

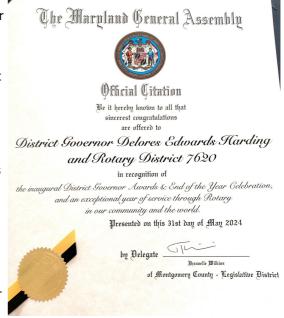
District Governor Delores Edwards Harding's Report

Hello District 7620 Rotarians and Rotaractors, Congratulations! We have reached the final month of Rotary Year 2023-2024. What a wonderful year it has been! It has been my honor to serve as your District Governor this year, and I have enjoyed every moment as we worked together to "Create Hope in the World†through our many acts of service in District 7620, and around the world. Thank You for your active participation and service this year. We are a truly dynamic District because of our many caring members!

DG Awards and End of Year Fellowship

On Friday, May 31st, the District hosted an inaugural DG Awards Ceremony and End of Year Fellowship at the Meeting House in Columbia. We had a great time of fellowship and fun, as I recognized top District 7620 Clubs and District Leaders for their exceptional leadership, support and service during Rotary Year 2023-2024. I also gave a brief State of the District Address to highlight our successes, and the many historic events that took place this year.

Congratulations to all of our Award recipients, and to our 2000+ members of District 7620! You are all true "Champions†in my book, and we could not have such a successful Rotary Year without you!





Special thanks to the District Hospitality and Planning Committee for their time and energy in hosting our final event. I'd also like to recognize our District Conference DJ, Jeffrey Ponder, who came through to support this special occasion with the perfect music. Thank you to Nora's Catering for preparing a delicious Mediterranean dinner. And thank you Rotary Club of Washington, DC for your donation of not one, but TWO specialty cakes for dessert! Thanks everyone for ensuring that we had a memorable event!



June Rotary Fellowships Month

Happy June! We are 6 months into 2024, and this month is special for so many reasons. Many of us look forward to celebrating Graduations, Father's Day, the beginning of Summer, Family vacations and road trips! If you did not know, June is Pride Month, where we recognize the members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer community, and the impact that these individuals have had on history, locally, nationally and internationally. At least 3 Areas in District 7620 will be participating in Pride events this month (and later in 2024), and welcome your support. Clubs in Area 1 (Harford County), Area 5 (Frederick County), and Area 7 (Washington, DC) have activities or events planned. Please feel free to reach out to the Assistant Governors for

June is
Rotary Fellowships
Month

these Areas for more information. The District website, District Calendar and social media sites will share event information.

The theme for June is Rotary Fellowships Month. All around the world, our members come together to host an exciting activity or service project, and to build friendships. We celebrate and promote Rotary through a common passion, hobby or profession. Did you know we have Fellowships for Astrology, Badminton, Chess, Coffee Lovers, E-Clubs, Fishing, IT Professionals, Jazz, Leadership and more? There are over 100 different Fellowships that you can choose to join this month. I encourage you to seek out a fun group that suits your specific interest(s). Rotary Fellowships are open to all members, and are a great way to enhance your Rotary experience. Learn more about Rotary Fellowships here:

https://tinyurl.com/2s47dwta

2024 RI Sinagpore Convention

One Fellowship that Rotarians look forward to each and every year is the Rotary International Convention. This year, District 7620 sent 25 members to Singapore, a beautiful island country and City-State in South-East Asia! Congratulations and many thanks to our District RI Convention Chair Flora Bartek of the Rotary Club of Parole, and to her Committee Members Todd Miller and Sheldon Ray of the Rotary Club of Washington, DC. They did a great job of planning for this trip, and ensured that our members were supported while abroad. The Singapore delegation wore custom-made, red, District 7620 Polo Shirts while there too! Take a look at the pictures…You could easily find them!

We are pleased to recognize 2023-2024 Emerging Leader Dr. Pallavi Gowda (Rotary Club of Potomac Passport) for on-stage recognition she received in Singapore. If you haven't seen social media or the Rotary Magazine pictures, Pallavi gave a very moving speech at the RI Convention on the importance of Mental Health. She shared on both platforms her personal and professional perspectives on the mental health issues we are facing today. Way to Go Pallavi!

Year End Transition & DG Installation

As we begin the process of transition of District leadership for the Rotary Year 2024-2025, I hope you will join me in extending my best wishes to incoming District Governor Naumaan "Nomie†Hamid (Rotary Club of College Park) as he prepares to lead us forward in the new year starting July 1st. His installation is on June 22nd at City Hall in College Park, Maryland. Please register through DACdb for this free event! Nomie will lead us under the Rotary International theme of "The Magic of Rotary.†We look forward to an exciting year!

Funeral Service PDG Dr. John Louis Sever - April 11, 1932 - April 25, 2024

On June 1st, several of District 7620's members and Past District Governors attended the funeral for PDG Dr. John Louis Sever in Rockville, MD. A former member of the Rotary Club of Potomac, Dr. Sever was a Pioneer in the world of Rotary and Polio Eradication. His funeral was well attended by family and friends, and his passing was felt around the world.

Michael McGovern, Rotary International Chair of the Polio Plus Fund, gave Reflections on Dr. Sever's life. There was not a dry eye in the room, as his daughters and grandchildren shared about Dr. Sever's passion for

family, Rotary, and helping prevent the spread of Polio. Our District will greatly miss Dr. Sever, and we will work to keep his memory alive through our continued giving to the Rotary Polio Plus Fund. The District will also make a special monetary donation in Dr. Severâ \in TMs honor.

Dr. Sever is survived by his wife of 68 years Gerane, daughters Kimberly, Beverly and Valerie, and seven grandchildren. Rest in Peace Dr. Sever. Thank you for a lifetime of Service above Self.



Special Thank You â€" District Executive Secretary Deborah Burgess

As of the writing of this final Newsletter for Rotary Year 2023-2024, I wish to inform you that our current District Executive Secretary Deborah Burgess (Rotary Club of Baltimore) will be moving on from her position effective June 30th. Serving under the leadership of three different District Governors (i.e., PDG Geetha Jayaram, PDG Sean McAlister and me), Deborah has worked hard in her position as an Admin, and we are grateful for her years of service. I hope you will join me in wishing Deborah well on her future Rotary and personal endeavors. We salute you Deborah, and wish you the absolute bestâe!Thank You!





2024! It was the year that we chose to Create Hope in the World under Rotary International President Gordon McInally of the Rotary Club of South Queensferry, in Lothian, Scotland.

Many thanks to District Newsletter Committee Chairs Past District Governor Bob Nelson and Assistant Governor Ashley Waters, and to all who contributed articles and pictures each month!

Special thanks to our District 7620 Members, Contractors, District Committee Chairs & Committee Members, Counsel of Governors, Assistant Governors, and the District Executive Leadership Team.

As we wrap up the year, I encourage you to Finish Strong! James and I have watched your Clubs take flight this year to champion the 4 DG Priorities of Youth (Foster Care), Peace, Mental Health and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Many of you took on other Rotary initiatives too, and participated in the Grant process to help others on a much larger scale. Congratulations!

Thank You for your support and generosity this year. We are so proud of the members of District 7620! As People of Action, please keep up the good work in service for Rotary. We'II see you around the District!

God Bless You!

Yours In Rotary Service,

Delores Edwards Harding District Governor 2023-2024 Rotary Club of Baltimore

James Harding First Gentleman 2023-2024 Rising Star and Future Rotarian

115th Rotary International Convention: A Celebration of Service and Camaraderie in Singapore!

Amidst the vibrant cityscape of Singapore, the 115th Rotary International Convention was a testament to the power of service, unity, and global impact. From May 26th â€" 29th, District 7620 Rotarians were present amongst 15 thousand other Rotary members from all over the world, igniting a fervor of enthusiasm and dedication to make a difference in the world.

Hosted in the Marina Bay Sands Expo and Convention Centre, the

convention included a diverse array ofkeynote speakers and panel discussions that covered the themes of: Sharing Connections with the World: Sharing Light with the World: and Sharing Dreams with the World. Our very own Dr. Pallavi Gowda, President of the Potomac Passport Club, gave an unforgettable mental health awareness talk titled â€~Are you Okay?' during the second general session on May 27th. All the general session talks inspired us with tales of resilience, compassion, and the transformative impact of Rotary projects around the world.



We were treated to a kaleidoscope of performances, showcasing the rich tapestry of traditions and customs from the host country during the general sessions and in the House of Friendship, where some of us spent an incredible amount of time. There was so much to see and connect with other Rotarians who showcased their projects and initiatives through interactive exhibitions and poster sessions. From sustainable development initiatives to youth empowerment programs, attendees had the opportunity to learn from each other, exchange ideas, and forge partnerships for future collaborations.

Beyond the formal sessions, we bonded over shared experiences; cultural exchanges; and the common goal of making a positive difference in our communities. Whether through spontaneous conversations, networking events, dinners or just hanging out dancing, many connections were made with other Rotarians from all over the world.

A key take-away from attending this convention and other conventions is a renewed sense of purpose and commitment to Rotary International's mission of "Service Above Self." Armed with new ideas, connections,

BLE #BAR

and inspirations that can be leveraged within our perspective clubs and communities, to continue making a positive impact on the world.

You donâ \in TMt want to miss out on next yearâ \in TMs convention so join us in Calgary for the 2025 Rotary Convention, where you too can share in the experience. For more information and to register, check out https://convention.rotary.org/en-us/2025-rotary-convention-calgary.

District Governor Installation Ceremony - Register NOW!

REGISTER NOW!



NOMIE HAMID'S DISTRICT GOVERNOR INSTALLATION

TIME: **6PM - 9PM**MUSIC / FOOD /
FESTIVITIES

Located:

College Park City Hall 7401 Baltimore Ave, College Park, MD, 20740









Please join us on this special day. We look forward to your presence. This is a family friendly event. bit.ly/4afv06Y

MAY 2024 Club Leadership Training



On Saturday, May 18th, DGE Nomie Hamid hosted a virtual Club Leadership Training for Club leaders and chairs in our District. Thank you District Learning Facilitator Chris Zabriskie and LG Marilyn Nevy Cruz for your extraordinary work in preparation for this training. It was truly a day filled with education, learning, fellowship but most importantly FUN. Rotary 7620 Rotarians are ready to share THE **MAGIC OF ROTARY!**





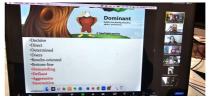












Rotary Foundation of Washington DC Awards \$96,000 to Boys and Girls Club of Greater Washington

On Wednesday, May 22nd, the Rotary Club of Washington, D.C. welcomed Gabrielle Webster, President & CEO of the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Washington to their weekly meeting. Gabrielle spoke to the Club about the recent activities since last year and the plans for the coming year. DC Rotary Foundation



President Lynn Holec presented Gabrielle with the big check (and real paper check) of \$96,000 for this year's donation. The funds will be used for capital improvements at the various physical facilities of the BGCGW.



Rotary Club of Annapolis Raises \$80,000 for Charting Careers

By Julie Carolyn Snyder



The Rotary Club of Annapolis was pleased to welcome staff from Charting Careers on April 18, 2024, as the club presented them with a check for \$80,000. The funds are the proceeds from the 2024 Black Tie & Diamonds Gala, which was held on March 9, 2024. Read More

Dupont Rotary Members are People of Action!

At Dupont Rotary we are <u>#PeopleOfAction</u>! Every-other month we pack lunches for La Casa, one of <u>@friendshipplace</u>'s amazing programs working to end homelessness. On April 27 we were at the Walk to End Homelessness on the National Mall, too! Club members raised \$306 through walk registrations and fundraising, and we're thrilled our foundation will match that for a total of \$612 going to Friendship Place!





Westminster Rotary Honors Dr. Jim Lightner for 50 years of service







Joint District 7610-7620 District Conference - REGISTER NOW!

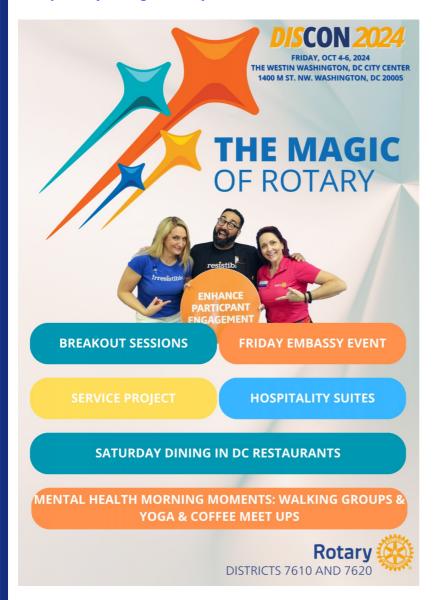
When: Friday, October 4 - Sunday, October 6, 2024 **Where**: Westin City Center, Washington, D.C.

Price: Early Bird \$275, First 50 new conferees \$225, Rotaractors \$200

REGISTER HERE

Hotel: \$161 + tax and fees (includes \$8 donation to PolioPlus)

book.passkey.com/go/Rotaryinter



E-Club of Maryland Game Night

When the Rotary E-Club of MD met last year to determine our focus for the year, Mental Health was the unanimous decision. We then learned much about it from the many speakers we had at our meetings. Several were organizations that work with and aid those with mental health issues that it is a growing problem, but we also had speakers that gave us information on how we can protect and strengthen our own mental health. One of those ways is to play board games. It's been found that playing board games has many benefits; the most obvious is connecting with friends and family and being social is a very important component of good mental health. Playing board games also has been found to boost brain power and reasoning skills, enhance cognitive functions and reduce stress.



Our club decided to try it out. We replaced one of our regular meetings with an in-person $\hat{a} \in \mathbb{C}^{\infty}$ Mardi Gras Night of Games $\hat{a} \in \mathbb{C}^{\infty}$. We invited friends, family, young and old, and had a great turnout. I can personally attest that I was in a much better mood and much less stressed when I left that evening! Mary and Gordy discovered a new game and they now play often at home; keeping their mental health in good shape.

We had a great time and it was great to see members in person, and some we hadn't seen for awhile. I recommend a game night, (maybe more than one), to enhance your mental health, those around you and to have some fun.

Tricia Baldwin, President, Rotary E-Club of MD

Area 9 Environmental Committee celebrated Arbor Day 2024 by planting trees

On Saturday, April 27th, the Area 9 Environmental Committee hosted a successful Arbor Day celebration by organizing a community tree planting event. This initiative, aimed at enhancing local green spaces and tree restoration, brought together around 30 Rotarians and volunteers who dedicated their Saturday morning to planting over 30 new white-pine saplings.

The event kicked off early in the morning, with participants arriving eager and ready to contribute to their community. Equipped with shovels, gloves, and watering cans, volunteers of all ages got to work. The camaraderie and shared sense of purpose was amazing as adults and children worked side by side, preparing the ground and carefully planting each sapling.

The event concluded with a collective feeling of pride and accomplishment, knowing that our effort will have a lasting impact on our local community and environment.



Looking ahead, the committee plans to organize more such events and encourages participation from other areas within District 7620.

By Billy Louis

Disaster Update â€" Tornadoes & Floods in Houston (TX), Louisiana and Florida

By Bob Grill, President, Disaster Aid USA; Paul Mahata, Co-Chair, District Disaster Relief Committee
District 7620 Disaster Relief Committee continues to coordinate with Disaster Aid USA to respond to recent
Tornadoes and Floods in Houston (TX) and LA & FL areas. We are helping the disaster victims, and we request
that you and your club consider donating money to DAUSA. We thank you for your past donations. Please see
below a detailed description of two DAUSA deployments done in May 2024.



Houston Tornadoes and Floods: DAUSA's muck and gut teams are helping families clean out and repair their homes, setting the stage for recovery and a return to normalcy. Volunteers from all over Texas are helping dozens of homes flooded and damaged by the recent tornadoes and windstorms. This project will need more teams and financial support for the long term. Volunteers from Rotary Districts 5790, 5890 and 5910 have joined in, along with many Church groups. DAUSA is partnering with local NGOs to be a force multiplier. Wayne Beaumier, DAUSA Chair, and Bruce Schultes, a DAUSA Zone Director, are leading the team in the Houston area. Read More

Envi-Rotarians Act in Brunswick



Graffiti met its match, as members of the Rotary Club of Smoketown, Brunswick, Maryland painted over the urban artwork on the piers of the bridge spanning the Potomac River by Milepost 55 on the C&O Canal towpath. As an official Canal Steward, the Smoketown Rotary Club has adopted this section of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, in affiliation with the C&O Canal Trust, the non-profit partner of the C&O Canal National Historic Park.

Abbie Ricketts, Smoketown Rotary's Environmental Chair, monthly organizes the club's volunteer projects essential to preserving and beautifying the park - campground and trail improvements, invasive plant and trash removal - a natural,

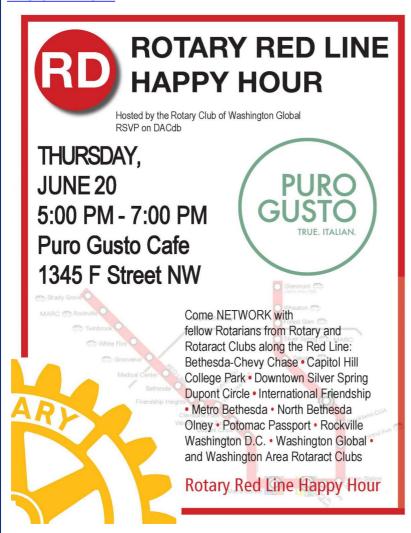
historical and recreational pathway on the southern border of this central Maryland community.

Read More



Red Line Happy Hour - REGISTER NOW!

Hosted by the Rotary Club of Washington Global REGISTER NOW!



Area 7 Welcomes 8 New Members!

Rotary District 7620, Area 7 (Washington, D.C.) welcomes 9 (nine) new members into the Rotary family. Job well done, Rotary Club of Capitol Hill, Rotary Club of Washington, D.C. and Rotaract Club of Washington, D.C.!













Rotary Club of Capitol Hill

Members of the Rotary Club of Capitol Hill - Washington, DC joined Rotary International at the U.S. Senate to say thank you to all the members of the U.S. Congress who continued to support Rotary's Efforts to eradicate the Polio virus from this planet.









Rotary Club of Washington Global

It was an honor to attend the ROTARY INTERNATIONAL Reception Honoring 2024 Congressional Champions of Polio Eradication. Members of our Rotary Club of Washington Global (club made up of intl. dev professionals), as well as Rotarians from around the district and country, came together to recognize those who have helped in this important public health campaign for so many years. The highlight was getting to listen to, and be inspired by, Senator Tammy Duckworth (IL) and then later chase her down in the halls of the Capitol building for a quick selfie.











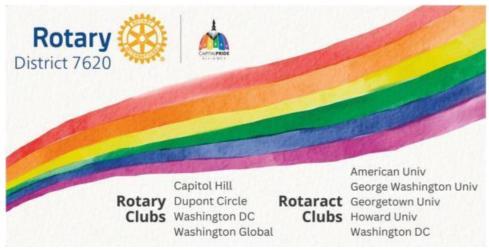


Rotary Red Line Happy Hour - MAY 2024

The <u>Rotary Club of Dupont Circle</u> hosted an amazing <u>Rotary District 7620</u> Red Line Happy Hour at the <u>King Street Oyster bar</u> this past month! Thank you for an afternoon filled with fellowship, friendship and fun! PS: we even had special visitors from <u>Rotary District 7610</u>.



Washington, D.C. Pride Parade



Join Rotary International District 7620 and the Washington DC Area 7 Rotary and Rotaract Clubs at the DC Pride Parade!

When: Saturday, June 8,

2024

Time: 3:00pm â€"

7:30pm

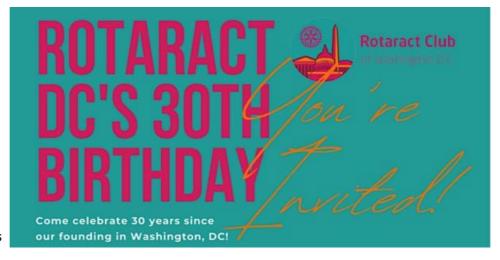
Where: Logan & Dupont Circle Neighborhoods, Washington, D.C.

REGISTER HERE

Contact AG Marilyn Nevy Cruz at mncruz10@gmail.com with any questions.

Rotaract DC's 30th Anniversary Celebration!

Thirty years ago this year, the Rotaract Club of Washington, DC was founded. Thirty years later, Rotaract and its relationship with Washington, DC have left an indelible mark in the hearts of countless individuals. We've been so thrilled to spend this year planning for our big anniversary, and now, you're all invited!



In that honor, come join us for a night of fun, laughter,

and memories as we celebrate three decades of service and friendship. Whether you're a longtime member or new to the Rotaract family, this event is the perfect opportunity to connect with fellow Rotaractors and alumni.

Get ready to mix and mingle with current and former members, as well as community partners who have supported us throughout the years. There will be music, dancing, and delicious food to enjoy. Let's make this anniversary celebration one to remember!

Mark your calendars and spread the word - we can't wait to celebrate with you!

RSVP by June 8 to reserve your spot!

Rotaract DC's 30th Anniversary Celebration! Tickets, Sat, Jun 15, 2024 at 6:00 PM | Eventbrite

Rotary Club of Annapolis Announces Tickets are on Sale for 79th Annual Crab Feast

By Julie Carolyn Snyder



The Rotary Club of Annapolis is excited to announce that tickets are now on sale for the 79th Annual Crab Feast, which is taking place on Friday, August 2nd at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium in Annapolis. Read More

Navy Marine Corps Stadium

Rotaract Club of Washington, D.C.

Our members, alongside <u>@rotaryinternational</u> leaders and <u>@rotary7620</u> leaders, recently attended the 2024 Capitol Hill Reception honoring Congressional Champions of Polio Eradication!

This event celebrated the remarkable contributions of legislators and health leaders who are leading the charge against polio. Let's continue working together towards a polio-free world!







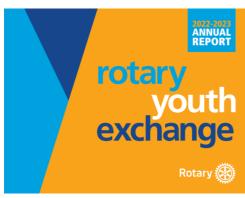
We are thrilled to share the amazing experience we had collaborating with NOVA Community Service group, Rotary District 7610 members, and Arlington Jaycees at the Arlington Open-Air Market! This event supports developmentally disabled individuals in our area, and we were honored to contribute to such a meaningful cause.





Read More

How many students went on exchange last year?



When you think about Rotary Youth Exchange, do you ever wonder just how many students experience the program each year? Or maybe how many Rotary volunteers it takes to run the program worldwide?

This newsletter is the debut of the recently reintroduced the Rotary Youth Exchange annual report, which contains answers to these questions and more for the most recent full Rotary year, 2022-2023. In the report, you can learn more about what happened across the program all over the world. There are great pieces of information and inspiring stories that will satisfy even the most curious out there among the Rotary Youth Exchange community.

READ THE REPORT

From Rotary Youth Exchange to Alberta's Top 30 Under 30



Youth Advisory Council member Maya Povhe was recently named one of Alberta's 30 Under 30! Selected for her work to make the world a more just, fair, and sustainable place, Maya credits her experiences with Rotary for influencing her growth as a global leader. **Read about** Maya's experiences in Rotary's youth programs, working toward climate justice, and beyond.

READ THE ARTICLE

Dr. John Sever's Memorial Service on June 1

Twenty Million People! That was the number on June 1st, in a memorial service for Dr. John Sever. It is the number of people who have been spared from the crippling disease of Polio because of his work.

"A Rotary member since 1964, the Chicago, Illinois-born Sever worked for almost three decades as chief of the Infectious Diseases Branch at the National Institutes of Health. Later he served as a professor of pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, microbiology, immunology and tropical medicine at the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences. He published over 600 scientific papers in these fields."



In 1979 Dr. Sever was asked what Rotary could do to make a big impact in the world, and he said, "eradicate Polio." Then, he, and Dr. Albert Sabin, had to convince the World Health Organization to take vaccines to people instead of making people go to get them. The result was a cooperative agreement between the World Health Organization and Rotary. Later, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and other organizations took on the challenge. Over the years, Rotary has provided \$28 billion to the effort.

The service on June 1 filled a large room in Ingleside at King Farm. The audience learned that, besides helping save the world from polio, John and his wife, Gerane, raised three daughters and helped raise seven grandchildren. All but two of their descendants spoke at the service and painted a picture of John as a wonderful family man. There were many anecdotes, such as, when one daughter was going to England as a Rotary Exchange Student, John went there first to "check out" the family with whom she would stay. Apparently, his engineering skills, for tasks such as building wagons and playhouses, were top notch.

Dr. Sever lived to the age of 92. He served as Governor of District 7620 and on several district committees, and was a long-time member of the Potomac Rotary Club. It was said that he appreciated becoming a professor Emeritus because the title came with a free parking space. By AG Kenneth Weiss



In Memoriam: Past District Governor Tin Tin Raschid



Tin Tin Nu Raschid, 87, of Silver Spring, Maryland, passed away peacefully on May 24, 2024. Tin Tin was born in 1936 in Siriam, Burma. She was a graduate of the University of Rangoon and did postgraduate studies in Industrial Psychology at the University of Liverpool, England. Prior to migration to the US, she worked as Finance Manager of her husband Bilal's architectural firm in Rangoon, Burma, and Karachi, Pakistan, and later as the Executive Director of the Pakistan American Cultural Center (PACC), an organization designed to develop the relationship between the peoples of Pakistan and America. In the latter role, she liaised with various ministers from the Pakistani government, officers of the American Consulate, other dignitaries, and even the Begum

Aga Khan. Passionate about floral design, she taught Ikebana, the Japanese art of arranging flowers, and went on to own and run two successful florist shops in Northern Virginia and Maryland for more than 30 years. Read More

Four-Way Test
Is it the truth?
Is it fair to all concerned?
Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

District 7620 Newsletter Team:Bob Nelson, PDG, Chair
Ashley Waters, District Public Image Chair

ROTARY'S VISION STATEMENT

TOGETHER WE SEE A WORLD WHERE PEOPLE UNITE AND TAKE ACTION TO CREATE LASTING CHANGE ACROSS THE GLOBE IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND IN OURSELVES