



The Rotary Club of Boulder Valley - February 24, 2026

Tuesday February 24, 2026, 11 AM--3 PM, SEEC S372

World Service Committee: Regular 11 a.m. time before meeting.

Mark Burnett, Our President 2025 - 2026

Fellow Rotarians,

Last night, 14 BVRC members gathered at the Dark Horse for some fellowship and, for a few, to catch a first glimpse of this slice of Boulder before it closes its doors. For our family, the Dark Horse was a surprisingly special place. We would gather there to watch Bronco games, hang out with family and out-of-town guests, and for some unknown reason, it became the place to celebrate Mother's Day. For those of you that haven't been in a while, or if you have never been, I'd suggest stopping by before it closes on March 14. If you have time, take a look at some of the collages for various events over the years. Look up and see the wide variety of bizarre and collectible items on the walls and hanging from the rafters. Examine the years of wallpaper,

memories, and dust that this place has procured over the past century. There are rumors that it may try to reopen elsewhere. But, at least initially, it won't be quite the same.

Sadly, this kind of change happens all the time. I find something that I like and adore, and inevitably something eventually happens to change it. A favorite breakfast place is bought and transformed into something else. A place goes out of business due to the owner retiring. Or for some unknown reason, an enjoyed Netflix series is cancelled. Regardless, there is a mourning that follows these changes.

My brother is seeing and losing to the fight to these changes in our hometown. The shuttering of businesses, the increase of traffic and the migration of friends, has made our hometown different from what it once was and what he would like it to be. This cycle of growth and change is perhaps stated best most recently in The Byrds song "Turn, Turn, Turn." They sing that there is "A time to build up, a time to break down. A time to dance, a time to mourn."

However, within those same lyrics, they also remind us that "to everything....there is a season." And even though the season of the Dark Horse may be ending, I am hopeful and optimistic that something better and more wonderful awaits us in the future. As Rotarians, we understand that while one chapter ends, the spirit of community ensures that something new and wonderful always awaits us in the future.

Mark Burnett







Please send JPG photos only (no PDFs) and copy NOT attached to a string of previous comments.

The necessary information is swallowed whole and can't be accessed.

Joan Scott is assisting with the Newsletter and can receive information to be published through leacachjs@gmail.com.

Posts circulated via Clubrunner are provided by our club members who should be consulted regarding any comments or questions regarding the contents. Please read to the bottom of each post for contact information.

For the Speaker, please send a photo, brief biography, and topic description to me for the newsletter!

Articles of interest for our club and Rotarians are gratefully accepted.

I am merely the messenger.

RCBV Anniversary Party Date and Location TBD.

Jim Beckley, Rotarian





“Our fellow Rotarian, Jim Beckley, passed away last weekend at his new home in Florida. Jim had recently relocated to sea level after his blood oxygen levels were affected by Boulder’s high altitude. His passing was a surprise to his family and friends.

Jim was a model Rotarian, having first joined Rotary more than 50 years ago. He became a member of our club in 1993 when he moved to Boulder.

Jim gave generously of both his time and his resources, supporting numerous international projects. With his son Spencer, he traveled to a Zambian village to provide bicycles so children could get to school. That effort grew into funding for a library and science lab at the school, and eventually scholarships for its students. Most recently, Jim was supporting ten college scholars—soon to be teachers, nurses, and one doctor. He was fond of saying that intelligence knows no national boundaries.

In that same school district, Jim worked with Kim Hix to distribute menstrual cups to young girls, a project whose positive impact on their lives cannot be measured.

With a smile, he shared the story of his arrival in Boulder as a commercial real estate developer, having previously built a successful development career in Miami. One of our members at the time, a banker, mentioned he could approve loans up to half a million dollars. Jim was in his office the very next afternoon with a proposal—marking the start of Jim’s developments in Boulder. One of his most visible projects is the La Vista office complex on the west side of the Diagonal Highway across from Niwot, an attractive example of Jim’s architectural taste and commitment to quality.

Rotary was a natural fit for Jim, whose spirit of fellowship, generosity, and kind heart were evident to all of us.

He is survived by his wife, Lina and their son, Spencer. A memorial service is being planned and the details will be shared at a later date.”

Rex

The New Boulder Fire Station #3, Fifth Tuesday



On Tuesday, March 31st we will be visiting the new Boulder Fire Station #3 and our host will be the Fire Chief.

cj

Speaker: *Sherry Burkhard, the Executive Director at Rise Against Suicide*



Our speaker this week is Sherry Burkhard, the Executive Director at Rise Against Suicide. Rise Against Suicide is one of the organizations that the Community Service committee has partnered with this year. The title of her presentation is "From Pain to Hope: What Every Young Life Deserves in Suicide Prevention."

Sherry Burkhard encountered brokenness early in life when, at fifteen years old, she was admitted to a hospital for anorexia and other mental health struggles. With a desire to help others with similar stories, she became a Registered Nurse in 1996 and focused her practice on the mental health field by working in inpatient and outpatient psychiatric settings.

Sherry's dedication to mental health led her to co-found and serve as the director of a nonprofit in Texas, committed to helping individuals and the community navigate mental health and addiction recovery. Her commitment continued after relocating to Colorado in 2022, where she joined Partners in Children's Mental Health, a department within Children's Hospital Colorado, focused on equipping trusted adults to address the youth mental health crisis.

In January 2025, Sherry became the Executive Director of Rise Against Suicide. This Colorado-based nonprofit is dedicated to helping youth at risk of suicide by removing barriers to treatment, enabling them to find hope and healing.

Jane Engel

The Community Foundation Trends Report

The Community Foundation gathers a vast amount of information about Boulder for their Trends report. Trends provides community data to residents, organizations, and civic leaders in order to engage minds, inform decisions, and inspire action. Explore indicators on housing, income and economics, education, arts and culture, environment and sustainability, health and wellness, and more. The database of this information is all on-line now and access is very user friendly. Go to <https://www.commfound.org/our-work/trends/> to experience the Trends report.

Sarah Harrison, Vice president of Programs at Community Foundation, Boulder County Sarah Harrison has a 20-year career in the field of philanthropy. Sarah is the Vice President of Programs at Community Foundation Boulder County and oversees discretionary grants and the Foundation's leadership programs.

Prior to her work in philanthropy, Sarah worked in homelessness services, after school and family programs, early childhood education initiatives, and higher education.

With a doctorate from Bowling Green State University in the field of Leadership and Policy Studies, Dr. Harrison has been an adjunct professor at the University of Colorado Denver and Bowling Green State University for almost 20 years.

Currently residing in Boulder County, Sarah has been involved in the community and has supported higher education opportunities for Latino/a young adults.

Dave Gardner

Jane Engel

Save the Date – Pickleball & Fellowship!



Get ready for a fun, casual evening of **fellowship, food, and pickleball** with Boulder Valley Rotary!

Thursday, March 19

4:00–6:00 p.m.

Relish Food Hall & Pickleball

550 S McCaslin Blvd, Louisville, CO 80027

Whether you play or just want to cheer and socialize, this will be a great time together. More details to follow!

L'Shawn Howard

BV Rotary Upcoming Service Projects



Please plan ahead to join in some or all of these upcoming service projects, bring friends and consider getting together with fellow Rotarians before or after the event to add a more social component.

February – Flower distribution – CANCELLED – the Flower Show has a different manager and they have decided to not go forward with this distribution.

March – Sister Carmen food bank – date TBD

April – Possible work with PLAY Boulder, perhaps Caroline's Canopy

May – this is our big month of service!- Rise Against Suicide support for their 5k event-

EPIC Day of Service – many details to follow- Bolder Boulder Aid Station support

Caroline Himes

District 5450 Rotarians - *Great Networking Opportunities*



Dear District 5450 Rotarians - see below for great training/networking opportunities coming up through February. All Zoom sessions will be recorded and posted on the **District Website Training** .

***** FREE QUEEN SLEEPER SOFAS & LAMPS for non-profit organizations.** Must pick up in Breckenridge. Contact [Drew Roberts](#) for information. ***

***** [CLICK HERE TO VIEW CLUB EVENTS!](#) *****

[JOIN OUR UPDATED FACEBOOK PAGE!!!](#)

Interested in becoming an event sponsor? [Click here for more info!](#)

Bev - Beverly Mendel

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