

# BIG SKY NEWS

Sandy Carlson, Governor | District 5390 | Montana, USA

## Montanan awarded Rotary Peace Fellowship

Earlier this year, Jenny Eck started packing her bags. The Helena resident received word that she has been selected as recipient of a Rotary Peace Fellowship scholarship.

Jenny announced her resignation from her position as executive director of the Friendship Center to pursue an international fellowship in Peace and Conflict Resolution. She has been leading the Friendship Center since July 2018.

“It is bittersweet to be leaving my position at the Friendship Center,” Jenny said. “I have loved my time here and am passionate about the mission. This is an incredible organization with deep roots in our community.”

The Friendship Center is the only organization in Lewis and Clark, Jefferson, and Broadwater Counties dedicated to serving survivors of domestic violence, sexual abuse, and stalking through safe shelter, crisis response and advocacy. The Center provides confidential services to anyone who has suffered from these types of violence, free of charge.



Above: Jenny Eck of Helena, Rotary Peace Fellowship scholarship recipient 2021.

Jenny’s Rotary Peace Fellowship offers her a full scholarship to pursue a master’s degree in Peace and Conflict Resolution at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia. Due to the pandemic, she will begin her studies remotely from Helena, with the hopes of traveling to Australia by mid-summer.

“Jenny has done a remarkable job as executive director and is leaving this organization in a strong and healthy position,” said Katie Loveland, chairwoman of board at The Friendship Center. “She has worked to diversify funding sources, expand our staff team, overhaul our policies and procedures, update our branding, strengthen our relationships within the community, and raise awareness about domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.”

Rotary Peace Fellows apply from all over the world. The Rotary Foundation awards up to 130 fully funded fellowships for dedicated leaders from around the world to study at one of the Rotary Peace Centers.

—See *ROTARY PEACE FELLOW*, page 2

## From page 1 — Rotary Peace Fellow

Through academic training, practice and global networking opportunities, the Rotary Peace Centers program develops the capacity of peace and development professionals and practitioners to become experienced and effective catalysts for peace.

Fellowships cover tuition and fees, room and board, round-trip transportation, and all internship and field-study expenses.

Since first launched in 2002, Rotary Peace Centers have trained more than 1,400 fellows who now work in more than 115 countries. Many serve as leaders in government, NGO's, the military, education, law enforcement, and international organizations like the United Nations and the World Bank. Rotary Peace Centers are designed for leaders with work experience in peace and development. The Rotary Foundation awards up to 50 fellowships for master's degrees and 80 for certificate studies at premier universities.

The program lasts 15-24 months and include a two- to three-month field study, which participants design themselves. Programs are intended for working professionals.

Rotary club members from throughout Montana played a part in her selection as a Peace Fellow. The District 5390 Peace and Conflict Resolution Committee, chaired by Betsy Mulligan-Dague, Rotary Club of Missoula Sunrise, recommends Peace Fellow candidates.

"We are thrilled that our recommended candidate from last year, Jenny Eck, is beginning her fellowship," says Betsy. "And this year, we interviewed two candidates for Peace Fellowships, one of which was accepted as an alternate. We hope to see several candidates from our district continue to come forward."

In addition to Peace Fellow recommendations, the District Peace and Conflict Resolution Committee works on several other initiatives, including support for the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park and its development, monitoring peace resources available through RAGFP, and other projects.

"We hope to develop and implement projects and activities that will help raise awareness about peace and conflict resolution to Rotarians throughout our District as we are able," says Betsy.

Rotarians who serve on the committee are: Sue Carstens, Rotary Club of Whitefish; Susan Gibb, Rotary Club of Bozeman; Ed Handl, Rotary Club of Helena; Marshall Gingery, Rotary Club of Helena; Dave Kimball, Rotary Club of Billings; Mary McLarty, Rotary Club of Kalispell; Doug Russell, Rotary Club of Kalispell Daybreak; Kathy Schulte, Rotary Club of Missoula; and Betsy Mulligan-Dague, Rotary Club of Missoula Sunrise.

The committee meets two to four times per year, says Betsy, either via Zoom, as needed, or in person when possible. "We welcome anyone who wants to be part of raising awareness about this important area of focus and assist in recruiting and processing Peace Fellowship applicants."

To help support its work, the committee sells a t-shirt emblazoned with the words "Rotary is the new Peace Symbol." Shirts cost \$20 each and may be ordered from Betsy.

To ask questions, make a suggestion or join the committee, please contact Betsy Mulligan-Dague at [bmdague@gmail.com](mailto:bmdague@gmail.com).

—Betsy Mulligan-Dague, Rotary Club of Missoula Sunrise

# Rotary is the new Peace Symbol

District 5390's Peace and Conflict Resolution Committee recommends Peace Fellow candidates, supports the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park Assembly, and monitors peace resources available through RAGFP and others.

Rotary members from around Montana gather periodically throughout the year to conduct the business of the District 5390 Peace and Conflict Resolution Committee. Several initiatives have kept the committee busy, including support of the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park and its development, recommending Peace Fellows from our District, and monitoring peace resources available through RAGFP and others.

Committee members hope to develop and implement projects and activities that will raise awareness about peace and conflict resolution to Rotarians throughout the District. We are thrilled that our

recommended candidate from last year, Jenny Eck, has begun her fellowship. (See story on page 1.) This year, we interviewed two candidates for Peace Fellowships, one of whom was accepted as an alternate. We hope to see several candidates from our district continue to come forward.

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The committee is selling a T-shirt with the statement, "Rotary is the new Peace Symbol." Proceeds from the sale help support the committee's important work. Shirts sell for \$20 each; contact Betsy Mulligan-Dague to support the effort with your purchase.

The committee meets two to four times a year via Zoom, or in person when possible. We welcome anyone who wants to be part of raising awareness about this important area of focus and would like to assist in recruiting and processing Peace Fellowship applicants. To ask questions, make a suggestion or join this committee, please contact Betsy Mulligan-Dague, committee chair at [bmdague@gmail.com](mailto:bmdague@gmail.com).

—Betsy Mulligan-Dague, Rotary Club of Missoula



# Learn to be Rotary club leaders

Spring offers Rotary members some great opportunities for leadership training through both live and online educational classes.



Montana's Presidents-elect and presidents-elect nominees attended the High Country President-Elect Training Seminar (PETS) March 19 along with their counterparts from around Zones 26-27, a multi-state area of the Northwest, including Hawaii. This year's online training was a first for PETS. Due to pandemic concerns, the conference usually held in Denver was instead available from home.

Dean Fiedler, president-elect of the Rotary Club of Missoula, said that some of the PETS discussion centered on leadership development and learning ways to help new members get engaged early on, with the exception of landing them on the board too soon. Membership development is a high priority for incoming RI President Shekar Mehta.

On April 23-24, PEs and PENs will continue their leadership training online for the second part of PETS presented by District 5390. Sessions run Friday night and Saturday morning and include topics such as club culture, leadership style, budgeting, recruitment, organization, succession planning, leading volunteers, setting expectations, delegation, coalition building, planning, productive board meetings, fellowship and more. Presenters for PETS include Past Club President Nikki Naiser, Club President-Elect Lori Cummings, PDG Rick Moore, and Past AG Lucy Smith.

## *District 5390 Conference*

Join fellow Rotarians for training and fellowship at the annual District 5390 Conference held May 14-16 in Kalispell. The conference will take place live at the Hilton Garden Inn, 1840 US Highway 93, Kalispell. There will also be a Zoom option.

Look for more information forthcoming on [www.montanarotary.org](http://www.montanarotary.org).

## *Rotary International 2021 Virtual Convention*

Rotarians from all around the world will meet June 12-16 for the annual Rotary International Virtual Convention, offered online for the second year in a row due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The convention was originally scheduled to take place in Taiwan, but was moved to an online format instead, just like the 2020 convention which had been scheduled for Honolulu.

Early registration is now open for the Virtual Convention at a rate of \$49 per person. After May 8, the fee increases to \$65. Registration is open at [2021 Virtual Convention: Rotary Opens Opportunities](#)

Registration is also open for the Rotaract, Youth Exchange Officer and Inter-Country Committee pre-convention held June 10-11. Cost for each pre-convention event is \$20. Both the convention and pre-convention events include access to the virtual House of Friendship.

—Victoria Emmons, Rotary Club of Missoula

From District Governor Sandy Carlson



## Spring brings District Conference

Happy Spring, Everyone!

As always, I hope this finds you healthy and happy. I have flowers springing up in my backyard and believe it or not, I played my first round of golf last Saturday right after the completion of High Country PETS. I was able to try out my new driver that I purchased at the Bozeman Holiday Auction. I must say, I am very pleased with my purchase, so thank you, Bozeman Rotary!!

Speaking of High Country PETS, I would like to congratulate PDG Sandy Wong and DGE Mike Mayott on a very successful PETS weekend. Other than a minor technical glitch that was fixed almost immediately, I think the digital presentation was fantastic! Managing 400 people on Zoom is a huge endeavor; but High Country PETS Chairwoman Sandy W. and her team pulled it off beautifully! Thank you for your tremendous efforts! Just a reminder that DGE Mike will be hosting our digital District PETS April 23 and 24. Check out the district website for details!

As we approach summer and the final three months of my governor term, I am stunned by how quickly the year has passed. I have five clubs left to visit and am making plans to do so in the upcoming month or two. We are also in the process of planning both an in-person District Conference, as well as a digital option. Please mark your calendar for an exciting District Celebration May 14-16 in Kalispell. Full details will be published soon, but please save the date as I look forward to seeing you there. We all deserve a celebration full of

fellowship and fun. I promise you will not be disappointed!!

In closing, I'd like to say Happy Anniversary to Rotary International. On February 24, we celebrated the 116th year of Rotary. At the same time, RI President-Elect Shekhar Mehta announced his new theme of Serve to Change Lives. Curiosity got the better of me and I started researching. Here's a bit of trivia for you. What year did Rotary begin having presidents choose their annual themes?? The year was 1955, A.Z. Baker from Cleveland was the president and his theme was Develop Our Resources. This research got me thinking further. I asked myself, "What would I choose for my presidential theme?" All through governor training, we are asked, "What is your Rotary why?" I ask you now, "What is your Rotary theme?" I have mine. Serve Today for a Better Tomorrow.

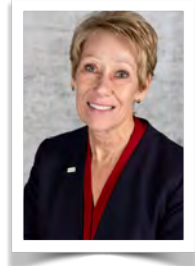
Let's make a list. Send me an email if you want to share. We can have a district wide contest for the most well-liked theme. Use your best Rotary imagination. We'll vote at District Conference. Let's have some fun with this!!

I look forward to when we meet again. Thank you for all you do.

*DD Sandy C.*

Be kind, stay well, be safe.....

—DG Sandy Carlson, Rotary Club of Kalispell





# The Luck o' the Irish

## Rotarians celebrate St. Patrick's Day

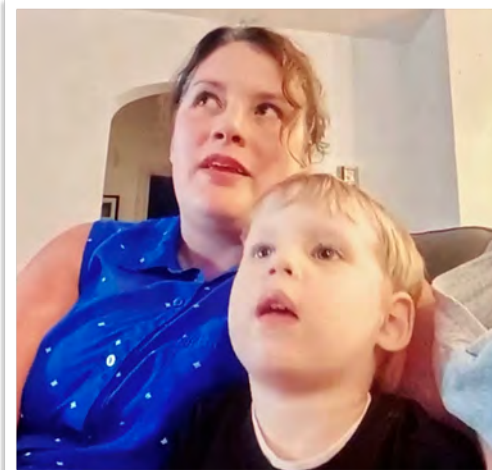
Not about to let a pandemic get in the way of their fun, Rotarians from all around Montana joined District Governor Sandy Carlson for an online St. Patrick's Day celebration March 16. DG Sandy's hosted event attracted the likes of green hats, green Guinness, green vests and jackets, green necklaces, green signage and even a big pair of green sunglasses. Just about anything that could appear in green showed up at the Zoom party.

Rotarians do know how to celebrate, even online. The festivities included lots of sharing, introductions of members both old and new, and some favorite Irish

toasts. DG Sandy played an amazing online performance by a Celtic instrumental and vocal group. The music was enough to make you feel proud to be Irish, or if not truly Irish, at least feel some patriotism for those who emigrated to the USA from Ireland. Rotarians were all pronouncing what percentage of their DNA was Irish.

Many Irish immigrants became prominent Americans, including Joe Kennedy, father of President John F. Kennedy who served as America's first Irish-Catholic

See IRISH, page 7



Celebrating with fellow Rotarians were (above left) Alan Ruby; Andy Nelson; (above right); Erica Brown & son; and DG Sandy Carlson in her St. Patrick's Day glasses.

## IRISH, from page 6



president; JFK's First Lady Jackie Kennedy Onassis; singer Bruce Springsteen; author Frank McCourt; Dublin-born actress Maureen O'Hara; Eileen Marie Collins, one of the first female pilots for the US Air Force; and Billy the Kid, born to an Irish woman, to name a few.



It's all about the fellowship - Row 1: Rick & Nikki Powers; Kyle Pomerence. Row 2: Jim Oates; AG Dick King; Patty & Dan Alger. Row 3: Connie Hilger; Laura Seyfang. Row 4: Mary Lou Spath; Shawna Secker.

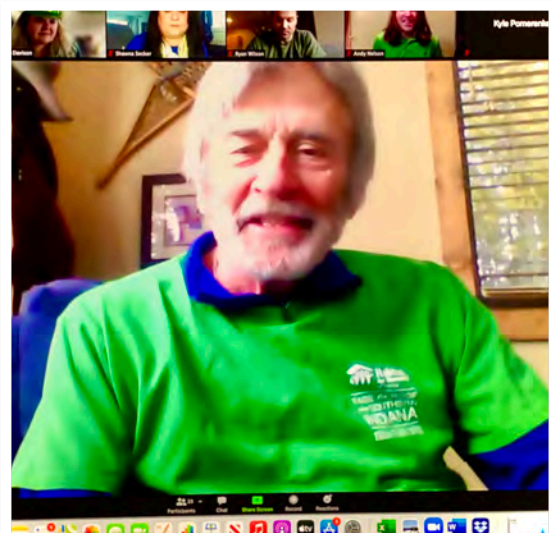
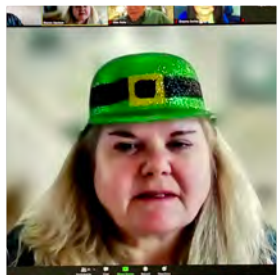
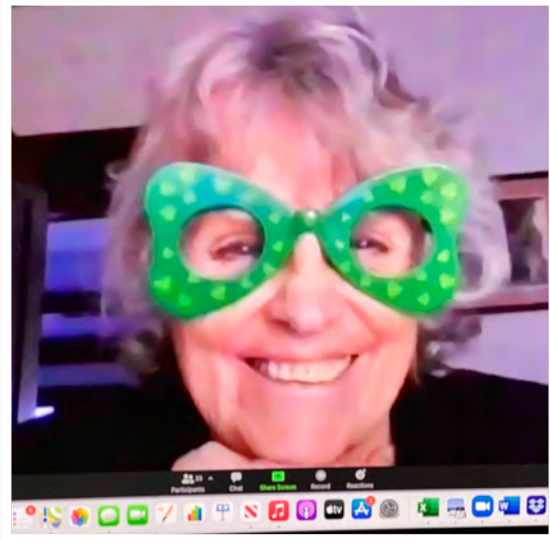


See IRISH, page 8



## MORE IRISH, from page 7

Frivolity and Irish spirit reigned at the online St. Patrick's Day event. Pictured – Row 1: Ryan Wilson, Sheila Rice. Row 2: Sharon Davison; Irish entertainers Celtic Thunder; Mel Crighton. Row 3: Steve Hample; John Patterson; Dave Kimbal.





## Happy Birthday, Paul Harris!

**R**otary founder Paul Harris was a semi-regular contributor to *The Rotarian* magazine, and the February issue often included an anniversary message from him.

In 1915, he wrote, “We are passing our tenth milestone now. May our happiness increase with our usefulness. What Rotary will be one hundred years hence, none living can imagine. There is nothing impossible to Rotary now.”

Harris noted that Rotary had demonstrated its ability to “contribute toward the world’s supply of happiness” in terms of promoting ethical business practices within vocations. He felt that same idea would extend beyond the walls of offices and shops, and imagined Rotary as “the harbinger of a general world-wide philosophy of business and life, with happiness as its goal.”

While conceding that he couldn’t see into the future, Harris did predict that Rotary would become increasingly necessary for its ability to make the impossible happen.

On its tenth anniversary, Rotary had been an International organization for almost three years. There were 141 clubs in only a few countries. Today, there are more than 35,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographic areas.



Rotary Founder Paul Harris

How do you imagine Rotary 100 years from now? What will we achieve?

—Rotary Heritage  
Communications Staff



### *Birthday To Do*

- What is your club doing to celebrate the anniversary? Rotary wants to know. Send a photo of your club’s activity.
- Bring a birthday cake to share with club members at your meeting.
- Ask your members what they think Rotary will look like in the year 2121.
- Make a contribution to Rotary Foundation, the District Foundation and/or your local club Foundation in memory of Paul Harris.
- Award a Paul Harris Fellow to a deserving individual.

—Victoria Emmons

## Rotary Club of Glendive exceeds raffle goal

**O**ur 2020 fund raiser is finished and we couldn't be happier!

Dedicated to fund our community youth projects, we raffled twenty bundles of meat (20 winners) each valued at approximately \$300 retail. The bundles were themed for holiday cooking, grilling, smoking and miscellaneous. We tried to "check as many pandemic boxes as possible" in doing so.

Part of the meat came from 4-H youth projects. The kids couldn't have a normal county fair this year and felt slighted in the recognition of their hard work.

We chose more winners of smaller prizes so people could store the meat in their freezer compartment. No auxiliary freezer was needed if a winner.

Included in the bundles were some novelty meats from a restaurant supplier to make it unique to what's available from local grocers.

Twenty locally owned, small businesses agreed to be ticket outlets. Club members sold tickets, as well, including quarantine deliveries. Sales made over the phone and social media were simplified by using Venmo.

We drew one winner each day at a business outlet. A volunteer videoed "Facebook Live" to interview and scan the business with a holiday "shop local" theme, then have them draw that day's winner. The video was posted on the community's social media pages.

Feedback was great from the community. We had over 11,000 views of the videos and people have indicated they hope it to be a yearly project. We more than funded our youth projects and may have enough to add more! Best of all is the notoriety our club got with this project. We have since gained two additional members!

—Mike & Connie Hilger, Rotary Club of Glendive

## Handsome Rotary flag quilts available



Two handmade quilts lovingly sewn with Rotary flags from clubs around Montana and the world could be yours. The Rotary Club of Kalispell Daybreak is raffling one of these masterful pieces and tickets are now on sale. The second, an international flag quilt, can be had with the highest bid during the live auction to be held at the Rotary District Conference in Kalispell May 14-16 at the Hilton Garden Inn. Tickets for the raffle sell for \$10 each, or 3 for \$25. Contact Jason Cronk or Terri Smiley to purchase tickets or for more information.

## Butte Rotary Club partnerships help local kids

**T**hanks to a \$1,500 grant as part of the COVID-19 Disaster Relief Grants from our Rotary District 5390, the Rotary Club of Butte purchased items for the Bulldog Outfitters store in the Butte Plaza Mall. The personal hygiene items, including toothpaste, deodorant, hair care items and socks, were purchased through a partnership with the Butte Safeway store. Rotary Club members assisted with receiving and stocking of these items at the store. This has been a teamwork project for the Rotary Club of Butte giving us a sense of pride and purpose to know we are making a difference in our community.

This project has been a combined effort of the Rotary Club of Butte, 5518 Designs, Safeway, and Bulldog Outfitters. Rotarians helped Bulldog Outfitters with organizing, sorting, and displaying donated merchandise for the students. School Administrator Jim O'Neill, creator of Bulldog Outfitters, instructed a Rotarian work party and organized the project. Rotarian Bob Miller produced a Rotary "People of Action" poster for publicity to be displayed at Bulldog Outfitters and around the community. 5518 Designs, owned and operated by Jon Wick, developed, designed, and printed a water bottle sticker for the students that helps advertise the Maud S Canyon hiking, biking, and open space area that the Rotary club and East Ridge Foundation own and maintain on the East Ridge.



Bulldog Outfitters opened in the Butte Plaza Mall in June 2021, during the COVID-19 pandemic, as a free store to help needy students in Butte School District #1 look and feel their best. The

boutique style store has new and gently used clothes for students from kindergarten to high school. Each student is allowed three tops, three bottoms and one of each hygiene product including shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, and deodorant per day and all for free. The store would not have been possible without the generosity of the community. No student should have to worry about how their clothing looks, so they can focus on school and schoolwork. They have newer, well-fitting clothes

and fit in with their peers.

All the clothes in the store are donated. Styles include casual clothes, sports attire, and even dressier clothes for the students. Groups in Butte, 5518 Designs and Action Inc. donated new clothing to help fill the shelves. Also, more recently, Oakley has made substantial donations of new, high-end clothing items, including coats and exercise gear.

It has been a worthwhile project for the Rotarians in our club, the students here in Butte, and the people in our community who helped establish Bulldog Outfitters to help students put their best foot forward.

—William Spath, PDG 2015-16, Rotary Club of Butte





## Polson Rotary honors high school grads 2020

**T**he pandemic changed 2020 for everyone, especially high school graduates who were unable to celebrate their graduation in the usual celebratory manner. Enter Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Polson.

June 7, 2020 was a cool blustery day with bands of showers occasionally crossing Flathead Lake. This was only a minor deterrent for the six Polson Rotarians who showed up to help honor graduating seniors from Polson High School. The idea was to send a Chinese flying sky lantern into the air as each senior was named. This proved to be overly optimistic as the 107 seniors were announced in less than 20 minutes. Working as fast as possible, Dorothy Roberts and Bret Richardson held the lanterns open while Hu Beaver and Larry Ashcraft used small torches to light the lanterns. Jim Oates and Larry Peltz then held the lanterns while they filled with hot air and then launched them into the sky. Most of the lanterns were launched successfully, although a few were caught by the gusty winds and ended up against the chain link fence surrounding the school yard. An estimated 90 lanterns were sent aloft, only a few short of our intended goal.

About a month earlier, the Polson Rotary Club was approached by the parent of a graduating

senior about helping with this endeavor. The club agreed to purchase the lanterns and to light the lanterns during the outdoor graduation ceremony at the high school. The Covid-19 pandemic had made it impossible for normal graduation celebrations to be held. Polson Rotary Club members felt this was a small way for our community to recognize the seniors and let them know the community was proud of their accomplishments.

Hopefully the lofty

aspirations of the new graduates surpassed the lanterns as students moved on to their next exciting phase of life.

—Larry Peltz, Rotary Club of Polson; photos by Bret Richardson



## Hamilton Rotary & Interact team up to recognize school personnel during pandemic

The Rotary Club of Hamilton and Interact, our youth service organization, gave Bitterroot Valley Chamber of Commerce gift certificates to all of the classified staff in Corvallis School District.

In December, Montana Rotary clubs were given the

opportunity to apply for a \$1,500 grant to assist with COVID relief.

Rotary Club of Hamilton chose a process where we

could get the funding back into our local economy while acknowledging some of the Corvallis school district employees. Bus drivers, kitchen workers, library staff, etc. are all listed under classified staff. We chose to say thank you to these folks as they often go unnoticed and under acknowledged.

“We, Rotarians and Interact members, all discussed how important the bus drivers, the nurses, the kitchen staff, maintenance, paraprofessionals and admin staff are to keeping schools safe and open. We opted to purchase Bitterroot Chamber of Commerce gift certificates for each of these 70 employees,” said Marilyn Morris. “We hoped that this would

encourage other community service clubs to use the Chamber certificates as a way of helping our communities.”

Rotarians and Interact members wrote personal notes to each employee, letting them know how important they are to the school and community.



Rotary and Interact honor staff at Corvallis School District during pandemic.

Alyce Leonardi, Corvallis High School (CHS) Interact Advisor, said the club has been looking for different ways to give back to the community since many of their

opportunities to volunteer have

been canceled due to COVID-19. She said that when the gift certificate idea came up, “the club was all-in.”

“Everyone at the school has been picking up extra duties this year and so many of the Corvallis classified staff go unrecognized,” Leonardi said. “The Interact members were able to write a personal note on each card thanking the classified staff for their efforts this school year.”

Hamilton Rotary has sponsored the Interact club for 14 years. The students have coordinated many local and international projects. A trip to Guatemala to install water filters was set for the end of the 2020

See HAMILTON, page 14

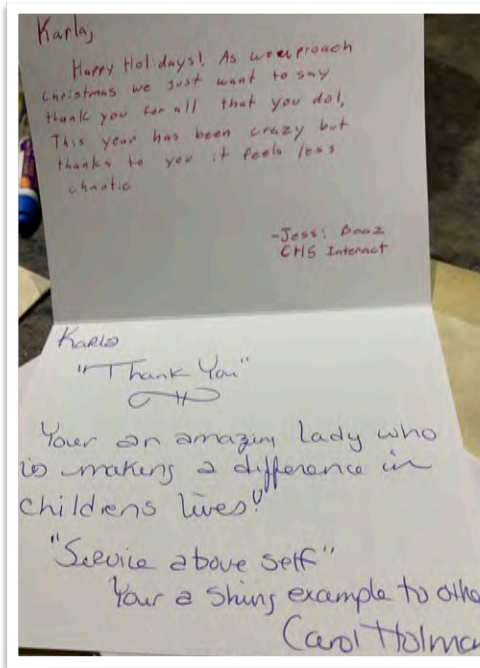
## HAMILTON, from page 13

The CHS Interact club has between 80-90 members, meets twice monthly and has a monthly activity. The students perform service for the community like serving meals at the Daly Mansion's Mother's Day tea and helping with Special Olympians at the Lost Trail winter completion. They also work a very successful annual food drive and an annual paper drive.

The Interact members work with Rotarians during December by ringing bells at various stores. "Rotary gives us \$600 for that and we buy presents for needy families," Leonardi said. "This year we are helping two families from Corvallis with seven kids, K-12."

Interact students delivered the Covid grant gift certificates and thank-you notes to classified staff representatives so they could deliver to each employee. A touching ceremony was held at the Corvallis School District office.

Superintendent Jon Konen called the classified staff the "backbone of the school."



"The first person the kids sometimes see is that bus driver or the crossing guard as they are coming to campus," Konen said. "Sometimes those are the people who can make a kid's day from the start. We all play a role in school culture, it starts right away with

those people, or it could be later in the day at lunch. There are so many people that make Corvallis a great place."

Corvallis District Clerk Nicole Ulibarri called the classified staff "unsung heroes."

"They worked to give input on the solution to keep staff and students safe," Ulibarri said. "This is an opportunity to support the classified staff and celebrate how the community all works together. The gift certificates were given in the spirit of kindness."

Ulibarri said she was excited about recognizing the classified staff during the coronavirus pandemic.

The feedback was that the gift certificates were appreciated and put to good use, but the personal notes brought tears to most!

Members of the Hamilton Rotary club and the Corvallis Interact club feel so fortunate to have the opportunity to spread some Rotary dollars in the community! Thank you, District 5390!

—Marilyn Morris, Interact Chair, Rotary Club



Rotarians meet Corvallis School District Superintendent .



## District 5390 Calendar

April 23-24: District 5390 PETS

May 14-16: Rotary District 5390 Conference, Hilton Garden Inn, Kalispell

June 12-16: RI 2021 Virtual Convention: Rotary Opens Opportunities. Registration is open at [2021 Virtual Convention: Rotary Opens Opportunities](#)

### Special Theme Months

April – Maternal and Child Health

May – Youth Service

June – Rotary Fellowships

## Big Sky News

*Big Sky News* is published quarterly by Rotary District 5390, Montana.

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**PLEASE NOTE NEW EMAIL FOR BIG SKY NEWS EDITOR!**



## New theme for 2021-2022 unveiled

President-elects and president-elect nominees who attended High Country PETS online in March were given a sneak preview of the new Rotary theme for 2021-2022.

Shekhar Mehta, Rotary International President for the coming year, selected the theme "Serve to Change Lives." The new logo features a cupped hand in blue holding a multi-colored globe.

Mehta first announced the presidential theme on February 1 during Rotary International Assembly, an annual training for district governors-elect. Each year, RI presidents create a new theme for clubs worldwide, where it is translated into multiple languages.

"Rotary kindled the spark within me to look beyond myself and embrace humanity," Mehta said, explaining his new theme.



**SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES**

Mehta, a member of the Rotary Club of Calcutta-Mahanagar, West Bengal, India, said that participating in service projects through Rotary changed him as a person and made him empathize more with the needs of others. Soon after joining his club, he helped carry out projects that benefitted rural communities in India.

Mehta is encouraging clubs to participate in projects that have measurable and sustainable impacts, especially efforts that empower girls and ensure their access to education, resources, services and opportunities so that future generations of women leaders will have the tools they need to succeed.

To ROTARY CLUB NEWS EDITORS: The next DEADLINE for stories in BIG SKY NEWS is **May 15, 2021** for the Summer issue. Send photos in .jpg format and stories in Word to: Big Sky Editor at [newsletter@montanarotary.org](mailto:newsletter@montanarotary.org). Please rename each photo submitted to indicate club name and subject, for example: Kalispell-100. If possible, include names of those in the photo. Please also include the name and Rotary Club of your story's author.