

# Bios and Info for the 2023 Rotary District Conference

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**2023 Rotary District 5450 Conference**  
**Saturday, April 29, 2023**



**IMAGINE  
ROTARY**

## Main Presenters

Peace Corps Director Carol Spahn



Carol Spahn brings more than 25 years of public and private sector experience, and has worked in countries around the world on issues ranging from small business development to infectious disease prevention and women's empowerment.

Most recently, Carol served as the Peace Corps chief of operations in the Africa region covering Eastern and Southern Africa. Previously, she served a five-year term as the country director of Peace Corps/Malawi.

Carol's Peace Corps roots extend back to her service as a Volunteer from 1994 to 1996 in Romania, where she served as a small business advisor.

Before returning to the Peace Corps as country director, Carol was senior vice president of operations at Women for Women International, an organization serving marginalized and socially excluded women in conflict affected countries. Prior to that, Carol served as executive director of Accordia Global Health Foundation, a nonprofit focused on creating sustainable centers of excellence in health in Africa. She served as vice-president, chief financial officer, and treasurer of Small Enterprise Assistance Funds, a nonprofit private equity fund manager that invests in small- and medium-sized companies in developing countries. She has also held positions at leading private sector institutions, including GE Capital and KPMG Peat Marwick.

Carol holds a bachelor's degree from the Catholic University of America and a master's degree in international development from the George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs.

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### Veterinarian / Comedian Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald



Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald has performed stand-up comedy and been a staple of the Denver comedy scene since 1986. Since that time, Kevin has opened for and worked with such diverse and legendary performers as Joan Rivers, Bob Hope, Kevin Nealon, Brian Regan, and Norm McDonald. He is probably best known for his eleven seasons on the popular Animal Planet television series *Emergency Vets*. Other television appearances include, *The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson*, *The Maury Povich Show*, and *The Today Show* with Matt Lauer. Radio appearances include, *The Howard Stern Show*, one of the most popular segments ever of NPR's *Wait Wait Don't Tell Me*, as well as being featured on Paul Harvey's *The Rest of the Story*. Dr. Fitzgerald put himself through school bouncing for various rock bands including The Who, Willie Nelson, Parliament Funkadelic, and The Rolling Stones.

He believes his unusual dual-career as doctor and comedian offers him a unique perspective on life. Dr. Fitzgerald also believes none of us laugh enough.

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### CSU President Amy Parsons



The Colorado State University Board of Governors confirmed Amy Parsons as the 16th president of CSU effective Feb. 1, 2023, following a highly competitive, nationwide search process.

Amy served in various senior executive leadership roles at CSU and the CSU System and combines her higher education experience with a private sector background. Prior to her present role as CEO of Mozzafiato, LLC, Parsons was executive vice chancellor of the CSU System from 2015-2020; vice president for university operations at CSU from 2009-2015; deputy general counsel and associate legal counsel at CSU Fort Collins from 2004-2009. While working on campus, she taught courses for eight years in the Student Affairs in

Higher Education master's degree program. She worked as a litigation attorney for Denver-firm Brownstein, Hyatt, & Farber (now Brownstein, Hyatt, Farber, Schreck) from 1999-2004.

Parsons holds a bachelor's degree in political science from CSU and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Colorado. "I am humbled and honored to accept the responsibility of becoming the 16th president of Colorado State University. I will be doing a lot of listening in my first months on the job and working with the campus community to move forward the excellent work that is already in progress. I look forward to doing this important work together and, together, leading CSU into a new era of achievement and excellence. This university deserves our very best, and I will give you mine."

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### ShelterBox President Kerri Murray



Kerri Murray serves as President of the global disaster relief charity, ShelterBox USA. Kerri has worked since 2009 in disaster relief, often serving on the front lines of disaster. Prior to working in nonprofits, she spent 13 years as a pharmaceutical executive for GlaxoSmithKline. Kerri is a proud member of the Montecito Rotary Club and served for six years as Board President for GIRLS ROCK Santa Barbara. No stranger to helping others, listen to hear how the disaster in Haiti and other coincidences helped Kerri decide to work with ShelterBox USA.

Based in Santa Barbara CA, Shelter USA has provided shelter, warmth, and dignity as it responds urgently to earthquake, volcano, flood, hurricanes, and other world emergencies for 21 years, 300 emergencies, 107 Countries, and more than 2.2 million people. Providing shelter, essential household supplies, and a team to help during a crisis is her gift to help build a far better world.

Most recently, Kerri has been working in Ukraine, where she spent large parts of 2022 and 2023 assisting the 11 million displaced people there.

#### ABOUT SHELTERBOX USA

Since 2000, ShelterBox has provided disaster survivors with shelter, warmth and dignity following more than 240 disasters in over 90 countries. ShelterBox instantly responds to earthquakes, volcanoes, floods, hurricanes, cyclones, tsunamis or conflict by delivering boxes of aid and other supplies. Each iconic green ShelterBox contains a disaster relief tent, stove, blankets and water filter, among other tools for survival. Vital ShelterBox Volunteers in Colorado





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### Kathleen Pierz



Kathleen Pierz is a ShelterBox USA Ambassador. Based in Colorado, USA, she has a passion for taking photos everywhere. She combines her passion for ShelterBox and photography to raise funds to shelter more families.

She recently retired after a career in International Strategic Planning. She has lived and worked in countries around the world, always deeply interested in culture and languages. Part of her joy is capturing photos that tell the story of that place and moment in time. She takes over 15,000 photos every year, documenting the world around her.

Kathleen is the president of the Rotary Club of Brighton, Colorado, A Paul Harris Fellow, and a published author. She has three grown children and a sweet dog she recently adopted from the Ute Reservation. In addition to photography, she almost always has a home improvement project going, and is currently finishing the build-out on her second camper van. She also enjoys cooking, sewing and painting and hopes to find a ceramics studio nearby. She plans to hit the road soon with her cameras in hand, her dog on a leash and well-worn hiking boots on her feet.

### David Addor

ShelterBox Ambassador David Addor (pictured far left) joined the ShelterBox Hall of Fame in 2019 by raising more than \$100,000 to provide emergency shelter to families in need! A longtime volunteer, he is a recipient of the President's Volunteer Service Award and a regional lead for the ShelterBox Ambassador team.



Addor is also a member of the Rotary Club of Aurora Fitzsimons in Aurora, CO and is very active in Rotary District 5450. He participates in a range of activities varying from presentations to Rotary Clubs to representing ShelterBox at a Rotary Zone Institute to attending a street fair for international world peace. He is also one of the longest standing Ambassadors on the ShelterBox team.

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### Bill Magnusson and Jude Kofie

Bill Magnusson is the epitome of all that Rotary represents.



In an act of kindness that will have an impact for years to come, Bill Magnusson, a piano tuner from Colorado, has given a talented young pianist a grand piano, lessons and the offer to tune the piano once a month for the rest of Magnusson's life.

The act didn't come out of the blue. Magnusson saw a news story about

an 11-year-old boy, Jude Kofie, who learned to play an old keyboard in his father's basement. His father, Isaiah Kofie, gave Jude a larger keyboard to help him develop his skills. Jude Kofie has an immense gift for playing what he hears, and has become the lead keyboardist in his local church, but had never had a formal lesson.

Magnusson, who describes the young pianist's talent as "Mozart-level", learnt Kofie's parents immigrated from Ghana and were raising four children, as well as sending over money to support their family in their home country.

"What resources are left over to help this special little soul?" Magnusson asked.

Using his father's inheritance and his knowledge of pianos for sale in the area, Magnusson bought a \$15,000 grand piano, spent 17 hours tuning it, and promised to tune it once a month for the rest of his life. He also introduced Kofie to a local piano teacher and pays for ongoing piano lessons.

Through these thoughtful gifts, Magnusson has become part of the Kofie family. "Somebody to just love your son like that by making sure that his future is secured, we are super thankful," Kofie's father said. "The ripple effects for the next 70 or 80 years are incalculable," Magnusson said on his reason for the gifts. "It's not just for [Jude]. It's for all the people he's going to touch."

## Breakout Presenters

### Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs of Colorado)

#### RPCVs President Samantha Temple



Samantha is a fourth-year PhD candidate in the School of Public Affairs. As a researcher, she studies NGO partnerships, power dynamics, and USAID policy. Samantha is also a fundraiser with seven years of experience in international nonprofit development. As the co-founder and Director of a Denver-based international organization, Samantha works with a network of local NGOs in East Africa to improve and promote the development of the third sector. In this role she mentors a Tanzanian NGO network on strategic partnerships, professional development, and sector independence.

Samantha also works to educate funders, donors, and development professionals on the importance of local partnerships and local ownership. Samantha believes strongly in shifting development frameworks and tipping the scale toward locally-led development. She teaches courses in nonprofit management and international development. Prior to joining the SPA PhD cohort, Samantha received her Master's in Public Administration from the University of Colorado Denver and her BA in International Relations from Knox College.

#### Past RPCVs President Charlie Hunt



Charlie served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Vanuatu from 2006 – 2008 as a business enterprise volunteer. He has been active in RPCVs of Colorado with the Welcome Wagon Committee for the past six years. He has also served as the Denver LoDo Rotary club president, international service chair and club foundation president. Charlie's club started a satellite group whose members all served as Peace Corps Volunteers, which doubled the size of the club and brought new energy. He has worked with other RPCV Rotarians to promote the signing of the partnership agreement between Peace Corps and Rotary International. Charlie retired from the Downtown Denver Partnership in 2018 where he worked in operations for the Downtown Denver Business Improvement District and the 14th St. General Improvement. Charlie served as the subject matter expert for growing trees in a downtown, and he was dubbed the “wizard of watts” for meeting the electrical needs of the 16th St. Mall vendors.



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### Xmas Miracle Shop - Principal Janace Fischer



Janace Fischer has worked in Jefferson County Schools for 23 years; She has served as a school social worker, assistant principal and principal. During her childhood she lived in 10 different states and moved almost every year that she was in school. She graduated from Rocky Mountain High School in Ft. Collins, received her Bachelors degree from University of Colorado at Denver, her Masters degree from New York University and her Principal certification from the University of Denver.

Janace is passionate about serving marginalized populations and has spent her career doing this work in a variety of contexts. She is married to Andrew and they have a 17 year old daughter named Sienna and thirteen year old twins named Jason and Brianne. They also have a very spoiled 4 year old Mastador, named Luna.

Janace is excited about Partnering with the Rotary Club of Wheat Ridge in The Miracle Shop. The Miracle Shop had its inaugural opening two years ago and has supported over 200 families with purchasing gifts for their children during the holidays.





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### Global Access 2030 with Rob Miller and Roger Cabbage



Over the past twenty years as an industrial designer, Rob has applied his human centered design approach to engineer new products and develop patents for both international companies and regional start-ups. After co-inventing a low-cost water filter and seeing the impact of social design first-hand, he was asked to take the position of CEO at Global Access, 2030 ([www.ga2030.org](http://www.ga2030.org)).

Roger, the founder of Global Access, met with Rob to share his mission to reduce the number of children that die every day from unsafe water in developing nations. They determined that the water filter adapter would be completed in several hours as a pro bono contribution to this cause. Now several years later, Rob is leading the development of new clean and safe water solutions in remote communities in over ten countries

Rob and Roger developed water filtration systems based on research in remote communities in the Peruvian Amazon. Rob learned that simplicity was the key to adopting new routines.

The system has minimal parts; cleaning needs no disassembly, tools, or backwashing. Rob's goal is to slowly remove charities from the clean water equation by uplifting entrepreneurs who wish to support community health. Toward that, Rob is making programs in Uganda, Rwanda, and Peru more self-reliant while growing infrastructure and data collection in expanding locations.



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### District Polio Plus Chair Marny Eulberg, MD



Marny is a polio survivor and a family physician, who has run a post-polio clinic in the Denver metro area since 1985. She is active in polio-related organizations in Colorado and nationally. She initiated the Colorado Post-Polio Wellness Camp in 2014 and, in 2015, a mobile "post-polio clinic" that travels throughout Colorado.

Marny's speaker topics include:

- What the polio virus does to the body; how it is transmitted (pathophysiology/pathology)
- The history of polio
- Personal and professional experiences with polio
- What is Post-Polio Syndrome?
- Current statistics about the polio eradication effort: cases/dollars/etc.
- Benefits of the polio eradication effort despite not yet being "At Zero"

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### Crutches 4 Africa - Dave Talbot



David contracted polio at age 2 ½ years, just 2 weeks after the announcement that the Salk vaccination had been developed. He went through several years of rehab. David put his focus on overcoming his physical challenges and even ran with the bulls in Pamplona, Spain.

He felt he had whipped polio, but after working in several careers, he now is back in the struggle against polio (post polio syndrome with its muscle and bone pain and increasing loss of strength in his polio-affected leg). After 45 years of freedom from mobility equipment, he now uses crutches and a leg brace. In the fall of 2016, he experienced a life threatening heart attack but has made an excellent recovery.

In 2005, when David was in Uganda with his wife, Candice, they witnessed a incredible need for mobility devices. This was the seed that grew into Crutches 4 Africa, which has delivered over 100,000 free mobility devices to people in need in 16 countries in Africa and 10 other countries in the developing world.

David is a Paul Harris Fellow, and was the 2011 recipient of the International Service Award for a Polio Free World.



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### Tamie Fennell for Pediatric Mental Health



Tamara (Tamie) Fennell has been working as a mental health advocate for two plus decades in Virginia and in Colorado.

As a past NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Fairfax, Virginia Affiliate Board Member, a NAMI Virginia State Program Trainer and NAMI Colorado Douglas / Arapahoe County Program Facilitator, Tamie has led educational programs to help caregivers and family members understand and support those living with serious mental illness. Tamie has also given presentations and in-service initiatives raising awareness of mental health issues in educational settings.

Her work with law enforcement on crisis intervention training programs has been especially fulfilling, as has speaking before state legislators to enact change. Since moving to Colorado in 2015, Tamie has worked in non-profit operations, nonprofit fundraising and event coordination. Tamie lives in Roxborough Park with husband Kurt, is serving District 5450 as Area 4 Assistant Governor and is a Past President and current member of the Rotary Club of Highlands Ranch.

Our House is on Fire! How do you react when you hear that cry?

- Where's the exit?
- How do I get out?
- Can I help others?
- Can I help extinguish it?

Whatever your thoughts, it is an emergency and requires urgency!

Fellow Rotarians, our house is on fire and that fire is consuming our children. Our young people are experiencing a mental health crisis which has been worsened by the isolation, stress and anxiety created by the covid-19 pandemic. Today, suicide is a LEADING cause of death for youth in Colorado starting at age 10. This number is nearly double the national average.

Through the Rotary Endowed Fellowship for Pediatric Mental Health, Rotarians assist Children's Hospital recruit and train pediatric psychiatry providers to increase the number of kids in crisis receiving treatment. Once fully funded at \$500,000 the endowment's income will be used to support a Rotary Fellow who is working to pursue a career as a pediatric mental health provider (psychologist, psychiatrist, advanced practice provider or masters level clinician).