



# The Rotary Club of Boulder Valley - January 27, 2026

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*Tuesday January 27, 2026, 11 AM--3 PM. SEEC (Sustainability, Energy and Environment  
Community) located on East Campus at 4001 Discovery Dr.) Room N224*

*WORLD SERVICE COMMITTEE UPDATE*

*(Meeting also this Tuesday at 11 am.)*

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## ***Mark Burnett, Our President 2025 - 2026***

Fellow Rotarians,

Last night, a group of us gathered at Rosetta Hall for our first “Third Thursday” gathering of the new year. There was grand conversation about life, travels, family heredity, the Broncos, and how this weekend’s weather might affect Sunday’s game.

There is an article in today’s *Washington Post* entitled “Five longevity lessons from ‘The Oldest Person in the World.’” It turns out that *The Oldest Person in the World* is a documentary that premiered at this year’s Sundance Film Festival. While the film’s lessons include things like genetics and being a single woman (and notes that money isn’t the key), two factors stood out to me: the necessity of a **strong community** and a **positive attitude**.

Fortunately, those are two things our club has in abundance! I’m sure many of you have noticed the incredible surge in energy at our recent meetings. With over 30 people attending each session, the conversations are vibrant and the connections are deep. It’s a joy to see those interactions continue long after the meeting ends. Being part of such a caring, energetic group is a personal blessing for me—and now, I have the scientific backing to know it’s also a boost for my longevity.

Regarding that positive attitude, I think I’ll follow the wisdom of the late Kane Tanaka, who lived to be 119. As she once said: *“Don’t dwell too much on negative things. Regret isn’t helpful, and worrying doesn’t solve a thing... I just live happily, enjoying everything.”*

For those of you looking to get a little more community time—and perhaps increase your longevity—our next Third Thursday is planned for **February 19**.

*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](mailto: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.*

*Locally Haiti: Petit Trou, Haiti*





Hello, Darryl and all!

- First, **thank you** for your amazing support. As you can see, it's made an incredible difference. (More photos attached from this week, and [please see here for a short, relevant video if interested.](#))

Second, confirming we received the final payment. **Thank you so much, Darryl.**

Finally, we're on top of the signage and look forward to sending photos of that along with our final report. The project is complete - and a big success!

With gratitude to all of you,

*Wynn*

Here is another example of our club's efforts to improve conditions in Haiti. Our club worked with Locally Haiti on a District International Grant championed by David Harper and Joan Scott several years ago to build gardens in Petit Trou, Haiti. Recently, we participated in another

District International Grant (Strengthening Food Security and Health in Petit Trou de Nippes Rotary District 5450 DG25-029) championed by the Boulder Rotary Club in partnership with Locally Haiti to build a garden near the area's recently constructed hospital. Our club committed \$1,500 in cash and \$1,500 DDF and David Harper also contributed \$3,000 individually for this \$33,000 project. See the update from Locally Haiti and the attached pictures showing the impressive gardens.

Dear Darryl & Friends at Rotary:

Your generosity has supported the development and management of a 1.6-acre farm adjacent to our new community hospital in Petit Trou. As proposed and envisioned, this land is being used for vegetable and fruit tree production, nurturing of plant starts and seeds, and community-based training on food production, soil health, and conservation. This grant has played a key role as we work towards developing a holistic approach to health, wherein local agriculture and food security are integrated with clinical care and community health.

#### **Grant Utilization**

To date, we have expended \$43,252.97 [Locally Haiti used its own funds to cover expenses above the grant funds).

**Remaining to be completed:** Final Plantings, placement of Rotary Sign to acknowledge the contributions of the participating Colorado Rotary Clubs, and Final Report.

#### **January 12, 2026 Progress Report:**

Strengthening Food Security and Health in Petit Trou de Nippes Rotary District 5450 DG25-029

Dear Darryl & Friends at Rotary:

Your generosity has supported the development and management of a 1.6-acre farm adjacent to our new community hospital in Petit Trou. As proposed and envisioned, this land is being used for vegetable and fruit tree production, nurturing of plant starts and seeds, and community-based training on food production, soil health, and conservation. This grant has played a key role as we work towards developing a holistic approach to health, wherein local agriculture and food security are integrated with clinical care and community health.

#### **Grant Utilization**

To date, we have expended \$43,252.97. All receipts can be found in the Google Drive shared via email.

#### **Measurable Progress**

- Water well drilled on site
- Land plowed
- Irrigation system installed
- Plant nursery constructed
- Planted the following (listed first = most recent)
  - 1,500 hot peppers
  - 1,200 bell peppers
  - 1,016 okra plants
  - 216 additional plantain trees (in addition to the 336 below)
  - 532 pineapple trees
  - 336 plantain trees
  - 174 melons
  - 950 Tacoma stans (flowering bush, for soil health, conservation, beauty, reproduction)
  - 66 Carmona (flowering bush, for soil health, conservation, beauty, reproduction)
  - 33 palm trees
  - 34 ixora (flowering bush, for soil health, conservation, beauty, reproduction)
  - 9 Damme Marie trees
- Grown from seed as starts, but not yet planted:
  - 40 cherry trees
  - 30 star fruit trees
  - 35 palm trees
  - 15 mango trees
  - 5 avocado trees

**Challenges & Solutions:** The water well, solar-powered pump, and irrigation system have been installed. However, this system has been modified due to plans for installation of a reverse osmosis potable water system on the grounds of the farm and hospital. This system was not

envisioned at the time of the grant, and thus our original design had to be adjusted. The current system, while provisional, meets all farming needs and is achieving the same goals and outputs as the original system proposed. Once the clean water system is installed, the irrigation system will be updated for the long-term.

**Training & Community Engagement** Food security and nutritional training has continued with a cadre of 52 Community Health Workers (CHWs). Pierrette Decime, our lead technical advisor, led these trainings along with Patrick Desir, Lisson Michel, and the local team.

**Unexpected Successes & Benefits** Pierrette Decime, our lead agricultural advisor, has been a huge support over the past few months and her engagement, with support from Rotary, has been immense benefit to the project, the community, and Locally Haiti. Pierrette came to our team after being laid off from the Botanic Garden in Les Cayes due to USAID cuts, and we are hopeful that this project will be the beginning of a long relationship. In addition, we've engaged with the Agricultural University of Anse a Veau, a nearby city, and have 20 interns participating (2x per week each) in planning, labor, and development. Finally, many of the trees provided were donated or provided at low cost by local farmers eager for the success of this project.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you to Wynn for the reporting and the excellent work of Locally Haiti!

*-Darryl*

**Speaker: Charles Erdrich, *EXCHANGE: A Hub for Learning***



Summary of My Presentation

***EXCHANGE: A Hub for Learning***, a lifelong learning program located at the Boulder JCC, provides diverse educational opportunities for older adults (55+ but open to ALL). EXCHANGE offers a wide variety of fascinating in-person classes and opportunities to connect with others who love to learn. The instructors are passionate volunteers who love to share their expertise as current and retired professors, professionals and enthusiasts across a range of academic and practical subjects in history, science and technology, arts and music, literature, cultural, hobbies, and health and wellness. Charles Erdrich, one of the founders of the program, will discuss how lifelong learning can improve your quality of life, reduce stress, improve social connections, and bring joy - whether you are a class member or an instructor. EXCHANGE, in its third year, has offered more than 60 classes and lectures, with more than 2,000 class registrations over its ten sessions. As class members recently observed: “The intellectual and creative stimulation, the sociability, the sense of community it engenders, and the friendly, attractive setting makes this a perfect program for seniors” and “It’s learning for fun; with topics you didn’t even know you wanted to learn about!”

Bio

Since his retirement in 2013 from a career in engineering and IT consulting services, Charles Erdrich has been active as a volunteer across programs that support the well-being of older

adults in Boulder County. After completing two terms as a member of the **Age Well Advisory Committee** for the City of Boulder, he is now serving his second appointment as a Member-at-Large on Boulder County's **Aging Advisory Council**. Charlie also served four years as a Victim Advocate for the Boulder County Sheriff's Office, including many cases involving older adults. He has been an instructor in lifelong learning since 2015, and as a member of the Advisory Board for **EXCHANGE: A Hub for Learning**, Charlie is responsible for supporting program development and instructor recruitment, and ensuring that learning and connecting opportunities continue to grow across the County to serve an expanding older adult population.

### *D.D. Mallard, Our New Member*



#### *Education*

In 1973, I received a B.A. degree in English and History and a teaching certificate from Lamar University, the school in my hometown of Beaumont, Texas.

In 1977, I received a M.S. degree in School Administration from Lamar University.

In 1989, I received a J.D. degree from the University of Colorado.

#### *Professional Experience*

After graduating from law school, I worked as an associate attorney at Davis Graham; Stubbs LLP in Denver, where I practiced natural resources law. I joined the Boulder District Attorney's Office in September 1991; there I worked my way up from County Court through Juvenile and into District Court. My caseloads included all types of criminal cases. At the time I was appointed to the bench in 2004, I was the Chief Trial Deputy District Attorney. As Chief Trial Deputy, I carried a felony caseload as was the Supervisor/Chief of the District Court Deputies.

The governor appointed me as a judge in the 20th Colorado Judicial District. I took the bench on February 2, 2004, and retired on July 31, 2015. During that time, I presided over many different types of civil, criminal and domestic relations cases. I stood for retention in the 2006 and 2012 general elections; the judicial performance Commissions made unanimous recommendations for retention both times, and I was retained by a vote of the people.

#### *Family and Community Service Work*

I have three adult children, ages 47, 49 and 51. My husband died in July of 2023 after two years in Hospice. My Goldendoodles, Blanche and Moxie, are my present-day, wonderful companions.

I currently volunteer as a Thrift Store cashier four hours/week for the Tru Community Care Thrift Store. I am also currently on my HOA (Brookfield) Board of Directors, I am a volunteer Puppy Sitter for Paragon Service Dogs, and I volunteer at my church, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Boulder. In every general election year, I am a member of the Judicial Performance Commission. (The Commission evaluates judges up for retention and makes recommendations to voters regarding retention.)

In my spare time I enjoy walking my dogs, spending time with friends and family, taking OLLI classes, taking Pilates classes and attending bookclub meetings and University Women's Club events.

I am looking forward to getting to know the club members and taking part in Rotary projects.

## Pickleball Tournament: Denver Cherry Creek and Centennial - Register and Play!

SPONSORED BY:

Denver Cherry Creek  
**Rotary**  
Club

**Rotary**  
Rotary Club of Centennial



# 2026 CHARITY PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

**31 JANUARY 2026**  
SOUTH SUBURBAN INDOOR PICKLEBALL (SSIA)  
PICKLEBALL ATTIRE

**ALL NET PROCEEDS BENEFIT CHARITIES.**

🎯 All skill levels welcome! 🎯 Teams will play four games.  
🎯 Your entry includes lunch and one Donation Drawing ticket.

**WIN A 7-NIGHT BEACH GETAWAY FOR 6!**

\*Take the family or bring friends along for the ultimate beach escape! Choose from the vibrant energy of Mexico, the serene beauty of Bali, the rich culture of Spain or the tropical paradise of Hawaii.  
\*Airfare not included.



SCAN ME

REGISTER NOW [bit.ly/4pFgk3N](https://bit.ly/4pFgk3N)

For sponsorship opportunities, please contact Rad Elekovic at 720-486-5543

Link to register [birdease.com/33603](https://birdease.com/33603)

Thank you, Rad Elekovic

RC Centennial

## *Boulder Valley Rotary Club Day of Service*



*1 - (similar facility)*

*The Habitat for Humanity Modular Building Facility,*

*January 24, 2026. 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.*

Our club will be leading the build at the new indoor modular factory site at the Boulder Valley School District campus at 6500 Arapahoe Road. This is a learning facility for the Vo-Tech program at BVSD. The homes manufactured at this facility go into the City of Boulder affordable housing program.

You do not need prior construction experience to volunteer for this event. You must however register to volunteer. The registration is a 2 step process. First, if you are not already in the Habitat volunteer program you need to create a profile.

Once that is completed you can then volunteer for a specific volunteer day January 24th is designated for the Boulder Valley Rotary Club which includes our guests. Sign up is by going to FLATIRONS HABITAT FOR HUMANITY The signup process is open. Come and work alongside your fellow Rotarians as you assist in providing housing for those with the greatest need.

*Jeff Strobel*

## *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 page**.

### [ROTARY NIGHT AT THE STOCK SHOW](#)

### [CLUBRUNNER NOVA: WEBSITES](#)

*Thursday, January 29 | 4:00 to 5:00 pm via Zoom*

### [CLUBRUNNER NOVA: BULLETINS](#)

*Thursday, February 5 | 4:00 to 5:00 pm via Zoom*

### [ROTARY 101](#)

*Thursday, February 12 | 7:00 to 8:00 pm via Zoom*

**\*\*\* 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 -

*Bev - Beverly Mendel*

District Operations Manager

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