



## "HIS STORY, OUR MISSION: FINISH THE FIGHT AGAINST POLIO

My wife Ardeth and I were attending a Rotary Institute in Denver during my District Governor Elect year. The Governor Elects were introducing the speakers at the different events. On the final evening one of my classmates introduced the keynote speaker. Then it happened the speaker was not there. Dead silence filled the room and I was wondering what my classmate was going to do.

Suddenly the back doors of the banquet hall opened and a sliding sound could be heard on the carpet. As we all watched a man with a piece of automobile tire tied under his buttocks pulled himself with his hands to the stage.

Born in India with polio, Ramesh faced a future that could have been very different. Had he remained in India, he might have been forced to move around by pulling himself along with a tire placed beneath him, a heartbreaking reminder of how devastating polio can be. Instead, his life changed when he was adopted and raised in **Canada by Rotary-connected parents**. He received opportunities that allowed him to overcome many of the limitations polio had placed on his life.

*Ramesh did not let polio define him.* Instead, he became a powerful advocate for polio eradication, sharing his story around the world and helping people understand what is at stake.

His story gives Rotary members a very personal reason to continue supporting PolioPlus. Every vaccination represents a child who may never have to experience what Ramesh experienced. Every dollar raised helps provide vaccines, surveillance, transportation, and the people needed to reach children in the world's most difficult places.

We are closer than ever to ending polio, but close is not finished. Ramesh's life shows us what is possible when a child is given a chance. Rotary has made an extraordinary commitment to creating a polio-free world.

Now it is up to us to finish the fight. By raising funds for PolioPlus, supporting vaccination efforts, and telling stories like Ramesh's, every Rotary club and every Rotarian can help make sure that no child in the future has to live with the consequences of a disease we have the ability to prevent.

**One child, One vaccine, One world without polio. Let's finish the fight!**

To donate and become a member of the Polio Plus Society, the District 5520 Polio Plus Kennel Klub or both, please follow the directions below. One donation of \$100.00 or more makes you eligible for both the Society and the Klub.



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Joining the Kennel Klub is a 2-step process:

1. Make an annual donation (\$100 minimum) to PolioPlus  
<https://my.rotary.org/en/donate>
2. Fill out the Kennel Klub New Member Form here:



A bandana will be sent to the address indicated in the new member form. Additional information about the Kennel Club can be found here: Kennel Klub Information. Additional information about the Polio Plus Society can be found here: PolioPlus Society Information.

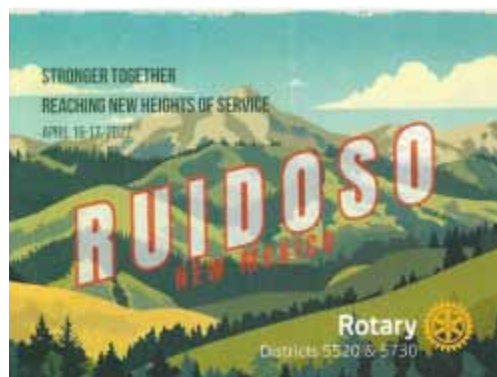
Thanks for your support in this vital fight to make our world a better place!

Past District Governor Lonnie Leslie  
lleslie@district5520.com  
1-575-760-2395

Jeff Weinrach  
2026-27 District 5520 Governor  
Jweinrach5520@nmia.com  
1-505-400-1403



**ESTANCIA**  
**OUR 30TH ANNUAL**  
**PUNKIN' CHUNKIN'**  
BIGGER LAUNCHES • HIGHER HOPES • SAME GREAT FUN!  
**SATURDAY**  
**OCTOBER 17, 2026**  
**LOCATION:**  
1.5 Miles West on Hwy 55  
From NMSH 41 in Estancia, Or  
Approx. 8 Miles East from  
NM 337 & 55 Junction  
**DOOR PRIZES-**  
**ANNOUNCED EVERY HOUR !!**  
(MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN!!)  
**Punkin' Chunkin'**  
is a sport of hurling a pumpkin by mechanical  
means for distance and in some contests  
accuracy. The devices used include  
slingshots, catapults, centrifugal trebuchets  
and pneumatic air cannons, and  
Special Unique Cannon's in a Class of their own.  
**FREE PARKING**  
**ADMISSION AT THE GATE**  
**\$5.00**  
PER PERSON  
**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**  
8:00 AM Gates Open at Punkin' Chunkin'  
Field (Vendor Setup)  
10:30 AM Parade - Main Street  
(sign up at 9:30 courthouse)  
11:00 AM Launcher and vendor set-up  
NOON Launcher Registrations and  
Practice Launching  
12:30 PM National Anthem  
12:35 PM "OPENING" LAUNCH  
1:00 PM Announcement of Punkin'  
Chunkin' Prince & Princess  
1:30 PM Official Launching Begins  
3:00 PM Pie Eating Contest  
3:00 PM Exhibition Launching  
4:00 PM Final Launching Results & Awards  
**CONTACTS**  
President: Victoria Sedillo 505-706-5252  
Stella L. Chavez - General Info. 505-238-3821  
Angela Coburn - General Information  
and Vendors 505-706-5310  
For information and updates,  
visit us on Facebook.  
"5 and under Free!"  
The Estancia Rotary Club Annual NON-PROFIT event for our Youth  
Scholarship Fund.



**April 16,**  
**2027**

Ruidoso Convention Center  
Ruidoso, NM

Mark your calendar NOW so other  
things don't slip in too.

**STRONGER TOGETHER - REACHING  
NEW HEIGHTS OF SERVICE**

*Let's Travel  
INDIA*



# INVITATION TO A FRIENDSHIP EXCHANGE TRIP TO INDIA!

Due to the tremendous interest in traveling to India, and since we were only able to select five Rotarians for our previous trip, we are excited to organize another Friendship Exchange Trip to India!

**Date: Mid-February 2027**

**Duration: Approximately 12–15 days (to be finalized)**

**Host District: District 3060, a very large Rotary District located in western India.**

If you are interested in joining us on this exciting adventure, please let me know as soon as possible by emailing me at my personal email address:

[nandoloba@yahoo.com](mailto:nandoloba@yahoo.com)

As always, all names received will be entered into a drawing, and the first five names selected will have the opportunity to participate!

This is a wonderful opportunity to experience India, build new friendships, strengthen Rotary connections, and enjoy an unforgettable cultural exchange.

We look forward to traveling together and making more great Rotary memories!

Warm regards,  
Fernando Lopez

PS: I am also including the last email from my counterpart in that district with information about it.

Dear Fernando,

It was nice having a word with you today morning.

Please find below brief of our District along with the Information about District 3060 for your ready reference.

Our District is widely spread from South Gujarat to Parts of North Gujarat and extend up to parts of Maharashtra. District Map attached for reference in the attached file of "Information about District 3060".

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Our District has Beautiful Beaches, Historical Archaeological sites, Asiatic Lion National Park and also has the world's tallest Statue (Statue of Unity) and world's largest office Building (Surat Diamond Bourse) ahead of Pentagon, USA.

Important cities of our District are Vapi, Surat, Bharuch, Vadodara, Rajkot, Jamnagar, Dhule etc.

Since our District is widely spread and difficult to cover the whole District in 2 weeks' time of RFE Duration. Normally we move from South to North, approx. 3 days in each city and surroundings or sometimes from North to South. We try to cover mostly 4 to 5 cities in this RFE. We also have Rotary Meetings, and we also show Rotary's permanent projects in those cities. Normally we have an exchange of 5 couples (10 persons) for a duration of 12 to 15 days. As per mutual understanding we can increase or decrease the number of persons and number of days. We normally accept inbound RFE teams during October to February since it is a comfortable season for travel to our District as the temperature varies from 20 to 28 deg C at different times and locations.

Our outbound team normally prefers to travel in May to August (being vacation time in schools).

We all Rotarians of the District 3060 encompassing professionals, entrepreneurs and businessmen are wonderful hosts. Our arms and hearts are open to share the magic of friendship.

Nearest International Airport:

Mumbai (BOM) & Surat (STV). We also have the International Airport at Ahmedabad. Depending upon the itinerary we freeze, we will let you know the nearest Airport accordingly.  
image Information About D3060.pdf

Contact Details

Phone: +91 98251 55517

WhatsApp: +91 70699 70052

Mail: [prafuldewani@gmail.com](mailto:prafuldewani@gmail.com)

Many thanks. Peace.

Mark Goodman

Governor Nominee, Rotary District 5520 (2028-29)



Follow us on Social Media  
**Rotary District 5520 Year of Cheer**  
Supporting El Paso and UNM Children's Hospitals

Celebrating successes, sharing ideas, and sending requests to Rotarians and friends as we support hospitalized children and their families.  
*Like and share as we grow this page and this project together!*

Questions & stories to share:  
email [rachellectford@gmail.com](mailto:rachellectford@gmail.com)

**Rotary**  
District 5520



## ***Year of Cheer!!***

***Now on Facebook***

The purpose of this page is to collaborate together, share ideas, and celebrate the good work of Rotarians across District 5520 as we support children and families in our region.

**Like and share as we grow this page and this project together!**



# Albuquerque Rotarian Sees Nepal's Flood Recovery Firsthand While Launching Sixth Sewing Center



**Christine Chilfuya Glidden** a member of the Rotary Club of Albuquerque, traveled to Nepal to launch the club's sixth sewing center with partners at the Rudramati Rotary Club of Kathmandu. The project, which also provides washable menstrual kits to girls, is fully funded and has been approved for a grant from The Rotary Foundation, Rotary's charitable arm.

While Christine was in the country, Nepal's glacial floods struck.

## A landscape erased

Christine traveled to Nuwakot, a hub for recovery efforts in the flood-affected areas. She described acres of gray mud and rock where homes and shops once stood, with enormous boulders carried downstream now sitting in the middle of former neighborhoods.

Many of the houses still standing are not safe. Lower floors are filled with mud, walls and wiring are exposed, and deep cracks run through foundations. Some families downstream received phone warnings before the flood hit but had only moments to react.

"Imagine a lunar landscape," she wrote. "Acres of gray emptiness, broken only by the remains of homes."

Home insurance is almost nonexistent in the region. Families who lost houses, furniture, photographs and livelihoods will not receive a check to rebuild. Some will spend months clearing debris by hand with buckets and shovels. Others are staying with relatives or living in tents provided by NGOs and the government.



## Listening before sending



Rather than shipping supplies based on assumptions, Rotary partners on the ground are asking families what they need. Deepak, a Rotarian working in the affected area, is meeting directly with households. So far, blankets, mattresses and clothing top the list.

Deepak is also overseeing a substantial donation from a Rotary club in Australia, which puts him in a position to respond to what families say they need rather than duplicate what has already arrived. Some items, including school supplies and toiletries, have already come in quantity.

"Good relief work is not simply sending things," she wrote. "It is listening first, avoiding duplication and providing what people actually need."

## Where the sewing center project fits

The Albuquerque club's washable menstrual kits are proving useful in the recovery. Disposable products can meet an immediate need, but once those supplies run out, reusable kits keep working. The sewing centers themselves create local skills and income, the kind of lasting capacity communities need long after emergency aid ends.

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## A moment that stays

During one visit, she sat across a kitchen table from a woman who could not stop crying. She had not lost a family member; she was crying from the trauma of it all. Without a shared language, she reached across the table with her palm up. The woman placed her hand in hers, and they stayed that way for a few moments.

“Compassion did not require translation.”



## The long work ahead

The flood has passed, but the emergency has changed shape. In some areas, children have returned to school, bringing back a small piece of routine. For the families of Nuwakot, the long work of rebuilding homes and lives is just beginning.



In Memory Of  
**Jonathan Rogers**

**Rotary**  
West El Paso



**first tee**  
greater el paso

**Friday**  
**October 23**  
**2026**

Painted Dunes Golf Course  
12000 McCombs St  
1:00 pm Shotgun

(915) 252-6511  
[FirstTeeDesertClassic.com](http://FirstTeeDesertClassic.com)



**The toy shelves are nearly empty..... The children keep coming.**

A child arrives at the hospital scared. Parents pray they could make everything better. Sometimes a toy offers a moment when that child can smile, play, and forget where they are.

Rotarians across District 5520 have already brought thousands of those moments to children through Year of Cheer. Thank you. But at this time of year, the toy shelves at UNM Children's Hospital and El Paso Children's Hospital are running low.

Please pick up new, unwrapped toys today—and invite a friend to do the same. Ask your club to collect gifts or find ways to give at [rotarydelnorte.org/page/yoc/](http://rotarydelnorte.org/page/yoc/).



**“Let's make sure the next child who needs a toy finds one waiting.”**

**If your club has toys for us, we can arrange to get them to the hospital.**

**Have a wonderful day,**

**- Alice**

**The Year of Cheer Team**

**Alice and Berdel, Co-chairs**

**[amehlberg@yahoo.com](mailto:amehlberg@yahoo.com)**

**[berdel.boulanger@gmail.com](mailto:berdel.boulanger@gmail.com)**



## **The World's Most Unique Flag**

At the rotary RI cinvention in Taiwan there were 140 countries represented with their flags. 139 countries had eitherred, white or blue in their flag except one.

Most national flags share a familiar palette: red, white, and blue. In fact, nearly three-quarters of the world's flags use at least one of those colors. But there is one country that stands completely apart.

**Which country am I talking about?**

**Jamaica** is the only nation whose flag contains none of those three colors. Instead, it flies a striking combination of black, green, and gold. Adopted at independence in 1962, the design carries powerful symbolism:

Gold for the sunlight and natural wealth,  
Green for hope and the island's lush landscape,  
Black for the strength and resilience of its people.



**Jamaica stands alone.** It's a reminder that even in a world full of common patterns, there's always room for something boldly different.



**Support the businesses that support District 5520 Programs**



**State Farm - Gary Armijo Agency**

Gary Armijo is an insurance agent affiliated with State Farm, providing personalized insurance solutions to individuals and businesses

At State Farm, our mission is to protect what matters most to you. Whether it's your home, your vehicle, or your family's future, we strive to provide coverage tailored specifically to your unique needs. I take great pride in assisting families—just like mine—in navigating the complexities of insurance, so you can focus on what truly matters: creating lasting memories with your loved ones.

As a dedicated State Farm agent with 16 years of experience, I know that family is at the core of everything we do. I've been blessed to share over 33 wonderful years of marriage and raise five amazing children—two biological and three adopted from Latvia. My family's journey has shown me the true importance of safety, security, and support, values I bring to my work every day.

Phone Number  
5053522266

Email  
GARY@GARYARMIJO.COM  
Website

WWW.GARYARMIJO.COM  
Location

2116 Vista Oeste NW Ste 402  
Albuquerque, NM 87120



<https://business.rotary5520.org/businesses>



## **Sailing for Service District Celebration Cruise**

Information about the District Celebration and special rates will be coming out in October. District 5520 will join with 7 other districts to take over the cruise ship, have fellowship and support a service project in Ensenada, Mexico. We would like to have Rotarians, Rotaractors, Interactors and Youth Exchange attend. Look for the email. **ALL ABOARD!**

# CAMP BIG WEST: WHERE ROTARY LEADERSHIP COMES TO LIFE



Camp Big West brought together Rotary leaders from across Zones 26 and 27 for several days of learning, leadership, fellowship and inspiration. Held September 3–6 at The Wigwam in Litchfield Park, Arizona, this year's Zone Institute created an atmosphere designed to encourage Rotarians to connect, share ideas and strengthen their ability to lead Rotary into the future.

More than a traditional conference, Camp Big West emphasized the importance of relationships and hands-on learning. Trailblazer sessions and leadership opportunities provided participants with practical ideas they could take home and apply in their clubs and districts. Conversations focused on strengthening membership, improving the

club experience, developing leaders and creating meaningful opportunities for service.

One of the highlights was the Emerging Rotary Leaders program, which brought together 55 Rotarians from across the two zones for leadership development and networking. Participants had the opportunity to build relationships with Rotarians from throughout the western United States while learning from one another and from experienced Rotary leaders.

Jeri Thymian, Mike Hackett and Gabriela Eaton – D5520 ERL Class

For District 5520, Camp Big West represents an important opportunity to bring new ideas, new connections and renewed energy back to our clubs. The experience reinforces a simple Rotary truth: strong clubs are built by people who are willing to learn, lead, connect and serve together.

The event ended with the DGE Laura Gonzales' graduation ceremony.

RI President Larry Lunsford presented the certificates.



(Continued)



**D5520 made a strong showing at the conference graduation banquet by taking up two tables!**



**DG Jeff Weinrach hosted a wonderful reception after the ceremony!**



**Camp Big West reminds us that Rotary is about building relationships, inspiring others and finding new ways to make a difference in our communities and around the world.**

**Please consider joining the Zone Institute in Reno Nevada next year, November 11-13, 2027.**



**The Rotary Zones 26 & 27 Institute (“Camp Big West”) for next year (2027) will be held at the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, Nevada, from November 11–13, 2027**



To Highlight your club's impact on the community!

Click here for  
FORM

Click here for  
STORIES

Get your club activities on the District Facebook page so we can see all that our District is doing!



CLICK THE FACEBOOK LOGO TO SEE ALL THE OTHER GREAT THINGS GOING ON IN OUR DISTRICT! GET A FACEBOOK PAGE AND JOIN IN!

# PEACE POLE DEDICATION – ROTARY PARK, ALBUQUERQUE

A Peace Pole that traveled across Rotary District 5520 has found a permanent home in Albuquerque's Rotary Park, bringing a simple message to a place already rich in Rotary history: "May Peace Prevail on Earth."

Rotarians and friends gathered September 20, 2026, on the eve of the International Day of Peace, to dedicate the pole, which carries its message in English and Spanish.

District Governor Jeff Weinrach spoke about peace as a foundation of Rotary's work, connecting it with service, goodwill, and friendship. The ceremony offered an opportunity to bring that commitment into focus and consider how each person can put it into practice.

For Immediate Past District Governor Tom Simon, the dedication also marked the end of a memorable journey. Simon received the pole on behalf of the district at the previous October's Zone Institute in Albuquerque. Before choosing a permanent location, he and his wife, Deborah, took it along on their district travels. Between trips, it stood in their living room.

Simon's account brought warmth and humor to the ceremony, along with a reflection on the relationships that sustain peace. Drawing on 35 years of marriage, he emphasized the importance of recognizing our interconnectedness and nurturing it over time.

The setting added another layer of meaning. Rotary Park's dedication plaque dates to June 22, 1991, and recognizes the Rotary Club of Albuquerque and the Rotary Club of Albuquerque Del Norte. During the ceremony, club representatives reflected on the park's continuing role as a place for fellowship, picnics, and remembrance, including trees, plaques, and a bench honoring members.

Guest speaker Paul Ingles, co-founder and executive producer of Peace Talks Radio, connected the pole's visible message with the daily work of peacemaking. Believing in peace and giving it a public presence matter, he explained; the next step is acting peacefully in our own lives.

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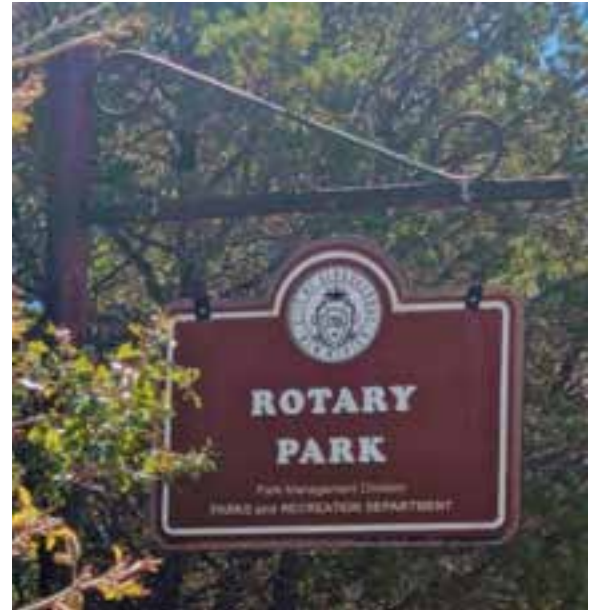
# PEACE POLE DEDICATION - ROTARY PARK, ALBUQUERQUE

Drawing on years of conversations about nonviolent conflict resolution, Ingles encouraged listeners to begin close to home—with compassion for themselves, greater curiosity about others, and a willingness to listen without immediately preparing a response. Those habits can extend outward through families, friendships, workplaces, and communities.

The gathering concluded with a group photograph around the newly unveiled pole. Long after the ceremony, its message will remain for neighbors and visitors: an invitation to pause, reflect, and help make peace part of everyday life.



**Paul Ingles**, the keynote speaker for the event,



Intergalactic Peace?!? Why not?



Finally out of Tom's living room!



Sometimes kindness comes in the simplest form—even a slice of pizza.



**REGISTER NOW!**

Click here for the  
Registration fees  
page for the  
conference

**CLICK HERE**



Save  
the  
Date

Celebrating Over a Decade of Fine Wines, Gourmet  
Cuisine, and Unforgettable Memories

**Friday, November 6th | 5:00-7:30 PM**

**Saturday, November 7th | 1:00-4:00 PM**



Join us for the premier wine and food festival  
in the Borderplex.

The 13th Annual El Paso Wine & Food Festival with our theme of  
***“A Toast to World Peace”***  
promises an unforgettable experience where culinary excellence meets  
exceptional wines.



**Grand Tasting Event**  
**Saturday, November 7th | 1:00-4:00 PM**

Experience the ultimate wine and food pairing at our  
signature Grand Tasting Event.

Taste over 400 wines from around the world, paired with  
exquisite bites from El Paso's top restaurants.

Explore a symphony of flavors designed to excite,  
surprise, and satisfy every palate, creating a dining  
experience that leaves you wanting more.



**Chef Showdown**  
**Friday, November 6th | 5:00-7:30 PM**

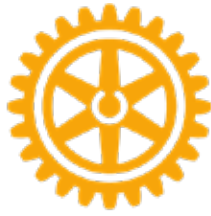
Watch as 12 culinary teams from the Culinary Institute by  
Southwest University compete to create  
stunning dishes paired with craft beers and premium wines.  
Witness the magic of top-quality ingredients and thoughtful  
pairings come to life in this  
exciting culinary competition!

**TICKETS AT: [ELPASOWINEFEST.COM](http://ELPASOWINEFEST.COM)**



**RI CONVENTION**  
**BARCELONA 2027**





## No. 47 – September 6, 2026

*1 minute to discover an aspect of Rotary's history*

### The pride of being a Rotarian

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Being a Rotarian is not simply about belonging to an organization. It is about choosing to be useful.

It means looking at the world as it is, with its injustices, its fragilities, and its challenges, and deciding not to remain a spectator.

I am proud to be a Rotarian because, wherever we are, we can turn an idea into action, an encounter into friendship, and a difficulty into hope.

I am proud to be a Rotarian because we don't ask, "What can Rotary do for me?" but rather, "What can I do for others?"

I feel this pride every time a donation saves a life, a young person finds their path, someone regains hope, or an action brings women and men together around a common cause.

Being a Rotarian means having the opportunity to give meaning to your commitment.

And above all, it means belonging to a community that doesn't just dream of a better world.

**We roll up our sleeves... and we take action.**

Rotary

