Belated Happy New Year since we had no January newsletter. As we know, calendar New Year means mid Rotary year, over half-way to our annual Foundation goals, and I am happy to report that we are well on our way to meeting our Annual Fund goals for the year. As you will see, many Clubs are exceeding these goals and I am confident we can match the Annual Fund number from the past few years. While the results are still coming in, I do want to highlight those Clubs, big and small, that have exceeded their goals already this year.
While the total annual fund donation is critical, we also have an increased focus on EREY this year. While still early, we have seven Clubs that have already achieved 100% EREY status, Alameda, Gilroy After Hours, Livermore, Milpitas, Mission San Jose, San Jose Silicon Valley, and Santa Cruz Sunrise.

Just a reminder that we have two drawings for Clubs to gain significant DDF credit. Here are the drawing details.

**TRF 2023-24 Drawing**

**Overall Annual Fund**
- 1 point for every $100 contribution to the Annual Fund (and polio)
- Prize is $5,000 in DDF. Worth $9,000 if used in a Global Grant

**ERF Drawing**
- Each Club has an equal chance if they achieve EREY status.
- Prize is $2500 in DDF. Worth $4,500 if used in a Global Grant

For Overall Annual fund, contributions as of Mar 1, 2024
Drawing at the March Leadership Meeting

For ERF, contributions as of July 1, 2024 (measured in late July)
Drawing at the August Leadership Meeting

Finally, while our focus for the first half of the year is the Annual Fund, I do want to provide an update on Polio. I am happy to report that we ended the calendar year making significant progress in the battle to eliminate Polio from the world, especially in Afghanistan. The graphic below does not have the usual 2024 Pie chart because we have not had any cases yet this year. Fingers crossed, we really are this close.
Our Newest Arch Klumph Society Members
By PDG Ed Jellen, Rotary Club of Oakland #3

TRF News Today is pleased to report that another District 5170 Rotarian, Joe Goralka, Rotary Club of Oakland, and his wife, Martha Goralka, Rotary Club of Delta/Antioch, have been added to the honored rolls of RI’s Arch Klumph Society. To become a member, one must contribute (including pledges to contribute) $250,000 or more to the Rotary Foundation. Joe and Martha were inspired by PRIP Jennifer Jones and her husband, DGE Nick Krayacichon when they visited Oakland #3 in November 2023.

Joe and Martha have a long history of public service, both in and beyond Rotary. Joe is serving his second year as our district 5170 treasurer, and his fourth year as Oakland #3’s TRF Chair. Joe served four years as Assistant Governor of Area 1, is a past president of two Rotary Clubs (San Ramon and Alamo), and was recently elected to serve as President of the Rotary Club of Oakland for the 2025-2026 Rotary Year. Through Rotary, Joe has been an active mentor of a Rotary Global Grant scholar, and another young man in Oakland #3’s HOPE (Help Oakland Pupils Excel) mentor program.

Outside of Rotary, Joe has volunteered for the Elderly Wish Foundation, League of Women Voters, Delta Learning Center, the Antioch Schools Education Foundation, and other civic organizations. Joe recently retired as Chief Financial Officer of East Bay Restaurant Supply.

Martha Goralka is a past-president of the Delta/Antioch Rotary Club. In 2022, Martha was selected as Antioch Citizen of the Year for Most Impact, based on her wide range of public service activities. As the Antioch Herald reported:

[Martha] participated in building casitas in San Luis Rio, Colorado, delivered wheelchairs in Mexico City and Monterrey, Mexico. Worked the ‘Polio Plus Vaccination Day’ for children in India as well as visiting Rotary projects in Uganda and Zambia, Africa. She has participated in ‘Home Team’ projects doing minor repairs for seniors, Meals on Wheels deliveries, Bedford Center pandemic deliveries and much more.

We extend our hearty congratulations and thanks to Joe and Martha for their generosity and service.
Many members of District 5170 have included a provision in their estate plans to benefit The Rotary Foundation. Please take this survey, and a District Bequest Society, Major Donor, and Endowment Committee member will follow up with you.

To take the Survey, click HERE
Mental Health and Rotary

By Pat McMenamin, District 5170 Major Donor Chair

As we are engaged in the final-half of the 2023-2024 Rotary year, Rotarians can now look back on the wisdom of Rotary President R. Gordon R. McInally’s focus on mental health.

In the February 2024 issue of ROTARY magazine, President McInally responds to all Rotarians with the following remarks:

I am enthused and encouraged by your embrace of mental health initiatives throughout the Rotary world. More than 1,000 of you have responded so far to an ongoing survey by the Rotary Action Group on Mental Health Initiatives, offering your feedback on what Rotary can do to improve the well-being of members.

The top suggestions are illuminating. Rotary members are asking for more fellowship, camaraderie, conversation, cohesiveness, and connection. They also want more recognition, validation, and integration.

They are seeking more service opportunities, and they want more wellness activities, including mental health speakers, awareness efforts, and education.

Our members not only appreciate the greater focus on mental health, but they also believe that making more of the Rotary experience will materially improve their lives.

Everything you do to strengthen connections in Rotary, with each other and the people we serve, also helps improve mental health. And everything we do to improve mental health helps strengthen those connections. Let’s continue this virtuous cycle.”

R. GORDON R. McINALLY
President, Rotary International

Whether you are about to make your first donation as a Rotarian or you are already a Major Donor of The Rotary Foundation, please take a few moments to reflect upon your 2023-2024 giving goals to The Rotary Foundation of RI.

The people who make Rotary so effective, through their generosity and passion for positive change, come from all over the world and all walks of life. Even so, they share a powerful common trait: they’re compelled by a desire to share their good fortune with others, simply because they can make a positive impact for someone whose life has not been easy.

“In Rotary, we indeed measure our value not by what we have, but by what we have given, by the good we have done in the world, and by our capacity to do even more.”

R. Ravindran 2015-16 President, Rotary International, and Ray Klinginsmith 2015-2016 TRF Trustee Chair

For more information, please contact: Pat McMenamin, Rotary Club of Livermore
Phone/text: 925-980-6881, email: pjmcmenamin@mac.com
PDG Loren J. Harper Remembered
By PDG Russ Hobbs, Rotary Club of Santa Cruz

We often hear the question: “can one man make a difference?” In the case of my friend Past District Governor Loren Harper, the answer is yes. Our friendship goes back some thirty-plus years when my stockbroker retired, and Loren became my new financial advisor. I remember feeling uneasy meeting him for the first time when I went to his office on the fourteenth floor of the tallest office building in San Jose, but was pleasantly surprised to find some Rotary awards proudly hanging on his office wall. I knew then that Loren Harper and I would get along just fine.

Our first meeting was actually short on Mary Ann and my portfolio, and long on Rotary. And those meetings lasted a lifetime both in person, and more recently by phone, when he and Diane moved to Bentonville, Arkansas to be closer to their daughter. Loren and his wife Diane were both Rotarians, and served as club presidents to the Warm Springs Rotary Club before being asked to serve in a variety of positions at the district. Loren served as our District Conference Chair in 2001-2002 for the district conference held at Caesar’s in South Lake Tahoe, International Service Chair in 2005-2006, District Assembly Chair in 2007-2008, and District Governor 2009-2010.

Loren’s District Conference was held at the Hyatt Regency in Monterey from April 23-25, 2010, and still holds the record for highest attendance. Loren continued to serve our district after being District Governor in many roles, but his favorite was Chair of the Sister Families Program, which found families for orphaned children in Brazil. Under his leadership, 1200 children were taken off the streets and given a home. His dedication to Rotary earned him the prestigious Service Above Self Award, the Carl Orne Award, named for the individual who makes the greatest personal commitment to world peace and understanding; The Sydney Mitchell Award, named for the outstanding Rotarian in the District; and the Richard D. King Award for the person who makes the greatest personal commitment to the programs of The Rotary Foundation. Both Loren and Diane were Paul Harris Fellows, Major Donors, and Bequest Society Members.

Loren’s academic journey led him to Santa Clara University where he was an all-star pitcher, playing a pivotal role in the team’s winning the College National World Series. Loren was in the school’s Army ROTC program, and upon graduation, was commissioned a second lieutenant in the United States Army serving in the Military Police for the Sixth Army. His

Continues on Next Page
continued service to his alma matter awarded him the Santa Clara University Alumni Ignation Award recognizing exceptional service to others.

Loren was a good friend, who served his country with distinction, his Rotary club with distinction, and our district with distinction—his life made a difference, and he will be missed.

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Can you make charitable giving less ‘taxing’?
By Shane Jacksteit, Rotary Club of Sunnyvale

Once again, it’s the season of generosity. If you’re thinking of making charitable gifts, what should you know?

For starters, ensure that any charity you plan to support is reputable and uses its funds wisely. You can find valuable information on charities at the Charity Navigator website.

You might also think about the tax benefits of charitable giving. If you itemize your taxes, you can get a deduction for gifts of cash or other financial assets.

But you might also consider longer-term charitable giving strategies offering tax advantages. One such possibility is a donor-advised fund, which allows you to make charitable contributions and receive an immediate tax deduction. And if you give appreciated assets, such as stocks, you might also avoid capital gains taxes.

Once you turn 73 and must start taking withdrawals from some of your retirement accounts, you could consider having some of this money go directly to charities through a qualified charitable distribution, which can be excluded from your taxable income.

See your tax advisor to determine if these strategies are appropriate for you. If so, they might help make charitable giving less taxing.

For more information, you can contact Shane Jacksteit. You can also learn more about ways to give linking to the following resources The Rotary Foundation or contact Liz Gallegos, Chair of D 5170 Bequest, Major Donor and Endowment Committee.
Rotary Foundation Global Grant 2348177: Building Climate Resilience of Maya-Achi Communities with Agroecology and Youth Leadership

Located in the dry corridor of Central America, one of the world’s ten most vulnerable regions to climate change, Rabinal is an indigenous Maya-Achi area composed of dozens of communities. In recent years, prolonged droughts attributable to climate change have caused these subsistence farmers to lose as much as 80% of their crop, causing hunger, malnutrition, economic hardship, and migration.

**Project Description:** Under the leadership of trained, local youth agricultural technicians, this project will promote both traditional and modern, culturally appropriate, low-cost, sustainable farming techniques to strengthen climate change resilience among 375 families in ten communities. Two previous global grants (2021-2023) have established the effectiveness of many key strategies and provide guidance for new ones.

These strategies are based in agroecology—using ecological principles and practices in farming to reduce costs, improve sustainability, and enhance long-term productivity. Key strategies of the project include:

- **Reforestation**, which improves nutrition; provides shade for people, coffee, and other crops; reduces temperature, stabilizes soils, and improves soil water retention. Thousands of fruit and forest trees will be planted.
- **Animal Vaccination**, which improves the survival of poultry from 50% to 90%, a huge nutritional and economic benefit from a $0.10 investment per bird.
- **Crop Diversification**, which provides marketable products that are more resistant to drought while improving nutrition.
- **Vegetable Gardens and Greenhouses**, built with local materials and labor, which provide a high humidity, more productive space to grow a greater variety of vegetables, protected from insects.
- **Water Conservation & Drip Irrigation**, which can irrigate many more plants with much less water.
- **Soil Management**, which helps retain nutrient rich top soil through training in everything from contouring to organic supplementation.
- **Native Seed Exchange**, which maintains genetic diversity and culturally important varieties while minimizing the need for and expense of GMO seeds, and toxic agrochemicals, such as glyphosate (RoundUp).

Adapting to a crisis is hard and takes time. People need to see, concretely, how changes can improve their future. Two to three **Model Plots** in each of 10 communities, as proposed by our agricultural technicians, are incorporated in the project. In addition to all the techniques described above, the plot owners—mostly women—will be trained to diversify their production.
utilizing integrated agroecology, and sophisticated irrigation systems. They will also be trained to produce fertilizer, soil amendments and pest control products organically, both for their own use and sale. The intended result is less individual and community investment in chemical fertilizers and insecticides, improved soil and human health, and reduced environmental damage. Local farmers will be invited to view these plots to see the benefits and will be encouraged and assisted in incorporating the techniques on their own farms.

These lines of work will be carried out by the grant’s cooperating partner, Voces y Manos, which, under prior global grants, has trained a team of Maya-Achi, young-adult, agricultural technicians. As native speakers of the Mayan language, they have a deep understanding of the community context and have built exceptional trust by the communities where they work. Regular financial oversight is provided by both Rotary clubs and Rotary Foundation.

Anticipated outcomes of the project:

- Scale up training in sustainable agricultural practices to 375 farming families (1,875 people) across 10 communities by increasing agricultural technician staff.
- Increased use of organic inputs and reduced use of toxic agrochemicals
- Improved income, resilience to climate change, quality of life, and sustainable productivity by training in the practices shown to be effective in prior projects
- Strengthened nutrition of households through more diversified food production from vegetable gardens and greenhouses
- Multiple plots demonstrate to the community and region the benefits of a more sustainable agroecological approach to subsistence farming

Proposed Budget: $247,000. | Timeframe: 2024-2026 (24 months)

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<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Training support &amp; stipends</td>
<td>$147,000</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Materials and Agricultural Supplies</td>
<td>$84,000</td>
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<td>Administrative &amp; accounting</td>
<td>$18,000</td>
<td>7%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Estimated total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$247,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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Rotary Guatemala del Este

Contact Peter Sherris
psherris@mac.com
+1-510-206-0548

Rotary Oakland
MAJOR GIFTS TO THE ROTARY FOUNDATION OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

The Rotary Foundation (TRF) has developed several methods for recognizing the contributions of donors.

Individual recognitions include:

- **Rotary Foundation Sustaining Member**: Minimum donation $100 per year to Annual Fund
- **Benefactor**: $1,000 donation to the Endowment
- **Paul Harris Fellow**: Donate $1,000 to the Annual Fund
- **Multiple Paul Harris Fellow**: Give additional donations of $1,000 to TRF
- **Paul Harris Society Member**: Pledge to donate $1,000 annually to TRF
- **Bequest Society**: Donation of $10,000 to TRF in Estate Plan
- **Major Donor**: Direct donation of at least $10,000 to TRF
- **Arch Klumph Society**: Direct donation of at least $250,000 to TRF
- **Legacy Society**: Donation of $1,000,000 to the Endowment

At its 2018 Annual Conference, District 5170 introduced a new level of donor recognition, the Triple Crown Donor, designed to honor those individuals who have made very generous contributions to The Rotary Foundation. To qualify for this award, one must accomplish three objectives:

- Be a Major Donor (level 1 or higher)
- Be a Bequest Society Member (level 1 or higher)
- Be Paul Harris Society Eligible - Donate a minimum of $1,000 cash annually to The Rotary Foundation in the current year.

Triple Crown Donor is an annual award, made only in the year when a donor meets all three objectives.

### History of Triple Crown Donors

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<td>22</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>49</td>
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### Donor levels for last year and so-far this year:

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2022-2023</th>
<th>2023-2024 (as of February 7, 2024)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Paul Harris Fellows</td>
<td>2,117</td>
<td>2,060</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major Donors</td>
<td>314</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bequest Society</td>
<td>75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arch Klumph Society</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paul Harris Society</td>
<td>358</td>
<td>278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triple Crown Donors</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
There are 21 members who were triple Crown Donors in 2022-2023 but have not made the $1,000 donation yet this year - as of 7 February 2024.

For more information about any of these awards, please contact:

Phillip Dean
nolandp@comcast.net
ROTARY GLOBAL GRANT SCHOLARSHIP

The mission of The Rotary Foundation, a not-for-profit organization, is the advancement of world understanding, goodwill, and peace. Rotary builds international relationships, improves lives, and creates a better world to support peace efforts and end polio.

Apply for the Rotary International annual scholarship: A $30,000 Rotary Global Grant Scholarship will be awarded in the 2024-2025 school year for graduate-level coursework-research outside of the United States. Rotary District 5170 is searching for scholars who are focusing their studies in one of Rotary Foundation’s Seven Areas of Focus:

1. Peace and Conflict Resolution
2. Disease Prevention and Treatment
3. Water and Sanitation
4. Maternal and Child Health
5. Basic Education and Literacy
6. Economic and Community Development
7. Supporting the Environment

Please find the application form and other details from the website https://rotarydistrict5170.org/sitepage/scholarships/

For any scholarship questions, please contact your local Rotary Clubs or our District 5170 Global Grant Scholarship Co-Chairs:
Dr. Noe Pablo Lozano, Palo Alto University Rotary Club President 2021-22
noe@stanford.edu
Dr. Rita Chiang, Cupertino Rotary Club
ynchiang327@gmail.com
February 2024

Following the news is challenging these days. Stories of war and violence are deeply discouraging. It breaks my heart when I hear about innocent bystanders, particularly women and children, who are caught in the crossfire of conflict.

Is there anything we can do about it? We certainly can't turn away from the problem. I think in these times, we need to shift our focus from what we can't change to what we can do. We can also support what we know works.

February is Rotary's Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month. It is one of our areas of focus because peace is central to everything we do in Rotary. Even though most of us aren't diplomats at the negotiating table or peacebuilders working on active conflicts, in Rotary's singular way, what we do works to promote peace and prevent conflict somewhere, every day.

Every Rotary member should remember this during the month of February: When you support any of the areas of focus of The Rotary Foundation, you are contributing to peace. Foundation grants that address fundamental issues — such as a global grant focused on enhancing basic literacy in a community — will cultivate a better understanding of the world and lead to greater economic stability, laying the groundwork for peace.

You can say the same for all the areas of focus, from the environment to economic development. They help stabilize communities, lift families out of poverty, and foster the pursuit of education.

Peace is and always has been interwoven into the fabric of Rotary beyond our projects, too. In 1999, when we established the Rotary Peace Centers through a visionary initiative of our Foundation, we reaffirmed this commitment. This month, we are once again renewing that vision, with Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul, our host partner for the newest Rotary Peace Center, as it takes its first steps to prepare for the initial cohort of students arriving in early 2025.

All along the way, as Rotary has evolved into a global force for good, it has championed peace and understanding in countless ways, and our Foundation remains the great driving force behind that vision. It will be part of Rotary's eternal legacy.

And by supporting our work, you will be able to say that you are a part of that legacy. You can directly support it by visiting [rotary.org/donate](http://rotary.org/donate) and selecting peacebuilding and conflict prevention as the area of focus.

So, yes, there is a lot you can do to support peace and prevent conflict. The next step is up to you.
Key to headings:

Do not be alarmed if these numbers are different from others that you may have obtained from another source. These data were obtained from The Rotary Foundation on the afternoon of February 12, 2004. Since the Foundation is dealing with more than one million members, and member donation data is received randomly and can take as much as a week to be registered, some of the numbers may change immediately after they are received.

EREY – Every Rotarian Every Year – Number of club members who made a donation this Rotary year
EREY% - Percent of club members who contributed in the current year (EREY/Number of members)
AF – Annual Fund
Other YTD – Other funds donated (apart from AF) such as PolioPlus
Endow YTD – Total funds donated to the Endowment Fund up to the current date. (Cash donations, but not legacy giving.)
Trivia Question No. 1:
In which year did the number of Paul Harris Fellows reach 1 million:
(a) 1986;
(b) 1996;
(c) 2006;
(d) 2016; or
(e) 2020?

Trivia Question No. 2:
According to an RI survey in 2019, what percentage of members who left their Rotary clubs said they did so because they did not feel included:
(a) 15%;
(b) 25%;
(c) 35%;
(d) 45%; or
(e) 55%?

Trivia Question no. 3:
Which Rotary Club started ShelterBox, RI’s official disaster relief partner:
(a) Rotary Club of Helston-Lizard, England;
(b) Rotary Club of Los Gatos Morning, CA, U.S.A;
(c) Rotary Club of Vancouver, B.C., Canada;
(d) Rotary Club of Canberra Sunrise, Australia; or
(e) Rotary Club of Delhi, Uptown, India?

Answers on last page
Answer to trivia question no. 1: (c) The number of Paul Harris fellows reached 1 million in 2006.

Answer to trivia question no. 2: (c) 35% of the Rotarians who left their clubs said they did so because they did not feel included.

Answer to trivia question no. 3: (a) Rotary’s disaster relief partner, ShelterBox, was started by the Rotary Club of Helston-Lizard, England.