



The Rotary Club of Boulder Valley - May 26, 2026

Tuesday, May 26 Meeting Location: SEEC S372, 12:00 Noon

Mark Burnett, Our President 2025 - 2026

Fellow Rotarians,

I was having a conversation with a few students last week. One of the students was generally disengaged from all classes. The other was not living up to his potential. We were chatting about nothing in particular when the one struggling with his potential looked at me and asked, "Are you disappointed in me?"

Understand, the student is a 9th grader. I had him in class last semester. I also have him in a class that would have once been known as homeroom. And here he is again in another class that I am teaching this semester. Thus, I am quite familiar with this student.

My initial internal thought was, "Yes, I am disappointed." But I knew that answer would not serve him. You could tell that he was a normally good student — but he was also a people person who was trying to fit in. Working to please me or his parents would not be his way forward. So instead I said, "No, but I suspect you are disappointed in yourself."

I am not sure where that came from in the moment. But the more I have sat with it, the more I believe it was the right thing to say — and maybe the most honest thing I could have said. Because the truth is, disappointment requires expectation. And when I expressed that I was not disappointed in him, what I was really communicating is that I had not given up on what he was capable of. I simply refused to own the failure on his behalf.

Here is what I know about this young man: he is smart. He is funny. He has a personality that, when he chooses to show it, can light up — or destroy — a room. He also has not yet found the reason to try. And that reason — that is the thing that cannot come from me. It cannot come from his parents. It cannot come from that girl in the other row that he is trying to get attention from. It has to come from him.

This is, of course, easier said than articulated to a 14-year-old. But I think the question he asked me — "Are you disappointed in me?" — is actually a profound one. He was not asking me to scold him. He was asking me if I still cared. And the answer to that is yes. Unconditionally.

What I want for him, and honestly for all of the students I encounter, is something Rotary has always understood: that service without internal motivation is just performance. That the work only becomes meaningful when it connects to something you genuinely want — not something you are doing to manage someone else's feelings about you.

The student and I ended our conversation without any dramatic resolution. He did not suddenly sit up straighter or announce his plans for the future. But something shifted. I noticed it. I think he noticed it too. (We will see if it actually sticks.)

And I think it is worth asking ourselves similar questions — not as students, but as members of this club. Are we here because someone expects it of us? Because it looks good, or because we have always done it? Or are we here because we genuinely want to make something better? I feel that our club is filled with people who more than anything just want to make the world better. I don't see our members seeking glory or prestige. Rather, we are a club that has moved beyond trying to impress and has instead simply decided to get to work.

My student is not there yet. But I have not given up on him. And I do not think he has given up on himself either — otherwise, he never would have talked to me.

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.

Speaker: David Addor, Shelter Box





David is a charter member and past president of the Aurora Fitzsimons Rotary Club and a retired civil engineer. He was introduced to ShelterBox in 2006 when the first representative from ShelterBoxUSA came to Colorado and presented at his club. Two other members of the club thought that this would be a wonderful organization to support and began to explore ways to tell the ShelterBox story to other clubs. David decided that maybe he would join them. Thank you for inviting him to your club to continue his exploration and support. David now spends his time in some volunteer work, swinging a golf club, reading or exploring the Colorado landscape. He has two grown children and two grandsons all here in Colorado to his great enjoyment,

Dave Gardner

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



Yamagata North Rotary: Epic Day of Service









Good afternoon all –

Yamagata North Rotary Club had a very successful EPIC Day (their first Epic Day ever)! Here are several items relating to it: Toshi's written summary, some photos, and an amazing Vimeo by club member, Akio Akanuma.

“Today, as part of the Epic Day of Service, we carried out cleanup, weed removal, and maintenance work at two different locations. Both of these places are sites our club worked on as anniversary projects for our 30th and 50th anniversaries.

The first location was a park on Zao Mountain, famous for its beautiful cherry blossoms, where we built a rest house as our 30th anniversary project. We cleaned the park together with younger club members who had never visited the site before, as well as local community members.

The second location was a mountain trail leading to the park, where we planted “Yamabuki” flowers along a 2-kilometer stretch as part of our 50th anniversary project. Every April, these flowers bloom beautifully with bright yellow blossoms, attracting many visitors who come to enjoy them. Today, we worked on removing plants that could damage and kill the flowers. We are sure they will bloom beautifully again next year.

After completing these two service projects, we gathered at a nearby community center, enjoyed delicious grilled eel bento boxes prepared by one of our members' restaurants, and spent time interacting with local residents. Today's activities were also covered by the Yamagata Shimbun newspaper and local TV stations. We hope this activity will become widely known throughout Yamagata Prefecture.

Tonight, the members who participated in the service activities will enjoy a BBQ together. This experience has reminded us of the spirit of taking on new challenges and the power of Rotary. Later, I plan to upload photos and details of today's activities to the Epic Day website.

From Japan, we sincerely hope that your projects will also become meaningful and valuable activities for your communities."

The Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/1192909158/32aa82c2d5?share=copy&fl=sv&fe=ci>

Enjoy.

Steve

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!

Jim Beckley's Memorial



FOR THE GOOD TIMES!

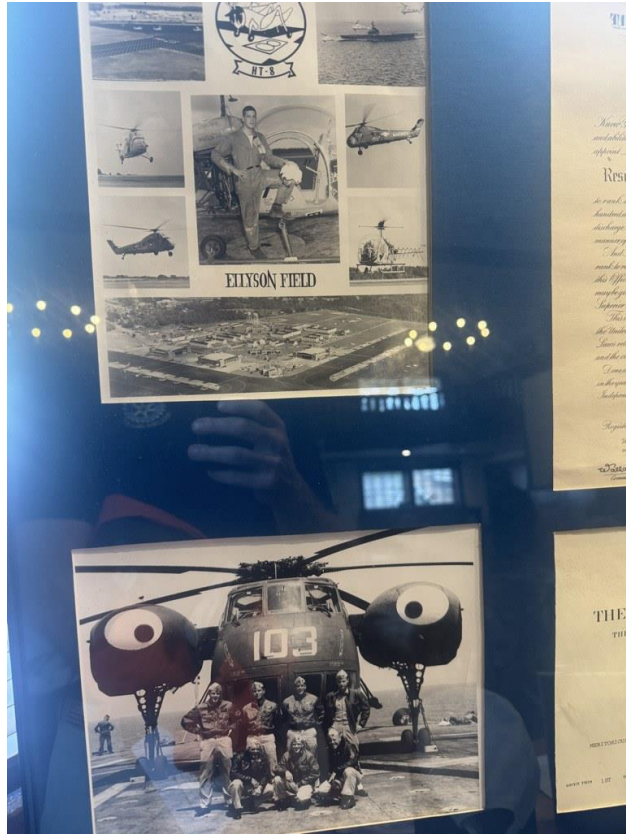
**Please join us in celebrating
the prodigious life of Jim Beckley**

**Sunday, May 17, 2026
2:00-5:00pm**

**CHAUTAUQUA COMMUNITY HOUSE
301 Morning Glory Dr., Boulder, CO, 80302**

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







MASA Seed Foundation Epic Day of Service







Hi again -

I decided to support Boulder Flatirons Club by participating in their EPIC Day project at MASA Seed Foundation. We sorted and cleaned 40 pounds of black beans to be sent to the Nederland food bank, cleaned the farm perimeter of trash and debris, repriced old plants, and bagged compost for customers. A productive and fun day. There were about 12 of us in total - 11 from Flatirons (incl. spouses/friends) and me. The attached photos document the day plus a bonus photo of Andy Lenec. Andy is the driver behind the solar panel charging stations for Ukraine. Many of us know him from having participated in modifying solar panels. Andy happened to be at MASA simply to buy plants.

Steve

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. Amamnda 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 Japanses 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

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_razvz9wtgoux

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](#)

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 25 – Bolder Boulder Aid Station - As in previous years our site will be the Mile 3 Aid station at 19th and Floral.- Jeff Strobel

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

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 a note, 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](#)

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