



The Rotary Club of Boulder Valley - May 12, 2026

Meeting 12 Noon to 1:30, SEEC S372

Mark Burnett, Our President 2025 - 2026

Fellow Rotarians,

I have never heard of English author Edward Bulwer-Lytton nor of his play, written in 1839, entitled, "Richelieu; Or the Conspiracy". However, I was quite familiar with the line, "the pen is mightier than the sword," which was written in that play. (Note: I learned that a version of this phrase goes back to the Assyrian sage Ahiqar during the 7th century BCE. The earlier version was "The word is mightier than the sword.") The point of these phrases was to show that oftentimes social movements or the press can exert more influence and make more lasting change than the use of violence.

A few examples of how a few words can lead to dramatic change include: Martin Luther's "95 Theses," which led to the Protestant Reformation; Woodward and Bernstein's reporting on Watergate, which led to the resignation of a President; Thomas Jefferson's Declaration of Independence, which led to the birth of a nation; and Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter from Birmingham Jail," which turned public opinion on the civil rights movement. However, simple words can have just as profound, albeit less dramatic, an effect. Sending a thank you note to someone who provided assistance shows your appreciation for the recipient's help. Mailing a condolence card can provide support and caring during a time of grieving. Or in my case, a simple note from a student during Teacher Appreciation Week can show that the work that we do every day can make a small difference in a person's life. Without reciting the entire letter, she wrote, "You have unlocked an interest of mine that I never thought I had....I will use a lot of what I have learned in the future."

This letter stopped me in my tracks. In a profession where the results of my work rarely show up on a spreadsheet or a quarterly report, that note was a reminder that teaching can make a difference. In our club, we often receive notes from 3rd graders thanking us for their dictionaries. RYLA attendees share stories about the transformational effect of that experience. Scholarship awardees inspire us with both their thankfulness and their optimism for the future. We have heard stories of gratefulness from patients served through the ultrasound project. And we have had programs that remind us of the good work that we have done for women's health and education. Their words and stories remind us of the difference we make in individuals' lives every day.

So the next time you find yourself thinking about reaching out to someone — a teacher, a mentor, a friend, a fellow Rotarian who chaired one too many committees without a word of thanks — I'd encourage you to pick up that pen. Or, maybe draft a quick email. The medium matters less than the message. You may never know the full weight of what you write, but then

again, I suspect none of those people above thought that their words would have the impact that they did.

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. JPGs must not be embedded

in documents

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 JPG 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.

Our Alternative Meeting Activity for May, Historical Walking Tour of Boulder



Our “Alternative Meeting Activity “ for May will be a historical walking tour of Boulder hosted by Boulder Free Walking Tours!

When: Sign up for either May 19 at 4 PM or May 21 at 4 PM. Both slots will be reserved for our club. Space will be limited to 20 each day.

Where: Meet in front of the Boulder Courthouse on Pearl Street Mall

Tour Duration: Roughly 90 minutes

Description: We will cover Boulder’s fascinating old west, mining and cultural histories from the mid-1800’s until the present day. We’ll talk about the early days of Boulder, and learn how our neighborhoods developed over time.

Along the way we'll stop frequently and allow everyone to engage and ask questions.

[Option to fraternize immediately after the tour on the top floor of Avanti.]

How to Sign Up: Reserve your spot by going to the link below and go to the “Book Now” button. No charge to sign up.

<https://www.freeboulderwalkingtours.com/>

Yamagata Visitors this Fall

Here are a couple of LINE messages that came in from Toshi (YNRC) this week.

2 parts for us to think about - does our club want to do something special for visiting club members (Ann and I certainly will if nothing bubbles up from BVRC) and secondly, how do we want to respond to Tommy wanting to plan for more international cooperation.

“Looks like the Yamagata mayor’s visit to Boulder has been scheduled. They’ll arrive on September 28 and leave on October 1, so it’s a 3-night stay. A few people from our club are planning to join, and I’m also planning to attend for now. I’ll let you know once more details are confirmed.

I’ve added the candidate for the 2027–2028 president, who’s planning to visit Boulder, to the LINE group. His name is Makoto Ito.

Also, as we head into the new fiscal year, I think it’s a good time for us to discuss whether there are ways we can support next year’s activities, especially if any service projects will need a budget. Tommy will be the International Service Chair next year, and we’re also hoping to expand the Epic Day of Service activities in our district.”

Thanks for thinking about this.

Best -Steve Parrish

Installation Banquet Save the Date July 23!

Scholarships for Study Abroad Programs at CU



The BVRC Foundation recently awarded 4 scholarships to students participating in "Study Abroad" programs at CU. We are always impressed by the students' applications and thought you might be interested in knowing a bit more about the outstanding students we selected. We hope to have all 4 students visit our meeting after they return from their studies abroad.

We awarded 3 scholarships for students going abroad this Summer

Lydia is going to Costa Rica to study tropical ecology. Lydia was a Rotary Exchange student to Italy during her sophomore year in high school. She also attended 2 years of RYLA camp and then another year as a junior counselor. She has also volunteered with Americorps. When she moved to Colorado she became a member of the Del Norte Rotaract Club. She has always loved traveling and experiencing new cultures and is very excited to go to Costa Rica. How could we not give her a scholarship?

Amanda is going to Tokyo. Amanda will graduate with a major in Communications and double minors in Journalism and Leadership Studies. She has a GPA of 3.9 and works as a CMDI Ambassador 4-5 hours/week. She chose the Tokyo program because she wants a life-changing opportunity to immerse herself in Japanese culture and diverse communication. She is excited for this opportunity in Tokyo because it will allow her to branch further into cultural communication and how it shapes the way we see the world.

Colin is going to Costa Rica to participate in an Ecotourism program titled Coffee & Belonging in Costa Rica. Colin wrote " Anthropological fieldwork is an avenue of understanding political and social phenomena that will benefit how I approach relationships, education, and a future career in politics. I would love to study abroad in Costa Rica to nurture International knowledge and improve my skills in Spanish through immersion. This program, ties to my goals in understanding

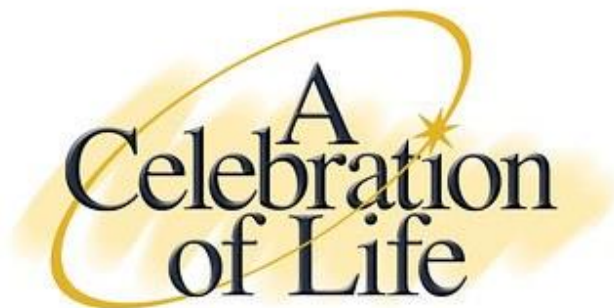
International affairs through a focus on cultural understanding and the implications of global socio-political structures." Colin has been volunteering with migrant families in Aurora assisting them with citizenship processes, education, basic needs. By organizing food and clothing donations, distributing translation resources and providing Child Care during educational program he has built relationships and perspectives that form threads of his identity.

We awarded 1 student a scholarship to study abroad during the FALL SEMESTER. He is going to Singapore to study at National University of Singapore (NUS). NUS is a nationally acclaimed engineering program. It will provide him with the opportunity to learn from and network with some of the brightest engineering students and faculty in the world. He felt that Singapore was as different from Boulder as possible; a lush Asian metropolis vs. a small western mountain town. He greatly values exploration and new experiences. He has been an English tutor for a college student in Ukraine for the past 4 years. He is also very involved with Engineers without Borders (EWB) on the CU campus. He is the EWB Rwanda project manager at CU. He leads the design and implementation of a rainwater catchment system to be constructed in rural Rwanda this summer. While in Singapore he intends to spend his weekends exploring Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesian and the Philippines. He eagerly awaits the eye opening experiences he'll have with the diverse array of people he will connect with during his time at NUS.

We need 1 or 2 more Rotarians on our selection committee. Please contact Jane Engel if you are interested.

BVRC Foundation Study Abroad Scholarship Committee

Jim Beckley



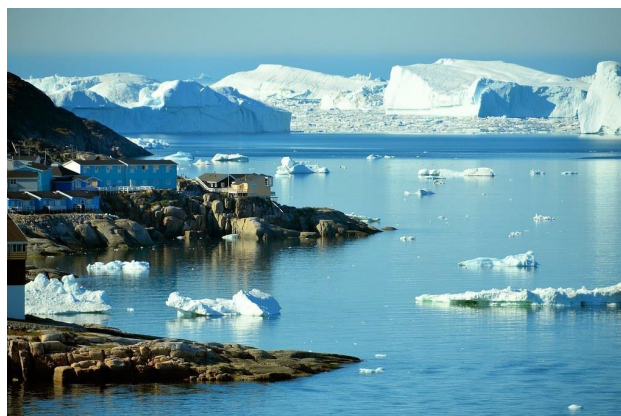


Jim's celebration of life service will be on May 17th, from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the Chautauqua Community House.

RSVP via text to 303-885-2647 by May 2. *Sailing attire encouraged.*

Rex van Gorden

Speaker: *Eric Rutherford, a Voyage to Greenland*





BolderBoulder 10K Race Volunteers



Our club will again be volunteering to assist with passing out drinks during the race. As in previous years our site will be the Mile 3 Aid station at 19th and Floral. The race is Memorial Day May 25th and volunteers are needed to arrive at 6:00am and we will finish around 11:00. If you haven't helped before, I would describe the event as high energy, a party, chaotic, perpetual motion, and fun. For each volunteer our club will receive a donation to our Club Foundation. Kellie Martindale and I will be running the station. All volunteers must register for the event which will give you the opportunity to also order your shirts for the event. The registration for our specific group (BoulderValley Rotary Club) is below. https://www.letsdothis.com/us/o/156050/checkout/ticket?eventId=265326&utm_source=reserved_entry&occurrenceId=21111173769&reservationCode=re_razv9wtgoux

Thanks for supporting this event along with our club.

Jeff Strobel

Superior Pancake Breakfast, July 4, Volunteer!



The Town's [4th of July Celebration](#) is sneaking up on us fast and we want to make sure we get the Rotary signed up for pancake serving with our new system.

In previous years, the Rotary has volunteered to serve pancakes during the event and this has been a big help with the event- so thank you in advance!

Below (and attached) is a step by step guide on how to get registered in the volunteer system and signed up for 4th of July.

We ask that volunteers sign up no later than June 24th. Let me know if you have any questions/concerns with the process.

STEPS:

1. Go to https://town-of-superior.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?id=110955&start_over
1. Input your **FIRST NAME** and **EMAIL** – click submit
2. Fill out the **Volunteer Registration & Release Form** (this is to create your volunteer profile and you will only have to do this once).
 1. Write **Rotary** when filling out your release form – click **SUBMIT**
 1. After you submit; you will be taken to the volunteer sign up slots.
 2. You will then enter in your **ROTARY** for your password and click **SUBMIT**
 1. You then will select **Pancake Server** and click **SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER**

1. Once you have completed these steps, you will be signed up and will receive an email address with more information!
2. Thank you for your continued support with the 4th of July and looking forward to seeing you all there!

ALLISON HUMPHRIES

Events and Volunteer Coordinator II

[Town of Superior](#)

2250 Main Street, Suite 1001, Superior, CO 80027

720-687-2019

[Facebook](#) | [X](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Bluesky](#) | [YouTube](#)

Our Project for Rotary's EPIC Day of Service

2025 GLOBAL IMPACT
5 Continents
8 Countries
20 States
57 Districts
539 Clubs
613 Projects
6,557 Volunteers
\$151,197 Raised

PUT YOUR CLUBS ON THE MAP!

EPIC DAY OF SERVICE
DO MORE GOOD

SAVE THE DATE MAY 16, 2026 PLAN YOUR PROJECT

The graphic features a world map with red location pins indicating project sites across various continents. A blue banner at the bottom contains the event date and a call to action.




What if all 45,000 Rotary Clubs worldwide... all did any project they like... all on the same day? Imagine the...

IMPACT... 1.2 M Rotarians ✨ plus community volunteers


REACH... build awareness ✨ a membership magnet

ENGAGE... energize service ✨ retain members

ADAPT... a new fundraising tool ✨ top club did \$98,000



Sound like a Rotary Action Plan? It can help!
Unite for good on May 16, 2026 – or as near then
as possible – to show the world what we can do.
Have Fun – Make a Difference – Be EPIC!



epicdayofservice.org organized by Rotary Clubs for communities worldwide

Our project for Rotary's **EPIC Day of Service** is now live, and members can sign up to participate.

This year, we will be volunteering at the food bank at the Emergency Family Assistance Association (EFAA) in Boulder. During the project, volunteers will help sort, inspect, and organize approximately **20,000 pounds of donated food** so it can be prepared for distribution to local families experiencing food insecurity.

EFAA plays a vital role in the Boulder community by providing food, housing stabilization, and other essential services to individuals and families in need. By helping process these donations, our volunteers will directly support EFAA's ability to ensure that nutritious food reaches households that need it most.

No prior experience is required. Volunteers should be comfortable standing, lifting light to moderate boxes, and working as part of a team.

We hope you will join us for this meaningful day of service.

Sign up today to participate.

- <https://www.epicdayofservice.org/clubs/united-states-5450-boulder-valley/projects/sort-and-prepare-food-donations-at-efaa-b858cb282>

L'Shawn Howard

BV Rotary Upcoming Service Projects



Upcoming Service Projects

We have a lot of opportunities to support our local community with the upcoming service projects! Please bring friends and enjoy this time to work with fellow Rotarians. More information will be coming. If you have questions, contact the person listed.

Ongoing – Harvest of Hope Food Pantry – sign up on your own or with a few friends, see message from Andrea

May 10 – 9 am PLAY Boulder Tree planting at New Vista High School with students and their mothers, is postponed until Fall.

May 13- Epic Day of Service at EFAA (L'Shawn and Epic Day website to register)

May 16 – BCIS/High Peaks School – tree planting with PLAY Boulder and Caroline's Canopy, let Caroline know if you plan to attend

May 25 – Boulder Boulder Aide Station, 6 -11 am – Jeff

May 30 – The Family Learning Center – tree planting with PLAY Boulder and Caroline’sCanopy

June 6 – Habitat for Humanity Our rescheduled work day for the Habitat MOD site is June 6, Saturday. The time is 9-3 and the location is 6500 Arapahoe. No construction experience is needed and any required tools will be provided. You must register to volunteer. Please go to <https://volunteer.bloomerang.co:443/JE/eb7mkj8i1fjb7w> to create an account with Habitat for Humanity and then sign up for our shift on 6/6. If you have problems call or email Alex Varner at Habitat for help. He is happy to provide more help. **Desk-303.447.3787 Ex-231** avarner@flatironshabitat.org

June 15 – 19 – Autism Society Bike Camp is June 15 - 19. This camp is open to anyone who wants to learn to ride a bike with a focus on those who are more challenged. Just anote, the Autism Society is a small nonprofit with a part time director and no staff so they work with the *iCan Shine* nonprofit to put on the camp. Rex will have details of

what the volunteers are expected to do later. <https://icanshine.org/ican-bike-boulder-co/>- Contact Rex for questions and if interested.

June 26 – Planned Parenthood fundraising event support – *need 8 volunteers*, Diana

District 5450 Rotarians - Great Networking Opportunities



Dear District 5450 Rotarians - see below for great training/networking opportunities. All Zoom sessions will be recorded and posted on the [District website Training page](#).

Save the Date!

EPIC DAY OF SERVICE

Saturday, May 16 - is your club project registered?

GRANTS QUALIFICATION TRAINING

Saturday, May 30 | 8:30 am to 12:30 pm

SAVE THE DATE - registration will open soon

RI CONVENTION TAIPEI, TAIWAN

June 13-17, 2026

There's still time to register!

***** [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

District Operations Manager

303-477-0654

office@rotary5450.org