a nearly forgotten traditional craft: mother of pearl inlay artistry. We presented a Vocational Service Award to Mr. Mevlüt Küçük, a master craftsman from Hatay who continues to practice this intricate art. With only a few artisans left in Turkey, his dedication to preserving this cultural legacy is truly admirable.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the past presidents who supported us throughout this project and to the Ankara Kızılay Rotary Club for their valuable contribution.

We are proud to have contributed to Hatay's rebuilding journey with hope, solidarity, and a strong belief in the power of community. Together, we build a better future.

Ankara Kızılay Rotaract Club

2024-25 Term President

Rtc. Çağla KARAKILIÇ

Antakya Rotaract Club

2024-25 Term President

Rtc. Sezin TANIR



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ARKEO KAMP 2025

MYRA & ANDRIAKE ST. NICHOLAS PATARA

ARE YOU READY FOR AN
ADVENTURE IN THE COAST OF
THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA
WHERE ST NICHOLAS LIVED
AND TO BE A CITIZEN OF THE
LYCIAN LEAGUE ?

DISCOUNTED
CAMPING COST : 600 EURO
"The accommodation will be covered
by the Arkeo-Camp"

"All flight tickets & Health and
Travel Insurance by attendees"

POCKET MONEY : 200 EURO

5-12 JULY
ARKEO-CAMP
2025

Camp Coordinator : İlkiz Öztürk

Contact Details

+90 534 899 84 45

ozturkilkiz@gmail.com



Day 1 (Saturday)

Arriving to Antalya Airport - AYT.

A brief visit to Antalya Museum

Traditional Köfte-Piyaz Lunch Meal

(Don't forget to try the unique flavors of
Antalya and Burdur region at the meatball
and piyaz tasting, as well as pumpkin
dessert with tahini)

Departure to Demre

THE LIGHT OF LYCIA INVITES YOU!

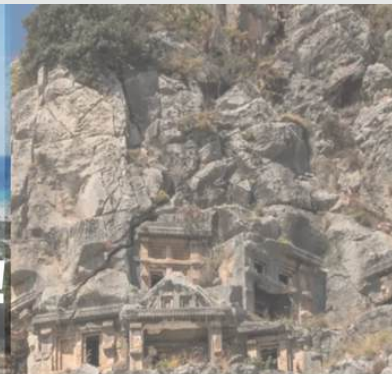
Day 2 (Sunday)

Full Day Preliminary Exploration and Site
Visits: Myra and Andriake Ruins
(Our participants will get to know the area
better before the Archaeo-Camp to be held
in Myra and its harbor Andriake.)

A visit to Myra's Classical Period Rock
Tombs and Roman Period Theater
The Harbour Andriake
(one of the most important and
busiest ports of the Mediterranean in the
Ancient Period)

The Granarium (which was used as a Grain
Warehouse in the Roman Imperial Period,
today the Museum of Lycian Civilizations.)

Return to the hotel for rest and
preparation for the week



Day 3 (Monday)

Morning Fieldwork and ceramic washing
at Myra Ruins
Lunch caravan at the excavation house
Field work at Andriake Ruins
Free Time

Day 4 (Tuesday)

Workshop in the Stone Houses Beymele
(Learning the Traditional Turkish Meal
Preparation in the Civil Architecture)
Lunch in Beymelek Stone Houses
Canoeing Activity in Çayağzı Andriake and
visiting Sura Apollon Temple

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ARKEO KAMP 2025



Day 5 (Wednesday)

Visit to Patara Ruins
Learning about Caretta Carettas and
preparing a social responsibility project
A visit to Kaş and a Ceramic Workshop
With The Kaş Environmental NGO.

Free Time



Day 6 (Thursday)

Beach and Archaeological Heritage Site
Cleaning in Myra and Andriake
(within the scope of Rotary Goals)

Afternoon a visit to St. Nicholas Church

Free Time



Day 7 (Friday)

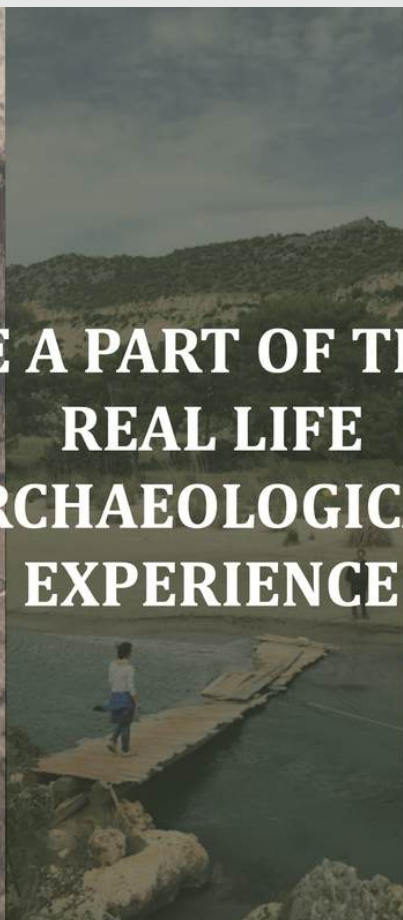
Kekova Boat Trip and
Evening Farewell Party

*In addition to the unique natural beauty
of the Sunken City of Kekova and Simena,
you have the opportunity to swim in the
deep blue waters where you can get rid of
the summer heat!*

Day 8 (Saturday)

Return

*Note: Please do not forget to bring a hat,
sun screen, bikini/swimming suit, sandals,
outdoor boots/shoes, towel, a small water
bottle and personal belongings for the trip*



**BE A PART OF THE
REAL LIFE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EXPERIENCE**

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

DISTRICT 2452: BAHRAIN ROTARIANS SHINE AT INSPIRING RUN FOR AUTISM 2025

Bahrain's Rotarians recently championed autism awareness by enthusiastically participating in the Alia Autism Centers' Run for Autism 2025 at Exhibition World Bahrain.

As Alia Center highlights, this annual event "is dedicated to raising awareness and vital funds to support individuals with autism and their families... striving to create a more inclusive and understanding society."

Our Rotarians' proud involvement exemplifies their dedication to community service and inspiring others. Their support underscores the importance of this vital cause. Let their commitment inspire us all to build a more inclusive future.



ARPIC SERTAÇ GÜMÜŞ
DISTRICT 2452



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

DISTRICT 2452 - BAHRAIN: DELMON PRIVATE SCHOOL EARLY ACT PROUDLY CELEBRATED EARTH DAY

Delmon Private School Early Act proudly celebrated Earth Day by embracing the power of green, inspiring students to protect and cherish our planet for a sustainable future!



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

OUR CHARITY WORK FOR RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

On March 28th, the Rotary Club of Kyrenia Liman 2021 presented their Ramadan Bayram donation checks to the Department of Social Services.

Wishing to meet again on many joyous holidays!



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RC KYRENIA LIMAN POLLINATION PROJECTS - D2452 CYPRUS

Within the scope of their Pollination Projects, RC Kyrenia Liman visited Karaoğlanoğlu Primary School on 18 March. At the Pollination Garden designated by the school administration, RC Kyrenia Liman brought their plants to be planted in the beds prepared collaboratively by the students.

RC Kyrenia Liman's effort is for a greener environment and more fertile soil.

On the evening of 9 April where Rotary Club of Kyrenia Liman held their regular meeting at Dome Hotel, they hosted guest speakers from the Municipality of Kyrenia, who would guide the attendees in the implementation of their Pollination Project at YOUNG GARDEN (GENÇ BAHÇE):

Ms. Burcu Veysioğlu (Head of Corporate Communications)

Mr. Mehmet Atak (Branch Manager)

Mr. Mehmet İzbul (Kyrenia Council Initiative)

Guest speakers, who gave a presentation on local seed production and shared the progress made so far, stated that their goal is to create a sustainable ecological park using clean methods, without pesticides and chemical fertilizers. They also provided information about their work on worm compost production. The announcement that the heirloom seeds they produce will be distributed to the public at festivals made all the guests very happy.

Congratulations to the Municipality of Kyrenia and Mayor Mr. Murat Şenkul, who paved the way for these efforts, sincere thanks to the guest speakers for sharing this valuable information with RC Kyrenia Liman.

The meeting concluded with the presentation of certificates of appreciation by President Chilem Maniga Vural to Ms. Burcu Veysioğlu, Mr. Mehmet İzbul, and Mr. Mehmet Atak.



RC KYRENIA LIMAN POLLINATION PROJECTS - D2452 CYPRUS



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

D-2420 GLOBAL GRANT 2568623

The Rotary Club of Barbaros Metropolitan (D2420) in Istanbul created the project and became the host club for Global Grant 2568623 to procure three advanced incubators and to train the medical staff at Marmara University Pendik Research and Teaching Hospital in their use. The Rotary Club of Nicosia Sarayönü (D2452) in Cyprus joined the project as the international partner. The project launched in September 2024, aimed to provide advanced incubators for extremely low birth weight micropremature babies, has been completed with the financial support of many clubs in the Istanbul area and two other clubs from Cyprus, namely RC Kyrenia Liman and RC Kyrenia Cosmopolitan.

Three members of RC Nicosia Sarayönü, namely President Behiye Müftüzade and board members Hakkı Müftüzade and Taştan Altuner, travelled to Istanbul to attend the inauguration ceremony at the Marmara University Pendik Research and Teaching Hospital. The ceremony took place on the 14th of April 2025 and was opened by President Almira of RC Barbaros Metropolitan, in attendance there were presidents and members of participating Istanbul clubs, together with the Rotarians from Cyprus. The Dean of the Teaching Hospital together with the Head of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit also attended the inauguration ceremony.

After the speeches a select small group, including Presidents Behiye and Almira were taken to the neonatal intensive care unit, to see the incubators in good use, these advanced incubators are able to care for babies as small as 250g and give them a chance to grow into healthy children.

Through this project Rotary has made a difference and provided the gift of life to many premature babies which otherwise would be left to perish due to lack of necessary incubators.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RECLAIM YOUR HEALTH – A MORNING OF EMPOWERMENT & INSIGHT - RC KYRENIA COSMOPOLITAN-D2452 CYPRUS

On Saturday, 26th April, the Rotary and Rotaract Clubs of Kyrenia Cosmopolitan proudly hosted the “Reclaim Your Health” seminar—a morning dedicated to understanding the power we each hold in self-healing and thriving.

The seminar explored the deep connection between mind, body, and energy. Rtn Elmar R. Herrmann shared insights into how our thoughts and emotions shape our overall health, while Rtn Christine Vogel presented on the vital balance between Omega 3 and Omega 6, as well as the role of gut health in wellbeing. Rtn Dagmar Thiel led a thought-provoking session on overcoming mental resistance, helping participants identify blocks to growth and wellness.

A highlight of the event was the live spine alignment demonstration with a volunteer from the audience, facilitated by Rtn Elmar R. Herrmann, showcasing the importance of physical alignment in overall energy flow and vitality.

The event was a great success, with 93% of attendees expressing interest in future seminars and sharing an enthusiastic list of topics they'd like to explore further.

A heartfelt thank you to all our participants, presenters, and volunteers for making this such a powerful and inspiring experience!



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RC NICOSIA SALAMIS CELEBRATED THEIR 29TH ANNIVERSARY - CYPRUS D2452

On Monday, April 28, 2025, the 29th Anniversary of Rotary Club of Nicosia Salamis culminating with the induction of a new member was celebrated with great success.

At the end of the joyful evening, RC Nicosia Salamis thanked the Rotary Officers, Rotarians as well as the special guests who graced them with their presence.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ROTARY WEEKEND & PELS - CYPRUS ROTARY D2452

5-6 April was the Rotary Weekend in Cyprus. Rotary members gathered at the cosy Rodon Mount Hotel & Resort in Agros for the 5-6 April weekend. The Rotary weekend was event was under the auspices of Cyprus Rotary (Rotary clubs of Cyprus) and DDG Demetris Pantazis which was open to all Rotarians, Rotaractors, families, friends and was a great opportunity for fellowship in a stunning mountain resort.

In the first half of the first day Rotarians enjoyed an excellent, highly interactive President Elect Learning Seminar led by PDG Christina Covotsou Patroclou. Rotarians enjoyed the learning sessions while their partners and family members enjoyed recreational activities at the hotel.

The afternoon was dedicated to Rotary Fellowship activities for all the participants. Rotarians and friends enjoyed a scenic tour of the Agros village on boarded on a small train. Local products workshops (A Rose workshop, a Sweets workshop and a charcuterie) were visited. The participants were explained the production process in each workshop and sampled natural products.

The evening was highlighted by a dinner at the community tavern "Koliada' with local cuisine. Dinner coupled with live music was highly enjoyed by everyone as Rotarians got up and danced together. It was a warm fellowship evening where Rotarians mingled, danced and enjoyed local drink zivania.

On the second day, after having breakfast together at the hotel, Rotarians joined the tour at the Troodos Geopark and the Botanical garden. The Rotary weekend concluded with the farewell lunch at Kakopetria village leaving all participants with sweet memories.



ARPIC SERTAÇ GÜMÜŞ ON.....

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ROTARY WEEKEND & PELS - CYPRUS ROTARY D2452





NIKOS MARGAROPOULOS
DISTRICT GOVERNOR 2024-25
RID 2475 / GREECE

MONTHLY LETTER APRIL 2025

ARPIC MARIA MASTORA
DISTRICT 2475

My dear Rotary Family,

April, the month that brings spring to its peak, marks the gradual completion of our Rotary year.

It is the period when we can evaluate with satisfaction the work we have accomplished and prepare for the transition to the new Rotary year.

I hope that the Easter festive days that have just ended, have filled you with joy, optimism and strength, further strengthening our mood for giving and creating.

The values of love and solidarity that this period symbolizes are also the foundation of our Rotary evolution.

April is also the month that Rotary International dedicates to the protection of the environment, one of its seven areas of focus. Protecting our planet is not just an environmental necessity, but a moral obligation to future generations.

As Rotarians, we have a duty not only to raise awareness of the society for environmental issues but also to take concrete actions for a sustainable future.

In this context, the Workshop on "Climate Crisis - Consequences" organized on April 6th by our District and supported by RC Anixi-Semeli, was an excellent opportunity for information and awareness raising.

The three distinguished scientists, Dr. Konstantinos Laguvaridos, Dr. Dimitris Bilalis and Dr. Nikolaos Kavantzias, presented to us in a thorough way the consequences of climate change in various sectors, from agriculture to health. The large participation demonstrated our keen interest in this key issue.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

**NIKOS MARGAROPOULOS, DISTRICT GOVERNOR 2024-25
MONTHLY LETTER APRIL 2025**

We are just a few days away from our District's top event, the annual Convention, which will take place on 25-27 April in Ioannina. I am very pleased to note that the participation has exceeded even our most optimistic forecasts, confirming the dynamic presence of our District and the desire of all of us to work together and exchange experiences and ideas. The programme of the Conference has been carefully designed to include both events of substantial information and education, as well as opportunities for fellowship and entertainment. We are particularly honored by the response of the international guest speakers, their participation in our Convention demonstrates the esteem in which our District holds in International Rotary, and beyond, community. Let us celebrate the important work our Clubs have accomplished, which makes us all proud and actively demonstrates our commitment to Rotary principles. I acknowledge with great pleasure and satisfaction your participation and support in all the activities of the District, throughout the year, realizing what we had envisioned together: to live the Rotary we deserve, the Rotary of our Heart!_



**Nikos Margaropoulos
District Governor 2024-25
RID 2475 / GREECE**

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475

DG Nikos Margaropoulos visited RID 2120 Governor Lino Pignataro at their offices in Bari, Italy, in order to thank him for supporting, together with 5 other Districts of Italy, the Global Grant of D 2475 and to invite him as a speaker at the Conference of D 2475 in Ioannina.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

FIRST ASSESSMENT OF THE 2475 ROTARY DISTRICT CONFERENCE

My beloved Rotary Family,

I begin with a big Thank You to each and every one of you, Rotarians and those who accompanied you!

It will not be the large attendance, but the positive attitude and exceptional fellowship that will remind us of this Conference, now that it has passed into history.

The next Governor's Letter will detail the echo of the speeches, procedures, and events.

I am pleased that the changes, small or large, contributed to the positive assessment of both the organization and the content of the Conference.

My only regret is that when we made the hotel reservation a year and a half ago, it was impossible to anticipate such massive participation, which meant we couldn't accommodate everyone at the gala dinner that exceeded 330 people in attendance. I am certain, however, that at each of our next events, culminating with the leadership change on June 28th and the next Conference in Rhodes, we will exceed this number of participants, living what we envisioned together last year, the Rotary we deserve, the Rotary of our hearts!

For the amazing Team that organized and managed all the details of this Conference with exceptional competence and Rotarian Love, "thank you" and congratulations are not enough! It wasn't a surprise though, let's not forget that all year we worked as a team and this collective effort is vindicated. This is how we will continue for the time remaining until we pass the baton to the next Governor and their Team, with the wish and encouragement for them to go higher, because that will be the justification for all our efforts.

Warm congratulations to the newly elected Governor Nominee Dimitra Soukara and her worthy fellow candidates Kostas Karagiannis and Ilias Papageorgiou.

Let's keep the pleasant memory of this Conference and continue to share, and also experience, the Magic of Rotary.

Nikos Margaropoulos
D 2475 Governor 2024-2025



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - ICC GREECE / BELUX

On April 12th, the ICC GREECE BELUX had the special opportunity to hold a virtual meeting to discuss a joint project focused on medical and educational matters.

We are planning to strengthen the bonds of Rotarian friendship by organizing mutual visits between Greece and Belgium.

We were especially honored by the presence of Nathalie Huyghebaert, President of the Executive Council of ICCs 2024-26, who joined the meeting



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475

TRAINING OF CLUB SECRETARIES AND CASHIERS for the rotarian year 2025-2026.

A very interesting and well constructed virtual seminar took place on March 30th, organized by DGE Stefanos Anastasopoulos and was addressed to Clubs' secretaries and cashiers for the rotarian year 2025-26. Host Club was Rotary e-Club of Greece and was attended by more than 75 participants.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF



RID 2475

RI District 2475 offered a defibrillator to the Municipality of Maronia-Sapes in memory of Vasileios Papadopoulou from Komotini, who was the oldest living Governor of the Hellenic Rotary District

The event was attended by RID2475 Governor Nikos Margaropoulos, PDG George Christoforidis, RC Komotini President Nikos Benavides, RC Komotini -Rodopi President Lena Hatzi and rotarians.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475

Workshop on the climate crisis organized by RC Anixi Semeli

On April 12th, in the hall of the Municipality of Kifissia's Cultural Center, RID 2475 held a workshop on "Climate crisis: consequences" organized by RC Anixi Semeli.

The opening was held by DG Nikos Margaropoulos who stressed the importance of the climate crisis for humanity.

Distinguished scientists developed extremely interesting speeches.

It was a high level workshop which finished with conclusions drawn by DG Nikos Margaropoulos



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475

PDG ARIS ZAHOS ORGANISED A VIRTUAL TWO-HOUR MEETING ON ROTARY'S ACTION PLAN.

Rotarians from 23 Clubs participated actively and had a lively, constructive dialogue. Congratulations to all participants but also warm thanks to our colleague of the Rotary e-Club, George Stavropoulos, who shouldered the burden of the technical support.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC ILIOUPOLIS & PIRAEUS EAST

On April 2nd, the Rotary clubs of Ilioupoli and Piraeus-East donated 160 jars of honey to the Hadjikyriakio Foundation in Piraeus, for the bazaar that will take place at the Foundation's facilities on April 5-6 2025.

The hand over was made by the presidents of the Rotary clubs, Michael Nikolakakis and Thomas Tassios.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF RID 2475 - RC PARNITHA

Supporting Autism with Action: Rotary Club of Parnitha Visits SOS Center in Thrakomakedones

On March 28th, members of RC Parnitha visited the "SOS" Autism Center in Acharnes, offering cleaning supplies and disinfectants to help meet the center's needs.

The administration and staff of "SOS" center warmly welcomed the rotarians, expressing their gratitude for the donation. During the visit, we were given a tour of the facilities and spoke with the scientific staff about the center's daily needs and operations.

The "SOS" Autism Center is located in Thrakomakedones, and the local Rotary Club of Parnitha, actively supports its mission and ongoing work.

We congratulate the "SOS" Autism Center for its excellent operation and, most importantly, for its mission to provide warmth and love every day. The staff truly put their hearts into the well-being of those in their care.

📌 For more information about the "SOS" Autism Center, you can visit their website: [kentrosos](http://kentrosos.gr)



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC KOROPi

RC Koropi supports the Artemis Animal Welfare Association by offering for their Easter bazaar.



RID 2475 - RC KOROPi

RC Koropi delivered to the Aspropyrgos recycling center a large quantity of plastic caps intended for the purchase of wheelchairs for the benefit of the Association "Love Care, Life" - Panhellenic Association for the Prevention of Traffic Accidents and Support.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC KERKYRA

Another activity of RC Kerkyra was completed with the delivery of two outdoor games to the Kindergarten of Kato Korakiana.

These outdoor games have specifications for hard daily use and come to fill a big gap, since the existing games are very old and have completed their life cycle.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC RHODOS KOLOSSOS

Delivery of a Greenhouse to the 1st Laboratory Centre of Rhodes by RC Rhodos-Colossos

On March 26th, 2025, the delivery and acceptance of the greenhouse roof, which was reconstructed with the sponsorship of RC Rhodos-Colossos, took place at the 1st Laboratory Centre of Rhodes, which is co-located with the 1st Vocational High School of Rhodes.

The reconstruction of the greenhouse roof was deemed necessary as the previous one had collapsed due to a severe storm. The work was carried out at the request of the school's management and was carried out with the help and supervision of the architectural engineer and member of our Club, rtn Paris Sansoglou whom we thank warmly! The funding was entirely covered by the Club's own resources.

RC Rhodos-Kolossos undertook:

- ✓ The structural study of the metal frame of the greenhouse
- ✓ The dismantling of the worn roof cladding materials
- ✓ The installation of a new roof with special polycarbonate panels
- ✓ Reinforcement of the roof for greater wind resistance

This initiative enhances the educational infrastructure of the school, providing better conditions for students in the field of agriculture and environmental education. At the same time, the greenhouse is also used by the Special Vocational High School of Rhodes, serving children with special abilities.

RC Rhodos-Kolossos supports actions that promote education and support youth, confirming its ongoing commitment to serving the local community.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC RHODOS KOLOSSOS

RC Rhodos-Colossos donated to the CENTRE FOR MULTIDISCIPLINARY ASSESSMENT, COUNSELLING AND SUPPORT of Rhodes the psychometric tool WISC-V, which is used for the assessment of learning difficulties and cognitive abilities of children.

The Centre for Interdisciplinary Assessment, Counselling and Support in Rhodes (K.DA.SY.), assesses students for various learning or behavioural difficulties as well as charismatic ones. The students reach the number of 800 annually from Rhodes and smaller islands, whereas as many are on the waiting list.

The donation was funded by the Club and in memory of teacher Nausileena Kanaris, confirming Rotary's commitment to education and community service.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC ATHINAI Scholarship award ceremony

The scholarship award ceremony organized by the University of Piraeus, with the valuable sponsorship of RC Athinai and Michael and Irene Poulmentis Foundation, on March 28th, 2025, at the University's main premises, was a great success.

During the event, two full scholarships of €5,000 each were awarded to outstanding students of the Department of Maritime Studies programme "Master of Science (MSc) in Sustainability and Quality in Marine Industry".

These scholarships reflect the commitment of RC Athinai and the Poulmentis Foundation to fostering academic excellence and promoting sustainability and quality in the maritime industry.

The ceremony was a milestone for the University of Piraeus and the maritime community, with tRC Athinai playing a key role in strengthening the cooperation between educational institutions and entities investing in education and innovation in the maritime sector.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC CHRISOUPOLIS NESTOS

Event in the Children's Colony of Kavala for Oral Health

RC Chrisoupolis- Nestos informed and supported the children who are accommodated in the Children's Colony of Kavala about oral health and its preservation. The activity included experiential education presented by dentist Ms. Anna Fotiou. At the end of the training, the children received a complete oral hygiene kit to reinforce their good hygiene.

Members of RC Chrisoupolis-Nestos participated in the action, under the leadership of President Stelios Kafas and AG Anastasia Kryona.

RC Chrisoupoli-Nestos expressed its commitment to future actions for children, renewing its appointment for new collaborations.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC IRAKLIO CANDIA

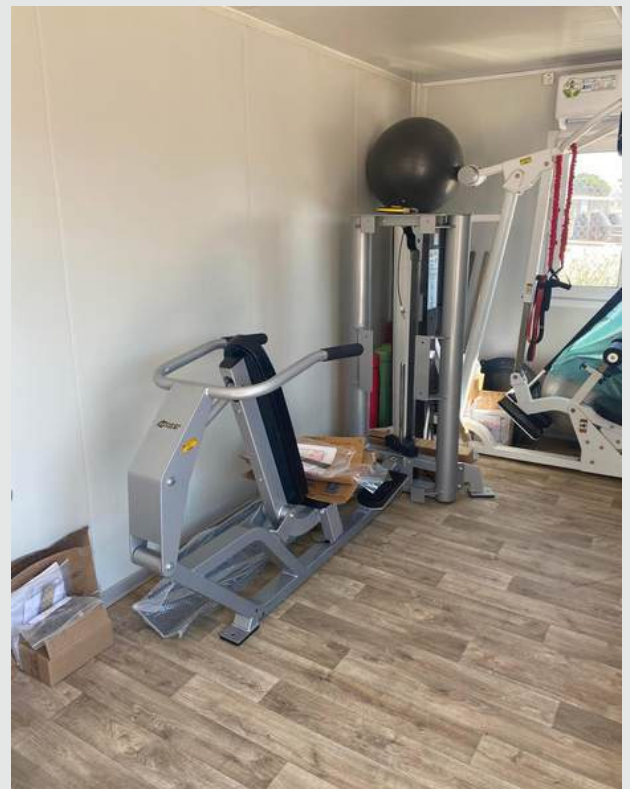
RC Iraklion- Candia, in the context of its actions for Health and Community Development, organized a medical event on 8/4/2025. Vassilios Amargianitakis, physician, pulmonologist analysed the topic Lung cancer screening and George Plumakis, physician, owner of DIAGNOSIS Kokkinis Polyclinic, who delivered first aid and defibrillation courses and donated a defibrillator to the club, which will be donated by the club to a place that needs it



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC DIONYSOS

RC Dionysos delivered Sponsorship-Donation of the Friend of the Club Pari Angelica in cooperation with RC Marathon-Nea Makri high-quality gymnastics equipment for people with disabilities. at the Sports Club for the disabled in Marathon.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC MARATHON NEA MAKRI

\$5,000 Donation into ANNUAL FUND – SHARE of TRF

RC Marathon - Nea Makri, in response to the invitation of RID 2475 DG Nikos Margaropoulos, instead of the customary contribution of \$1,000 to a District Grant, deposited the amount of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to the RF Annual Fund - Share.

This decision contributes to the support and implementation of sustainable programs that have a global impact in areas such as peace, health, education, and access to clean water.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC RHODOS

In Valletta, Malta, on 4-6 April 2025, the VI International Conference - UNESCO Historic Cities Heritage of Peace- Sustainability and Historic Cities, challenges and opportunities" was held under the auspices of Rotary International.

The Rotary Club of Rhodes, particularly sensitive to this issue, responded to the invitation and participated with its Rapporteur and representative, member of the Club Regina Economidou, Architect Engineer NTUA, specializing in Monument Restorations - Head of the Department of Building Works and Common Areas, of the Directorate of Technical Works and Infrastructure of the Municipality of Rhodes.

Her presentation was entitled "Medieval City of Rhodes, overtourism and sustainability" and referred to the viability and sustainability of the Medieval City of Rhodes - which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site - which is still alive and functional and which highlights, together with other monuments of the island, the unique cultural identity of the island of Rhodes.

The Rotary Club of Rhodes feels proud of its participation in this conference as "The magic of Rotary" unites -once again - for good!



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC RHODOS KOLOSSOS

On April 13th, 2025, RC Rhodes - Kolossos visited the "Charalampio Nursing Home" and offered a day full of care, smiles and meaningful contact to the elderly inmates.

Rotarian Michalis Limberis and his team took care of the elderly's appearance, offering haircuts, shaving and hairstyling services with love and respect.

At the same time, Rotarian Stamatia Stergenaki organized creative activities, making wonderful Easter candles together with the seniors and the rest of the Rotary team. These moments were full of colour, creativity and true joy.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 24754 0 RC THESSALONIKI ALEXANDER THE GREAT

On April 15th, RC Thessaloniki Alexander the Great Hellas” offered gifts to the cleaning staff of the Ministry of Interior (Macedonia - Thrace sector)



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC SAMOS

IMPORTANT DONATION OF MEAT TO THE INTERMUNICIPAL SOCIAL GROCERY STORE IN SAMOS.

The great social contribution of RC Samos continues by supporting hundreds of Sami Families, beneficiaries of the Social Care of the Samos Intermunicipal Social Grocery. During Easter period RC Samos made a large donation of meat to support our fellow Sami people.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC THESSLONIKI METROPOLITAN

The Hellenic Communication Center, in cooperation with RC Thessaloniki Metropolitan successfully organized a charity event of solidarity and offer for the inmates of the Charity Nursing Home of Thessaloniki. Buns, Easter eggs and candles, along with quantities of long-life food and basic necessities were offered to everyone, thanks to the selfless offer of well-known businesses in our city, but also to many of our sensitive members, which once again compose a true act of love, solidarity and humanity. The event included the performance of a music band that performed old Greek songs.

Special care was given to the elderly who were unable to attend the event, by visiting them in their rooms and offering them the gifts.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC RHODOS

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The Rotary Club of Rhodes feels proud of its participation in this conference as "The magic of Rotary" unites -once again - for good!



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC THESSALONIKI ALEXANDER THE GREAT

Konstantia Giouletzi made for RC Thessaloniki Alexander the Great candles which were distributed before we event could make the relevant publication

The proceeds were donated to charity.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC PREVEZA

With the full support of Rotary families, the initiative of RC Preveza, to support the operation of the Old People's Home of our city, was once again implemented.

This year's Easter offer of our Club included 100 kilos of oranges and 90 liters of pure virgin olive oil. The delivery of the offer took place on April 12th and 15th.

The Nursing Home of the Holy Metropolis of Nicopolis & Preveza is a model of operation in our region, thanks to the unceasing interest of our Church, but also thanks to the dedication of its employees and volunteers, and deserves every possible support. It is precisely to this support that the specific permanent action of our Club is aimed, which is expressed on every occasion or whenever there is an identified need!



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC DIONYSOS

RC Dionysos paying tribute to the sacred memory of the glorious heroes for their struggle and sacrifices, laid a wreath for the celebration of March 25th.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC VOULA PANORAMA

Another wheelchair was offered by RC Voula Panorama, with the help of rtn Diana Metaxas, for the children at Annex for recovery and rehabilitation of children with disabilities in Voula



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2175 - RC DIONYSOS

RC Dionysos with the amount collected from the sale of Easter candles offered by our Club's friend Alexandra Gasparatou and the immediate response of the Members and Friends, candles and chocolate eggs were purchased for all the children at the "Mitera Infants" Center. The Friends of our Club Maria and Eleni offered plush toys. The joy in their little faces was very big!!! Thank you for your support and help.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC KIFISSIA KASTRI

RC Kifissia-Kastri delivered at the Social Grocery of N.Erythraia 150 red eggs for the beneficiaries of the Municipality.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC RHODOS KOLOSSOS

Easter visit to the children hosted at the Childcare Centre of Rhodes.

RC Rhodos-Kolossos prepared Easter baskets with chocolates, eggs, cookies and other Easter surprises and were given to the children hosted at the Centre.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - ROTARY e-Club Greece with collaboration with RC Chalandri, Preveza and Psychiko.

Program "Give the Gift of Access 1.0" , Delivery of Wheelchairs to the Archaeological Museum of Arta and the New Museum of Aigos

With the last two deliveries of wheelchairs, the Program "Give the Gift of Access 1.0" was completed for this year, a program designed by the Rotary e-Club Greece and implemented by Rotary e-Club Greece Rotary and collaboration with RCs' of, Chalandri, Preveza and Psychiko.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC AGIA PARASKEVI

RC Agia Paraskevi, in continuation of its social work and in support of the local community, offered to the Social Kitchen of the Municipality of Agia Paraskevi, 85 kilos of chicken legs to cover their needs.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC & ROTARACT AGIA PARASKEVI

RC and Rotaract Club Agia Paraskevi, continuing their offerings to the “NISOS” Structure dealing with unaccompanied children from Ukraine, visited them during the Easter week and offered them candles, chocolate eggs, croissants and wafers, giving great joy to the children.

The Delivery was done by past President George Gamaris, Executive Secretary Katerina Skarvelli, Rotaract President Michael Michaelides and Rotaract Maria Margariti.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE COMPETITION "CHOOSE FREEDOM!"

The Art of Saying NO to Addictions

Rotary International, District 2482 Bulgaria, proudly announces the launch of the national visual arts competition "Choose Freedom!", dedicated to the art of saying NO to addictions.



ARPIC ARKAN APTURAHMAN
DISTRICT 2482

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



Who can participate?

The competition is open to young people aged 14 to 18.

Objectives of the Competition:

1. To raise awareness in society, especially among young people, about the dangers of addictions, including the use of harmful substances.
2. To encourage creativity and digital skills among young people.
3. To inspire participants to create powerful visual messages against addictions.
- 4.

Competition Timeline:

- Competition Announcement: March 22, 2025, Hotel Calista, Stara Zagora Mineral Baths.
- Regulations Announcement & Start of the Competition: March 27, 2025.
- Deadline for Submission of Entries: May 10, 2025.
- Announcement of Winners: May 31, 2025.
- Official Award Ceremony: June 14, 2025, Plovdiv, Annual Conference of Rotary International, District 2482 Bulgaria.

Categories for Participation:

- Poster (hand-drawn or digital)
- Short Video (2 to 3 minutes)
- Meme with a message

Evaluation and Awards:

Participation in the competition is individual. Each participant may compete in only one category with one submission.

All young people aged 14 to 18 who are students are eligible to participate.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE COMPETITION

"CHOOSE FREEDOM!"

The entries will be evaluated by a jury composed of representatives from Rotary clubs in Bulgaria, experts in graphic design, and representatives of organizations involved in addiction prevention and treatment.

Evaluation Criteria:

- ✓ Clarity and impact of the message (up to 40 points)
- ✓ Artistic and technical execution, and script (up to 30 points)
- ✓ Originality of presentation (up to 30 points)

In addition to the official jury, there will also be a "Audience Award". Information on how the public can vote and express their preferences will be published on the district's website by April 10, 2025.

Prizes:

- 🏆 **First place in each category – Tablet**
- 🥈 **Second and third places – Material prizes**
- 🏅 **Additional awards:**
 - **"Special Award for Social Impact"**
 - **Audience Award**

All participants will receive a digital certificate. Schools with the highest number of participants will also be recognized.

How to Participate?

- 1 Fill out the participation form: <https://forms.gle/2xnraA9v4Fgm1ANB8>
- 2 Upload your artwork; for video submissions – send a link.
- 3 Wait for a confirmation email regarding the receipt of your submission.

Technical requirements are published on the Rotary District 2482 website:

🔗 <https://www.rotarydistrict2482.org/>

Follow us on social media!

#ChooseFreedom #NoAddictions #RotaryBulgaria

Be part of the change!

Share your message, inspire those around you, and support the cause of building a healthier future!

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE COMPETITION

"CHOOSE FREEDOM!"

Requirements and Evaluation Criteria

(1) Category: Poster – Hand-drawn or Digital

Requirements:

- Standard poster size:
 - Option 1: 50 cm × 70 cm (1:1.41 ratio)
 - Option 2: 42 cm × 59 cm (A2 size)

(a) Posters must be submitted for initial review and evaluation by the jury as a .jpg or .png file with 96 dpi resolution, RGB color mode.

(b) Finalists will be required to submit a file with the following technical specifications:

- Size: 50 × 70 cm or 42 × 59 cm
- Resolution: 240 to 300 dpi
- Color mode: CMYK
- File format: PDF HQP, EPS, PSD, with all text converted to outlines
-

Evaluation Criteria:

Posters will be assessed based on inspiration, message content, and technical composition.

A. Posters will be evaluated on a 100-point scale based on the following criteria:

1. Clarity and impact of the message (40 points)
2. Artistic and technical execution, and composition (30 points)
 - Does the message align with the competition's theme?
 - How convincing is it?
 - Is the poster presented in a logical and artistic composition?
 - Are the technical requirements met?
 - Compliance with copyright for any fonts or elements used.
3. Originality and creativity (30 points)

Audience Choice Award

- The poster with the most likes will be awarded.
- Posters will be published on the district's website and evaluated based on "likes."
- The ranking will be determined by the number of likes received within a specific time frame stated in the competition timeline.

(2) Category: Short Video

Requirements:

- Must be suitable for YouTube.

Requirements:

- Video length: Minimum 2 minutes, maximum 3 minutes.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE COMPETITION

"CHOOSE FREEDOM!"

Evaluation Criteria:

Videos will be assessed based on inspiration, message content, and technical quality (sound and video quality).

Videos will be evaluated on a 100-point scale based on the following criteria:

1. Clarity and impact of the message (40 points).
2. Artistic and technical execution, and script (30 points).
 - Does the message align with the competition's theme?
 - How convincing is it?
 - Is the video presented in a logical sequence?
 - Technical execution: How well is the video produced in terms of continuity, timing, camera work, sound quality, editing, and adherence to the 3-minute (180 seconds) limit?
 - Copyright compliance for background music and other used materials.
3. Originality of presentation (30 points).

Audience Choice Award

- The video with the most likes will be awarded.
- All videos that pass the jury evaluation will be published on the district's website and collected in a YouTube channel.
- The ranking will be determined by the number of likes received within a specific time frame outlined in the competition schedule.

(3) Category: Meme – Hand-drawn or Digital

Requirements:

- Standard meme size:
 - Option 1: 29 cm × 42 cm (A3 format)
 - Option 2: 42 cm × 59 cm (A2 format)
- (a) Each meme must be submitted for initial review and evaluation by the jury as a .jpg or .png file with 96 dpi resolution, RGB color mode.
- (b) Finalists will be required to submit a file with the following technical specifications:
- Size: 29 × 42 cm or 42 × 59 cm
 - Resolution: 240 to 300 dpi
 - Color mode: CMYK
 - File format: PDF HQP, EPS, PSD, with all text converted to outlines.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE COMPETITION

"CHOOSE FREEDOM!"

Evaluation Criteria:

Each meme will be assessed based on inspiration, message content, and technical composition.

Memes will be evaluated on a 100-point scale based on the following criteria:

1. Clarity and impact of the message (40 points).
2. Artistic and technical execution, and composition (30 points).
 - Does the message align with the competition's theme?
 - How convincing is it?
 - Is it presented with logical coherence and composition?
 - Are the technical requirements met?
 - Copyright compliance for any fonts or elements used.
3. Originality and creativity (30 points).

Audience Choice Award

- The meme with the most likes will be awarded.
- Memes will be published in a gallery on the district's website and evaluated based on "likes."
- The ranking will be determined by the number of likes received within a specific time frame outlined in the competition schedule.

For details and technical consultations:

✉ Plamen Ilarionov – ilarionov@sts.bg

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Rotary and Rotaract Together “Unite for Good”

PETS, the Project Management Seminar, and the District Assembly inspired Rotarians and Rotaractors, club and district leaders for the next Rotary year.

Club leaders from District 2482 dedicated the days between April 4–6 to the PETS training seminar, the District Grants Management Seminar, and the District Assembly. The kind hosts of the annual meeting of future club leaders were the clubs from the city of Plovdiv.

Located almost in the heart of Bulgaria, more than 250 enthusiastic Rotarians and Rotaractors gathered for the training. Besides making new friendships, strengthening their relationships, and showing their desire to help their communities, they also gained new knowledge on managing and administering their clubs. The seminars began with wishes that the “Magic of Rotary” would lead to “Unite for Good.” These wishes were extended by DG Margarita Bogdanova, DRR Anna Atanasova, and PDG Nasko Nachev.

The video messages from RI President-Elect Mario Cesar Martins de Camargo and RI General Secretary John Hewko moved the attendees. Their speeches were powerful. They addressed increasing member engagement, creating new types of clubs, welcoming new members, and involving them in club causes and projects.

“Unite for Good” is a motto that perfectly conveys the message of RI President-Elect Mario’s “Unite for Good.” And as a first step toward this unity, the training seminar included joint learning sessions for both Rotarians and Rotaractors. The goals that all clubs will pursue in the upcoming Rotary year were also shared by DGE Plamen Tsvetkov. Among them were the chartering of two new Rotaract or Rotary clubs, the creation of three satellite clubs, attracting new Rotarians and Rotaractors, increasing contributions to The Rotary Foundation and the End Polio program, and completing more joint projects by Rotary and Rotaract.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Rotary and Rotaract Together “Unite for Good”

PETS, the Project Management Seminar, and the District Assembly inspired Rotarians and Rotaractors, club and district leaders for the next Rotary year.

During their training, the President-Elects went through various tests and challenges they may face in their upcoming 12-month club service. Rotary and Rotaract members worked on case studies, exchanged impressions, and in an atmosphere of shared vision for the future of our organization, they shared their ideas for a successful Rotary year filled with meaningful club projects. In the President-Elect panel, they collaborated with the Assistant Governors and built contacts and networks within their zones. Special attention was given to young people — their recruitment and retention — with a motivating presentation by DRRE Nevena Ivanova.

Secretaries also worked on specific cases related to their responsibilities and duties in administering club affairs.

In addition to the joint training for Rotary and Rotaract representatives, for the first time this year, special attention was given to the duties of the Sergeant-at-Arms, who were tasked with participating in a simulated club meeting.

How to develop a project — from idea, through financing, to reporting, publicity, and successful completion — united Rotary and Rotaract club members in the Rotary Foundation panel.

During the breaks between sessions, presidents, secretaries, sergeants-at-arms, Rotarians, and Rotaractors enthusiastically discussed and commented on what they had learned, exchanged information, and crafted plans for the upcoming Rotary year.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Rotary and Rotaract Together “Unite for Good”

PETS, the Project Management Seminar, and the District Assembly inspired Rotarians and Rotaractors, club and district leaders for the next Rotary year.

Especially impressive for everyone were the presentations of future and already completed projects. DG Nominee Alexander Petrov presented the topic of forest fire prevention and monitoring. Special attention was also given to building a photovoltaic plant at a rehabilitation center for children who have overcome cancer, protecting the environment with a focus on reducing plastic waste, and initiatives dedicated to combating addictions.

The story of Angela Antonova, a Rotary Peace Fellow at the Otto and Fran Walter Rotary Peace Center in Istanbul, who joined the Assembly online, was inspiring, and many applauded her. Rotarians and Rotaractors received valuable advice and guidance from Lyudmila Atanasova of the “Bcause” Foundation on how to organize various campaigns.

The End Polio program ambassador, who “observed” the training from the front row, also stirred a lot of emotion. Thanks to his presence, a significant amount was contributed to The Rotary Foundation within just two days to help overcome the disease known locally as “childhood paralysis” (polio).



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Rotary Club Stara Zagora Supported a Student Competition on Disaster Response

Rotary Club Stara Zagora, in cooperation with Stara Zagora Municipality, the Local Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency (MKBMPN), the Regional Directorate of Fire Safety and Civil Protection, the Bulgarian Red Cross (BRC), the Public Ombudsman of Stara Zagora Municipality Ivanka Sotirova, and the Young Ombudsmen, organized and held the Municipal Round of the National Student Competition “Disaster, Fire, and Emergency Protection.”

With the support of Rotary Club Stara Zagora, the specialized equipment used by the students during the competition was renewed and updated. The goal was to ensure it closely matches real-life conditions that children might face outside the simulation environment. The idea and hope that we are helping highly motivated young people, on whom society can rely in the future, motivated us to stand behind this event. We believe it will leave a lasting impression and that the provided equipment will be used for a long time to come.

Thirteen teams of students from fifth, sixth, and seventh grade participated in the competition. Each team consisted of four competitors and one team leader. The competition included both theoretical and practical sections, aiming to assess and improve the knowledge and skills of Stara Zagora students in the fields of safety and first aid.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Rotary Club Stara Zagora Supported a Student Competition on Disaster Response

The competition was held in two rounds. The first round included an individual test with 30 questions to be completed in 30 minutes, based on the Ministry of Education's curriculum on actions during disasters, accidents, catastrophes, fires, and first medical aid. The next stage assessed the acquired practical skills and habits for protection through competitive games involving three team members (with the fourth as a substitute). Different team members participated at the various centers.

The practical challenges were divided across several training centers:

- First center: actions during earthquakes and floods;
- Second center: protection during industrial accidents and working with gas masks;
- Third center: response to fires, solving case studies, and working with firefighting equipment.

The final part included actions based on a set case, including demonstrations of first aid — for fractures, open wounds, unconsciousness, and other emergency conditions.

The funds with which Rotary Club Stara Zagora supported the holding of this competition, as well as the upcoming Regional Round of the National Student Competition "Disaster, Fire, and Emergency Protection," were raised during a themed evening organized by the club in February to mark the 120th anniversary of the founding of Rotary International.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Paint an Egg, Save a Child's Heart

For the third consecutive year, the Rotary family in Stara Zagora, with the support of Stara Zagora Municipality, organized a colorful outdoor Easter celebration that brought together young and old in support of the noble cause "Paint an Egg, Save a Child's Heart." The main driving force behind the event was the Satellite Rotary E-Club Stara Zagora, with active participation from Rotary Club Stara Zagora, Rotaract Club Stara Zagora, Interact Club Stara Zagora, and Inner Wheel Club Stara Zagora.

As part of the celebration, various workshops and a charity bazaar were held, raising 6,000 leva. With these funds, surgical equipment (2 operating tables, one cardiocograph, 7 birth kits, and 3 surgical scissors) will be purchased and donated to the Maternity Ward of University Hospital "Prof. Dr. Stoyan Kirkovich" – Stara Zagora.

The souvenirs at the bazaar were handcrafted by the skillful hands of children from 8 schools, 12 kindergartens, and 4 community centers from Stara Zagora.

Guests at the celebration enjoyed a vibrant program featuring:

- SoulMade Theatre Company – with an impressive dance-puppet show;
- Pa De Cre Children's Ballet School – with delicate performances by the young ballerinas;
- Little Stars Vocal Group – bringing lots of mood and energy;
- Beroe Rhythmic Gymnastics Sports Club – with rhythmic gymnastics demonstrations;
- Zagortsi Folk Dance Club – with inspiring rhythms and emotion.

Especially popular among the children were the face painting workshops, Easter egg decorating, and wool crafting activities, which created unforgettable memories.

The event once again demonstrated how the power of community and the desire to help can come together in the name of a better future. We thank all participants, volunteers, and guests for the shared emotions and open hearts!



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Easter in Every Home with Rotary Club Nova Zagora

As is tradition, on the eve of the brightest Christian holiday — Easter — Rotary Club Nova Zagora donated Easter sweet breads (kozunak) to the elderly residents of the municipality.

For yet another year, ahead of Easter, Rotary Club Nova Zagora provided kozunaks for the elderly people in the community.

Thanks to the cooperation of Nova Zagora Municipality and the Nova Zagora Home Social Care Service, every elderly person receiving home care received an Easter kozunak along with a message from the club.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Children's Football Tournament May 30 – June 1, 2025, Kardzhali

Dear friends,

With joy and excitement, we invite you to the Friendship Dinner of **Rotary Club Kardzhali**, which will take place on **May 31, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at Hotel Arpezos, 4 Respublikanska Street, Kardzhali.**

This evening is not just a friendship dinner — it is an evening dedicated to the future of our children and the development of sports! The funds raised during the event will support our cause “For Sports and Children.”

The tournament will bring together talented young footballers from all over Bulgaria — from Plovdiv, Asenovgrad, Stara Zagora, Haskovo, Velingrad, Zlatograd, Svilengrad, Skutare, Varna, Radnevo, Pazardzhik, Sofia, Dimitrovgrad, Razgrad, Vratsa, Rakovski, Ruse, and Markovo.

It will be held in two stages, involving nearly **1,500 children from Bulgaria and abroad.**

First stage:

In the first stage, children born in 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2019 will participate. We kick off the matches on May 15, 2025, and on May 18, 2025, we will present the first awards!

Second stage:

In the second stage, children from the 2013, 2014, 2016, and 2018 age groups will take part. Matches begin on May 29, 2025, and on June 1, 2025 — when all children celebrate — we will delight them with awards for their efforts in their favorite game!

Winners will receive trophies, and every child will go home with a medal, a statuette, lots of surprises, and many happy memories — for us, every child is worthy of a prize!

Don't miss the opportunity to be part of this inspiring event! You can expect an elegant atmosphere, a special program, and a noble cause.

For more information, please contact **ARPIC Arkan Apturahman** at arkannihat@gmail.com.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Rotary Club Nova Zagora Donates Next-Generation Magnetotherapy Device to MBAL “Sveta Petka Bulgarska”

Rotary Club Nova Zagora — Project “Health for Everyone,” Focus Area: Disease Prevention and Treatment.

Rotary Club Nova Zagora has donated a state-of-the-art magnetotherapy device to MBAL “Sveta Petka Bulgarska.”

The ultramodern BTL-4000 Smart & Premium device is used to treat conditions following joint injuries and bone fractures.

Physiotherapy is one of the fields in which modern medicine has made the greatest progress. More than ever, there is an enormous need for finding more effective solutions to treat a range of musculoskeletal disorders and to improve mobility, endurance, and body strength.

A major convenience for the city is that the center will operate under the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF), and the qualified team ensures that people of working age can access treatments without having to travel to other cities.

The project was entirely funded by the club’s members. Once again, Rotary Club has successfully completed a project fully focused on the residents of the municipality, providing quality healthcare for the people of Nova Zagora.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RC PASSPORT – VISIT TO THE RC ADANA KOZA

Our first twin club Adana Koza from Adana, Turkey hosted us from April 3 to 7, 2025. During this period, this city rich in history organizes the traditional annual festival "Orange Blossom", while everything smells of the orange blossom that blooms at that time.

In front of our club, Rtn Jasmina Đokić went to visit, and she returned full of wonderful impressions about the club members and this year's President Rtn Tijen Tureli, who showed the Magic of Rotary in the best possible way.

PDG ALEKSANDAR RADOJICIC
DISTRICT 2483

During her four-day visit, our member also visited the city of Tarsus, and in Gaziantep she attended the awards ceremony at the 17th short film festival ROFIFE 2430, which is held as a district event, where she spoke with Governor Rtn Kerem Muradi and other Rotarians.

During the visit, contact was also made with the President of the Rotary Club of Bucharest Levant Rtn Iuliana Hamciuc, whose club, in addition to our club, is also a twin club of RC Adana Koza. Ideas were exchanged about the potential cooperation of clubs within Zone 21, to which we all belong.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

JOINT MEETING OF MULTIPLE CLUBS

The Belgrade Čukarica Rotary Club organized a meeting on April 2, 2025 at the IN Hotel, which was attended by friends from the Nikola Tesla Rotary Clubs Belgrade, Subotica, Belgrade Avala, Sremska Mitrovica, Belgrade Passport, Belgrade Technology and Pančevo, as well as Rotaract Sremska Mitrovica.

Before the lecture, representatives of all clubs informed the attendees about the most important club actions and plans for the rest of this Rotary year.

The guest lecturer at the meeting was David Baumgart from the friendly club E-Club Berlin Global with a very interesting lecture "Electric vehicles from China".

David introduced us to the history of the development of electric vehicles, the current situation in the world market and the characteristics of electric vehicles produced in China.

At the end of the presentation and answers to a large number of questions, club flags were exchanged.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Humanitarian “Rotaquiz” – Rotaract Club Niš University

On April 10th, 2025, the RTC Club Niš – University organized a humanitarian event called “Rotaquiz” at the café “Labeerint”. Participants and teams competed in their knowledge of both domestic and international movies and TV shows. The top three teams received prizes, and all registered teams were awarded certificates of participation. All funds raised were donated to the school for children with special needs “Carica Jelena” in Niš.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Rotaract Club Pančevo Mihajlo Pupin

Empowering Our Community Through Health and Active Living

Rotaract Club Pančevo Mihajlo Pupin continues to actively promote health and wellness within our community. Our latest community event featured a public lecture by certified nutritionist Sara Sušec, offering practical guidance on healthy eating while sparking meaningful discussions about nutrition, physical activity, and maintaining an active lifestyle.

What made this event even more special was its humanitarian goal — all funds raised were donated to Aleksandra Prijović, a brave woman from our hometown who is currently battling a serious illness.

This initiative is part of our broader effort to encourage healthy habits through engaging and accessible programs. Our annual rowing event and newly launched trail race have both grown in popularity, inspiring many to embrace movement, community, and overall well-being.

Through these initiatives, Rotaract Club Pančevo Mihajlo Pupin remains dedicated to creating opportunities that promote healthy living and stronger community ties.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Discussing Inequality in Romantic Relationships,
Rotaract club Etiler, D2420

On Friday, March 7th at 8:00 PM, as one of the host clubs, we welcomed participants to a joint event organized together with 13 other Rotaract clubs, including Acarkent, Ataköy, Ataşehir, Beyoğlu, Bomonti, Bostancı, Dolmabahçe, Erenköy, Galatasaray, Levent, Şişli, Tarabya, and Yeniköy. The event, held via Zoom, was titled: “Gender Inequality and Intimate Partner Violence in Romantic Relationships.”

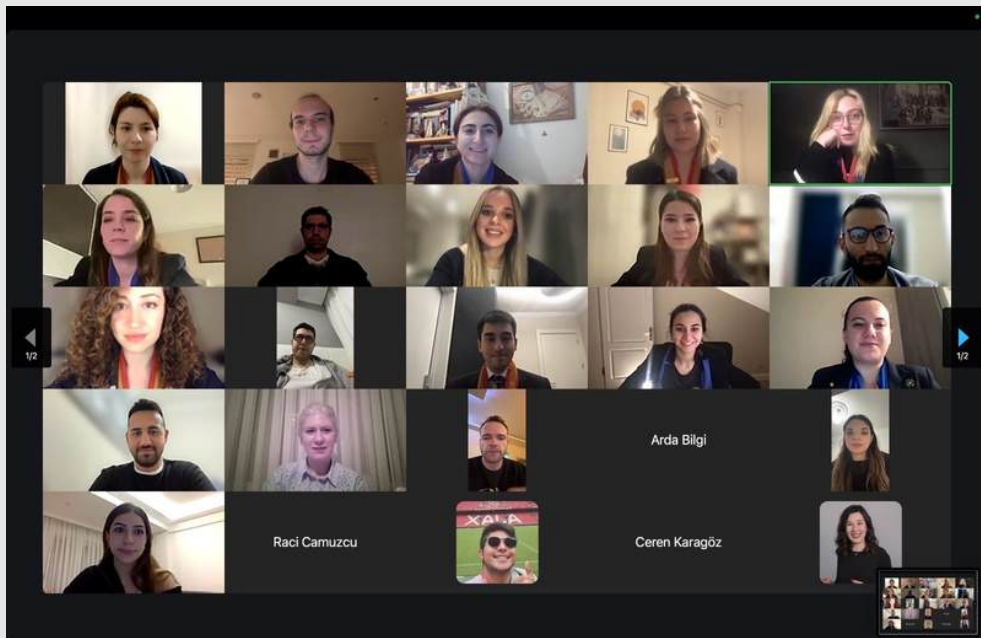
ARPIC NISA ILDIZ ÇELEBIOĞLU
ROTARACT
DISTRICT 2420/2430/2440

We had the honor of hosting Clinical Psychologist Deniz Mısra Gürol, who gave an insightful presentation on psychological violence—what it looks like in romantic relationships, how it impacts mental health, and why it often goes unnoticed. Her talk was grounded not only in academic knowledge but also in field experience, advocacy, and years of dedication to social causes.

Together, we explored how gender roles contribute to inequality and how they may enable different forms of intimate partner violence, particularly psychological abuse. The session helped many of us reflect on these dynamics and recognize the importance of naming and addressing them.

With this meeting, we aimed to raise awareness, encourage reflection, and create space for future initiatives focused on gender-based violence. We believe that acknowledging and discussing these issues is the first step toward meaningful change.

As Etiler Rotaract Club, we were proud to host such an important conversation and to be part of this collective effort.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Bringing the Spirit of the Children's Festival to Hatay

Etiler Rotaract Club | 2420th District Service Projects Committee Coordination

Following the devastating earthquake on February 23, life in the region is still far from returning to normal. Many families continue to live in container cities, where access to social activities remains very limited, if available at all.

This 23rd of April, National Sovereignty and Children's Day in Türkiye, we, as Etiler Rotaract Club, joined the 23rd April Festival Project under the coordination of the 2420th District Service Projects Committee. We traveled to the earthquake-affected areas with one aim in our hearts: to bring a festive spirit and moments of joy to the children living under these difficult conditions.

The participation of psychologists from our club made the experience even more meaningful, offering emotional support alongside the activities. We brought various food supplies, materials, and plenty of energy with us.

Throughout the day, we engaged with nearly 200 children — playing games, organizing fun workshops, and sweetening the day with cotton candy. Even if just for a day, we managed to create an atmosphere of celebration and happiness, allowing the children to feel the joy they deserve despite the hardships surrounding them.

We were honored to be part of this meaningful day, and we will continue to work towards bringing hope and smiles to every corner we can reach.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

14TH CAREER DAY for INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

On April 17, 2025, as the 2420th District Galatasaray Rotary Club and the 2420th District Galatasaray Rotaract Club, we proudly hosted the 14th edition of the Career Day for Individuals with Disabilities — an event that has been recognized with the prestigious International Outstanding Award in 2009.

The Career Day project aims to promote the employment and social integration of individuals with disabilities. Our primary goal is to provide candidates with the opportunity for an initial job interview. During the event, candidates engaged directly with company representatives and submitted their résumés to human resources managers, taking a significant step toward building their professional futures. This year, our initiative brought together 140 candidates and representatives from 19 leading companies.

By acknowledging the persistent challenges in the employment of individuals with disabilities, we choose not to be mere commentators but to take meaningful action and drive real change.



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THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Cinema Meets Peace and Hope at the 17th ROFIFE International Short Film Festival

Bringing together Rotary's vision of social service with the power of art, ROFIFE – Rotary International Short Film Festival – once again showcased stories that touch humanity through the universal language of cinema in its 17th year. The festival's glamorous Gala Night and Award Ceremony took place on the evening of April 5, 2025, at the Gaziantep Zeugma Museum, hosted by the Gaziantep Yesemek Rotary Club. The event was supported by the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism's General Directorate of Cinema, the Governorship of Gaziantep, and the Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality.

ARPIC MUSTAFA FARUK GÜLER
ROTARY AND ROTARACT
CENTRAL ASIA CLUBS

A stage for peace, love, and freedom

The evening began with a heartfelt opening speech by Emek Erdem, President of the Gaziantep Yesemek Rotary Club. It continued with a powerful message from Mustafa Güler, Chair of the 17th ROFIFE Committee, who emphasized that cinema is not just an art form, but a call to conscience. He said, "Tonight, it's not just short films that won — dreams, hopes, and solidarity won," thanking everyone who contributed to the festival.

A strong message from Rotary to society through art

Aligned with Rotary's global projects in peace, education, environment, and equality, ROFIFE aimed to raise social awareness through short films. The festival encouraged filmmakers not only to create, but also to think, to change, and to inspire transformation.

What themes stood out this year?

Films at the festival explored universal themes such as migration, women's rights, environmental awareness, childhood, social justice, and a world without barriers. Works competing in both national and international categories were evaluated by a jury of experts.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Cinema Meets Peace and Hope at the 17th ROFIFE International Short Film Festival

Honorary Awards were presented to Fikret Kuşkan, Tamer Levent, İsmail Hakkı Aydın, Ali Düşenkalkar, Yurdaer Okur, and Kerem Kupacı for their contributions to Turkish cinema and theatre. In their speeches, the artists highlighted the importance of inspiring and supporting young filmmakers as a key responsibility of every artist.

A hopeful gathering for the future

The Gala Night ended on a high note with screenings of the award-winning films and live performances by artists. ROFIFE continues to grow each year, sharing the healing and unifying power of art on an international stage

PP. Mustafa Güler

17th Rotary International Short Film Festival

Committee Chair



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