

Week of February 26, 2025

ROTARY NOTARY



Dr. Sondra Stieber
Wichita's Bionic Woman

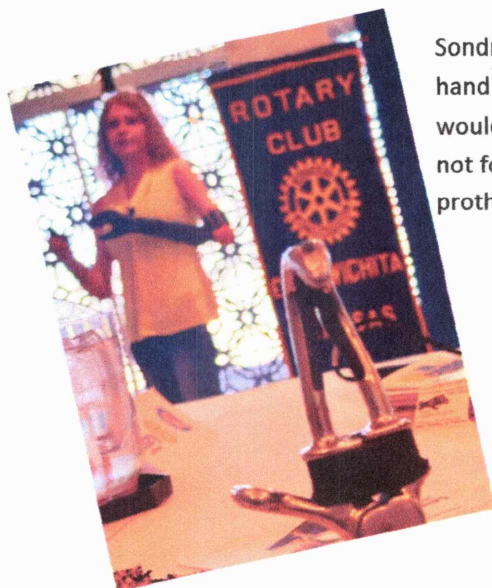
Dr. Stieber shared her experience as an above the elbow amputee and her journey to receive a "cyborg" artificial arm and hand. Her story of working in developing countries and being shot was the beginning of this lifelong journey of surgeries and hospital visits, leading to being the second person in the world to receive the groundbreaking prosthesis. Surviving the shooting and later a near-fatal injury, this high adventure seeking woman is now an inspirational educator and inspirational speaker. Besides being a spokes person for the newest technology in limb prosthetics, Sondra organizes youth summer camps for at-risk and underprivileged children and youth to explore science. Dr. Stieber not only shared her journey, but gave Rotarians some interesting stories about her technology being hacked since her arm/hand uses pattern recognition software. Her prosthesis allows multiple uses of her artificial hand, including folding laundry which she says "she regrets" learning (with a big laugh). If you missed this meeting, you missed a great and engaging program.

LOOKING AHEAD

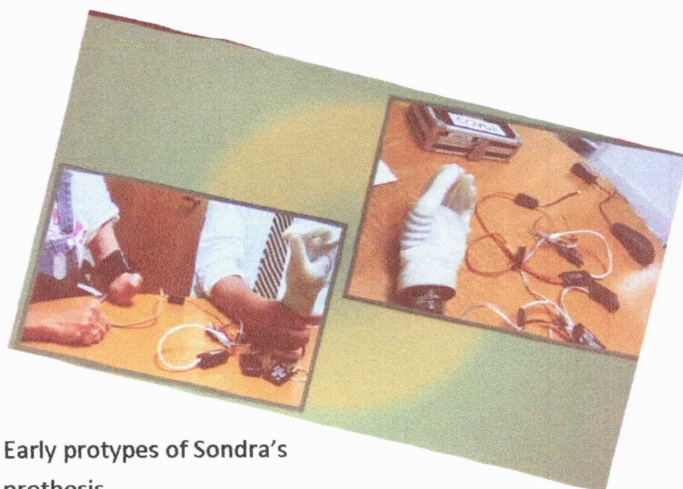
MARCH 5	SERVICE PROJECT	SIMPLY HYGIENE
MARCH 19	NO MEETING	SPRING BREAK
APRIL 2	SERVICE PROJECT	TBA
APRIL 9	FIRESIDE	WSU TECH'S NICHE (downtown)

EWR WILL BE SEEKING CANDIDATES FOR OUR COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS. IF YOU KNOW OF A WORTHY CANDIDATE, ENCOURAGE THEM TO APPLY. FOR MORE INFORMATION AND AN APPLICATION BE SURE TO GO TO OUR CLUB'S WEBSITE AT WWW.EASTWICHITAROTARY.ORG.

Take a look at our club's website for upcoming programs and other news.

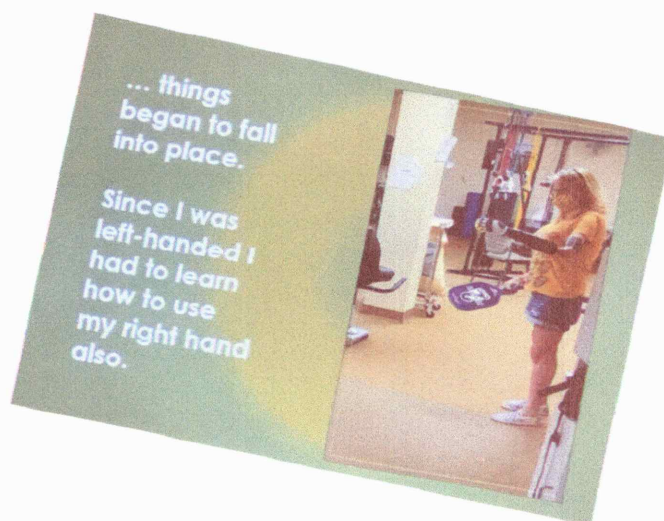
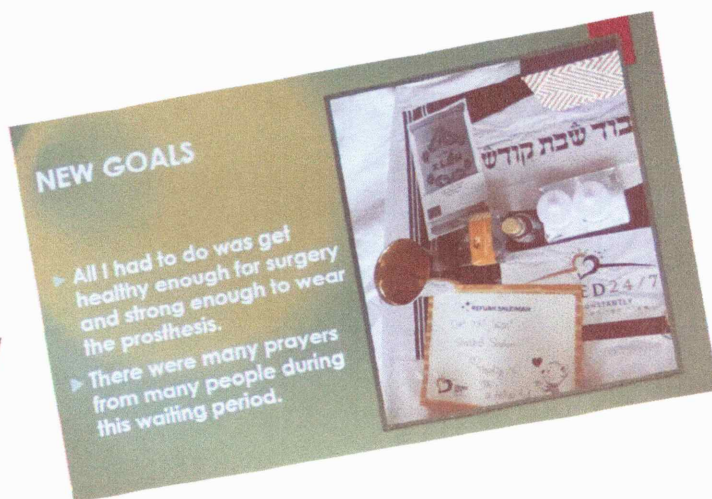
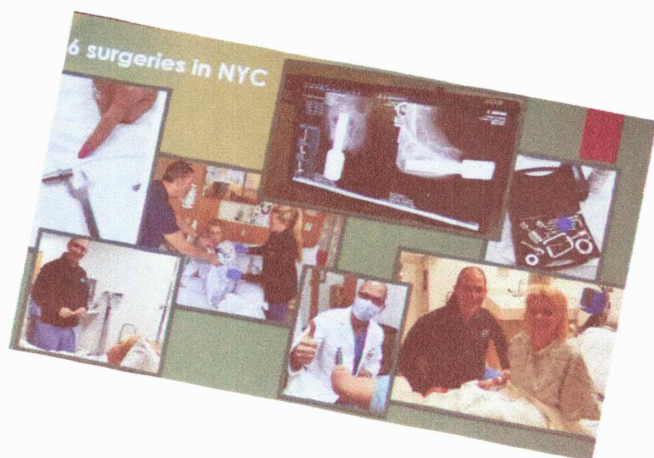


Sondra with her "claw" hand which was what she would have been using if not for this "cyborg" prosthesis



Early prototypes of Sondra's prosthesis

Some pictures of her health care team and the many hospital visits. Note the x-ray picture.



Sondra resumed many of the activities she enjoyed prior to losing her arm. She is so grateful for her spouse, health team, and for the prayers from her extended circle of friends



HEALTH CARE IS A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT

From: Rotary 360, February 209, 2025, by Abigail Pratt, Gates Foundation malaria program

As I sat down to prepare my remarks for the International Assembly, Rotary's annual training event for incoming leaders, my little boy came down with a fever. As his temperature climbed, I felt that deep fear we all experience when caring for a sick child – whether you're a parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, or friend.

My immediate thought was: What do I need to do to help him now? I live in London. I live three minutes from a pharmacy, 10 minutes from urgent care, and I have a medicine cabinet stocked with treatments that work. That peace of mind is something I'm deeply grateful for.

But tragically, this is not the reality for so many families around the world. Millions of parents face the same fear I felt, but without the assurance of nearby care, without access to medicine, and often without any viable options. This is why I show up to work every. Millions of children die each year of preventable, treatable illnesses like malaria, pneumonia and diarrhea because they simply can't access care.

It is unacceptable. **Health care is a basic human right**, and together, we can take concrete actions to address this inequity.

Over the last two decades, the [partnership between Rotary and the Gates Foundation](#) to eradicate polio has been one of the most impactful collaborations in public health history. Thanks to your leadership, vision, and commitment, the world is on the brink of eradicating polio.

But the end of polio is not the end of our work together. The infrastructure and lessons from polio eradication have already been repurposed to address other critical health challenges. One of the most urgent is malaria – and at the heart of this fight are community health workers.

Community health workers save lives. They are trusted and trained caregivers who play a crucial role in educating and delivering care directly to families, to their neighbors, often without pay. They treat the most pressing local health issues, including malaria, pneumonia, and diarrhea — the top three killers of children under five – bringing primary health care within reach.

I lived in South Sudan for years, working to support a fledgling health system broken after decades of war, and the best part of my job was working with the local community health workers. I remember one woman vividly, Mary Lucy lyobo, who was tireless in her commitment, demanding services for her community, and pushing all of us to work harder every day. She wasn't just a health worker – but a lifeline for her community, saving lives, inspiring hope and demanding action!

The model is not new: Community health workers have been providing essential care for centuries, from China's "Barefoot Doctors" in the 1930s, who helped eliminate smallpox, to containing the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa, and playing a vital role during the COVID-19 response. And as you know better than anyone, they have fought courageously against polio since the beginning.

So it was thrilling to join hands with Rotary and World Vision again on the [Programs of Scale award in Zambia "Partners for a Malaria-free Zambia"](#) – that trained 2,500 community health workers to protect over 1.3 million people from severe illness and death. These workers delivered integrated care, tackled malaria head-on, and provided a transformative blueprint for public health projects.

Building on this success, we knew that we wanted to work with Rotary on something similar, but even bigger. It needed to stay locally led by Rotary members but implemented in partnership with government, and key organizations who have expertise and resources in the public health systems.

Together we launched the **Rotary Healthy Communities Challenge**. This \$30 million program spans four countries – the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Mozambique, and Zambia – where the need is greatest and where you all – locally and globally – are ready to step in. Though newly launched, RHCC is already saving lives and demonstrating that this partnership model can be replicated worldwide.

We already see opportunities to scale; places where Rotary members are energized and committed to establishing community health worker programs and have already forged longstanding, trusting relationships with local health authorities.

RHCC is more than just a program; it's a model for how Rotary and the Gates Foundation and others can continue to work together to address systemic health challenges. By leveraging each other's strengths, we can create sustainable, scalable solutions that have a lasting impact.

But there is still much to be done. Malaria is facing resistance on every front. Many programs face fragmentation, insufficient resources, and challenges in scaling effectively. And moving beyond a project-by-project mindset to engaging in longer-term planning and resource mobilization is critical to moving from helping one child at a time to eliminating a preventable and treatable disease like malaria.

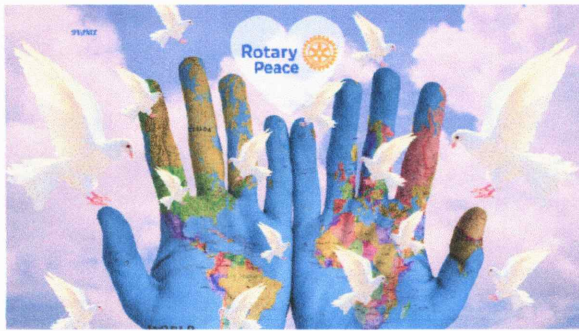
This is where Rotary shines. You are "local everywhere," which means you can ensure community voices are heard, solutions are appropriate, and programs are locally owned.

I'm asking you to take action to help support community health workers and advance the fight against malaria, pneumonia, and diarrhea. Learn about what community health workers are doing in your communities. Take the time to understand the impact they're having and the challenges they face. They are the bridge to care for millions of families, and knowing their stories will inspire and inform your work.

- Follow what your fellow members are doing to support community health workers and engage in the fight against malaria.
- The Global Malaria Eradication Congress scheduled immediately prior to the Rotary International Convention in Calgary will be a unique opportunity to learn more about the Rotary Healthy Communities Challenge and the growing coalition to continue Rotary's legacy of supporting healthy communities.
- Rotary's area of focus lead for global health, Dr. Nyreese Castro-Espadas is a great expert and now a friend through this incredible partnership. She and I are available to provide technical partnership to make sure Rotary programs align with global guidance and integrate seamlessly into national Ministry of Health plans.
- Coordinate in your districts and zones to develop global grants. These grants are powerful tools to fund community health worker programs, and we at the Gates Foundation are ready to join and support your efforts.
- Engage community members in the design, implementation, and monitoring of programming. Melinda French Gates always talked to us about being humble, being open to listen and to maintain perspective. Listen to those who are most affected, they are actually your most important partner, not us.

Let's reflect on the incredible legacy you've already built through polio eradication efforts and know that each new investment in strong community health systems is not only protecting the legacy and promise of a polio-free world. It is a commitment to healthy communities. Because I know that each of you want your children, grandchildren, and all of their neighbors to have access to the care they need when they need it.

Abigail Pratt is a Senior Program Officer on the Malaria Team at the Gates Foundation. This post is adapted from the speech Pratt gave to incoming leaders at Rotary's annual training event in Orlando, Florida, USA, 12 February.



IN MEMORY OF

JOHN HURST

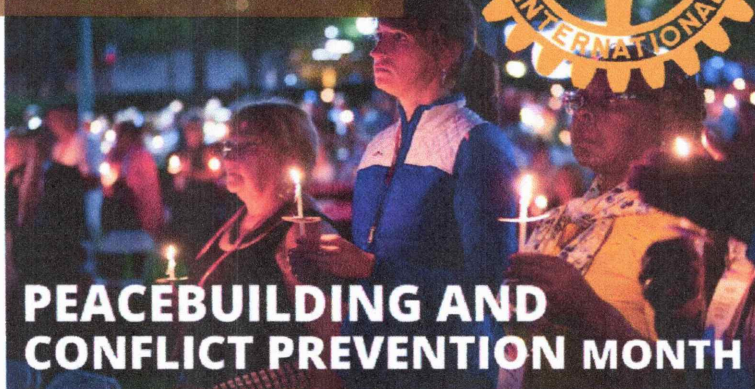
CHARTER MEMBER OF OUR CLUB



CONDOLENCES TO HIS WIFE SHERILYN

FEBRUARY

"The practice of peace and reconciliation is one of the most vital and artistic of human actions."
Thich Nhat Hanh



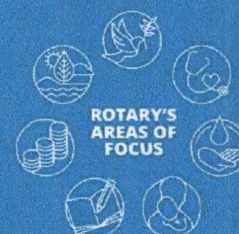
TAKE ACTION: Join Rotary, Be a People of Action



PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION

Where our talents and **the world's needs** meet
That's where **our vocation** lies

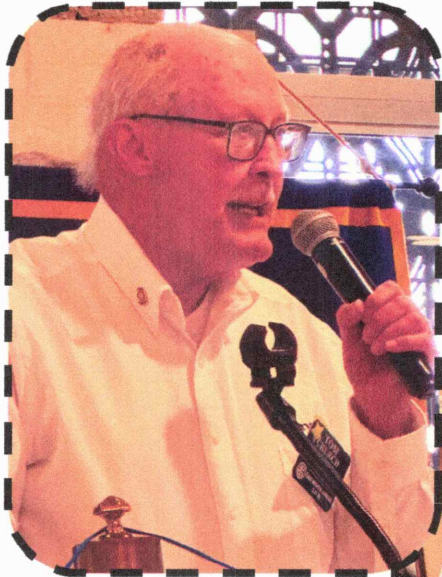
Aristotle



JOIN US



Some snap shots from our meeting



TWO IMPORTANT SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

JOIN IN OUR ANNUAL
MARCH MADNESS
FUND RAISER TO
FUND SCHOLARSHIPS.

AND

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS
ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED,
SO IF YOU KNOW A WORTHY
STUDENT, ENCOURGE THEM
TO APPLY.

Rotary
Club of East Wichita

Buy Your Brackets
\$25 per bracket – buy as many as you like
1st Prize - \$160
2nd Prize - \$115
3rd Prize - \$75
3 Random Draws - \$50 each
Deadline March 12

PROCEEDS BENEFIT
EAST WICHITA ROTARY FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

**APPLY FOR
SCHOLARSHIPS**

**APPLICATIONS
NOW BEING ACCEPTED**

East Wichita Rotary Foundation is offering a limited number of \$1,000 scholarships to selected outstanding high school graduates. The scholarships are good directly to this school in two installments of \$250 per semester. Recipients must maintain a 3.0 average which can result in a \$4,000-\$6,000 total award if conditions are met.

Eligibility:

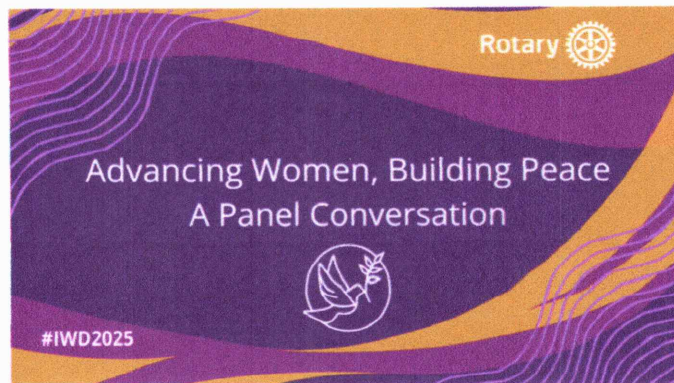
- Applicant must be a May 2020 graduate of a Berkeley County, Kansas high school
- Full-time student on the Fall of 2020
- Applicant must attend a technical school, a public or private community college, or college or university located in Kansas
- Minimum cumulative high school GPA of 3.0 and a 4.0 scale

Scholarships are selected based on need for academic, economic adjustment, reference letters, written explanation, letters and awards, and school or community activities.

Members of Foundation Board Members are not eligible.

Application Form and Scholarship Guidelines can be accessed by clicking on the link below, and are open on the front page of our website at www.eastrichita.org

Deadline for submit: April 14, 2020



Rotary celebrates International Women's Day 2025! International Women's Day is celebrated each year on 8 March to help recognize the achievements of women and support equality for women and girls.

Dear Tom,

Register and submit your questions for the panelists at the **Advancing Women, Building Peace** webinar. This online discussion takes place Tuesday, 11 March, at 11:00 Chicago time (UTC-5). If you can't take part then, register anyway and you'll receive a recording of the session.

This conversation featuring speakers from around the world will focus on the critical leadership role women have in building sustainable peace and how Rotary is uniquely positioned to support these efforts. **The event is open to Rotary members and nonmembers of all genders.**

Rotary and our members have a **long history of promoting peace** and working to address the causes of conflict in communities around the world. We use sustainable, measurable activities to create environments where peace can be built and maintained.

Research shows that when peace efforts include women in systematic and representative ways, the solutions address women's interests and the results last longer. "Women's participation in peace processes is about more than gender equality," the UN has said. "It is about revolutionizing peacebuilding: creating solutions that reflect the needs of all people and address the underlying conditions that drive conflict in the first place."

MARCH
11
11:00 AM Chicago time
(UTC-5)
REGISTER NOW

Advancing Women, Building Peace

[Click here](#) to see the event details in your time zone.

We hope you can join us for this important discussion.

Sincerely,
The Membership Development team
Rotary International

Speakers include:



Sirilada Sukhumvada,
Thailand:
Rotary Peace Scholar,
advocate for women and
children's rights, leader, and
mobilizer



Ayda Özeren,
Turkey:
Positive Peace Activator,
author, mediator, mentor, and
champion of women



Paola Saldivias Mendez,
Bolivia:
Rotary Peace Scholar,
collaborator, community
builder, equity advocate, and
facilitator

DISTRICT AND RI NEWS





MAGIC ALL AROUND
21-25 JUNE 2025 • CALGARY, CANADA
Register today at convention.rotary.org
#Rotary25

Rotary must be
Evolutionary at all times,
Revolutionary on occasions
Paul Harris

R EVOLUTION

THE MAGIC OF ROTARY


Rotary
PEOPLE OF ACTION



ro-ta-ry vol-un-teer
/ˈrɒdəre/ /ˈvɒlənˈtɪr/
Agent of change, Person of action

Rotary:
where **talk** turns into **action**.

Rotary
PEOPLE OF ACTION



March 6—8, 2025	Presidents-elect Learning Seminar, Salina, KS
April 24-30, 2025	World Immunization Week
May 27—30, 2025	RYLA Summer Camp
June 21—25, 2025	RI Convention, Calgary, Canada
October 17-19, 2025	District Conference, Hays, KS

ALL EWR ROTARIANS SHOULD PUT THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR AND ATTEND!



**PUT THESE DATES ON
YOUR CALENDAR!**

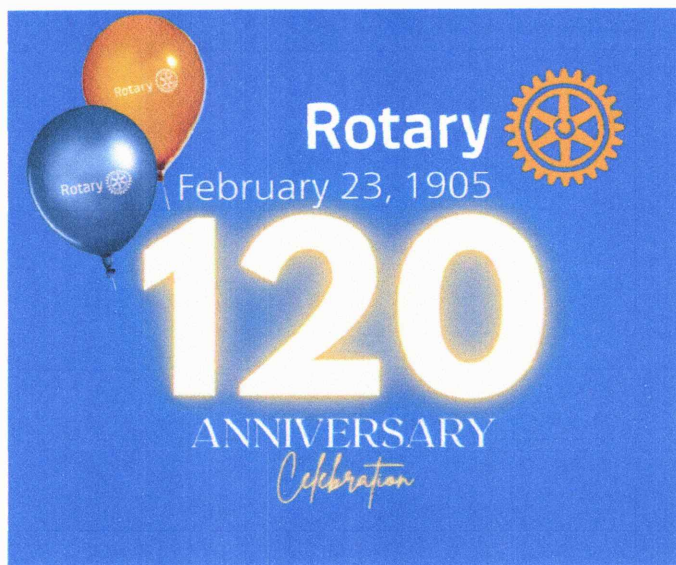
NATIONAL PISTACHIO DAY—FEBRARY 26

JOKE OF THE WEEK



Why don't pistachios make good secret agents?

THEY ALWAYS CRACK UNDER PRESSURE!



Leadership Corner

