

San Juanico Tacloban
Rotary
Club



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A NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF SAN JUANICO - TACLOBAN CITY, PHILIPPINES



Strengthening Bonds and Serving Communities: Rotary Club of San Juanico's Impactful September



San Juanico Tacloban
Rotary
Club



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 District 3860



Rotary International President September Message

Dear fellow Rotary members,

The Magic of Rotary is belonging, and it's a feeling that can appear when you least expect it.

Earlier this year, I was in Slovakia serving as a president's representative during a six-week trip through Europe. When I wrote to Katarina Cechova, governor of District 2240 at the time, I mentioned that my grandmother Veronica Zilka grew up in a small village in the area before settling in the U.S.

It wasn't long before Cechova tracked down my grandmother's village, Jakubova Vol'a. She even organized a visit for me, where I received an unforgettable Slovakian welcome.

When I entered the community center of Jakubova Vol'a, a small crowd of people dressed in traditional Slovakian clothing greeted me. They sang with beautiful and powerful Central European voices that reminded me of my grandmother.

A lot of families play cards or games when they get together. When I was young, my father would pick up his accordion and lead my family in song. My grandmother would sing along with her impressive voice.

When I walked into the community center and heard traditional music from my childhood — when I saw a woman play the accordion the way my dad played — I suddenly felt like a little girl sitting at my grandmother's house in Monessen, Pennsylvania. I burst into tears of joy at the memories.

But the magic didn't stop there. District Governor Cechova really outdid herself. A local genealogist worked with a videographer to make a short film about my grandmother. We watched the video together in the community center.

When the video ended, I turned around and saw a man standing in the back of the room. I quickly learned that this stranger, Frantisek Zilka, was my second cousin. His grandmother and mine had been sisters. I felt like I had been struck by lightning.

I visited my newfound cousin's home, which happens to be the home where my grandmother was born. There, he shared old photographs I had never seen of my dad, my uncle, and my grandmother.

Since then, I can't stop thinking about my family of Rotary. When I refer to you as my family, I'm not just being kind. I really think of everyone in Rotary as my family. But I never would have imagined that my Rotary family would introduce me to long-lost personal family.

Sitting in that community center listening to traditional Slovakian music from my childhood filled me with joy and a profound sense of belonging. I am so grateful to District Governor Cechova and everyone who helped create that magical experience.

As members of Rotary, we have a unique opportunity to share the same magic with each other and with the world. I encourage you to consider how you can help spread that magic and ensure other members of your club — other members of our Rotary family — feel like they truly belong.

Stephanie Urchick
President, Rotary International



Rotary
District 3860



Message from the Club President

*D*ear Fellow San Juanico Rotarians,

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for your unwavering dedication and active participation in our recent club activities. Your involvement has truly demonstrated the spirit of **Service Above Self** and the strength of our Rotary community.

The **Soft Opening and Turnover of the Manuel Ngo Students Center to SPSPS** was a remarkable milestone in supporting education and student development. Our warm welcome during the **Governor's Visit** reflected our club's commitment to Rotary's vision and goals. The **Area 3B Mangrove Planting at San Juan by the Bay** was a meaningful step toward environmental preservation, reinforcing our role as stewards of nature. Lastly, the **Meet and Greet with PP Philip Tseng and the DDM Scholars** allowed us to foster international goodwill and strengthen our support for the next generation of leaders.

Thank you for your dedication, teamwork, and service. Let us continue to **sow the Magic of Rotary** as we work together for the betterment of our community and beyond!
Yours in Rotary,

Erwin Vincent G. Alcala
President, Rotary Club of San Juanico

Manuel Ngo Student Center on a local Chinese newspaper (September 15, 2024)



Manuel Ngo Student Center First Turnover (September 20, 2024)



District Governor's Club Visit (September 20, 2024)



Mangrove Planting Activity (September 21, 2024)



Meeting with DDM Project Beneficiaries (September 28, 2024)





THE OBJECT OF ROTARY

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

FIRST

The Development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service.

SECOND

High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society.

THIRD

The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life.

FOURTH

The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

THE ROTARY FOUR-WAY TEST

The Four-Way Test of the things we think, say or do

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?

2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?

3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?

4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?