



*Why Rotary* page 8

**EDITOR'S NOTES:**

Whether the month of May was named after the Greek goddess Maia (Roman goddess of same name) or after the maiores, “ancestors”, no one is certain. What we do know is that Rotarians in District 5280 did not skip a beat in April! Beginning with Governor Elsa, who took to the skies in her blazing chariot to attend and participate in many wonderful Rotary events near and far. Club members were out and about Doing Good, the Rotary way.

In this issue Governor Elsa brims with pride as she shares and describes recent events in April. You can see highlight photos of these events in this issue. We see a photo of a young Paul Harris, as an aspiring attorney in the “wild and woolly” Chicago of 1896. In his personal remarks and the brief narrative that follows, we can see a glimpse of that intrinsic virtue that would later come to define “Service Above Self”.

Why Rotary? A question posed to three Rotarians from different clubs. They were each asked to ponder the question and to describe in their own words, what it is that attracts them to Rotary and why Rotary is important to them. We invite you to read their accounts which are contained in this issue. Like they, we, too, should think about the question as we embark on the future of Rotary, both for ourselves and for our club.

For many, Cinco de Mayo is a burning cry to celebrate and be merry with family and friends. This was precisely the case for members of the Conference Planning Team. However, this editor is aware that the Team, which met on this day, made sure to first organize and plan the finishing touches on our District Conference, “An Adventure on Gillham’s Island”, before the taps opened wide with margaritas. The District Conference is only days away. Depending on if you fly, drive, sail, swim, or crawl, let’s make shore and rendezvous on Gillham’s island!

Governor Elsa’s sky chariot just blazed by and out was tossed, a message in a bottle. From the bottle to your screen, let’s sit back, relax, and enjoy a good read. First, let’s begin with Governor Elsa.....

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

Governor Elsa's Message	Page 3
Paul Harris: The Need for Rotary	Page 4
Nepal Disaster Relief	Page 5
We Are This Close	Page 5
District Conference	Page 5
RI International Convention	Page 6
Youth Scholarships	Page 7
Calendar	Page 7
PDG Eli Gauna: Why Rotary	Page 8
Teresa Chung: Why Rotary	Page 8
Matt Schaff: Why Rotary	Page 9
RYLA	Page 9
Ethics Forum	Page 10
Cuba	Page 10
Rotary Day of Service	Page 11
Presidents' Fellowship & Dinner	Page 12
The Birds	Page 12

**Cover Photo: Governor Elsa Gillham at wheel of vintage 1957 Ford Fairlane convertible in Havana, Cuba. Typical of many such automobiles found in normal everyday use.**

## From Governor Elsa...

**W**e are in the homestretch and what a ride it has been so far.

Rotary International Director Steve Snyder gave the opening remarks at the joint District 5280 and 5320 Rotaract Ethics Forum Competition held last April 11, 2015 at Loyola Marymount University. Students from various universities presented their arguments on controversial topics such as Physician Assisted Suicide, Capital Punishment, and Justification of War, etc. District 5320 Governor Jim Paddock and I gave out awards to the winning teams. It was an outstanding program with highly qualified judges. Thank you, Chair John Green, LA5, for an outstanding job.

Rotary Day of Service was on the same April 11 day. Clubs from Santa Clarita to San Pedro were doing their community service projects like building sustainable gardens, building homes for veterans, stuffing the bus with food drive, providing outfits for local students for proms and graduations, river clean ups, and family centers and school cleanups. It was a great and sunny day for these ordinary District 5280 Rotarians doing extraordinary things for their communities. There were lots of Rotary moments for those who participated. Rotary Day of Service Chair Olivia Patterson-Ryans did a great job coordinating the event. Thank you, Olivia.

Fun and fellowship was had by us at the April 15th to the 21st trip to Cuba. We were transported back to the 50's in Havana, Cuba, where collectible cars abound as well as many beautiful buildings. We were shown where tobacco is grown, how it was harvested and how it is prepared and made into the famous Cuban cigars. The people were friendly and welcoming. We've made new friends and were all so happy



**Governor Elsa and daughter Janice Prior, also a member of the Wilshire Club, at the club's Easter Bunny Hop.**

to see Havana before Starbucks and McDonalds. Thank you, Val Velasco, for leading our group on a cultural, educational and fellowship tour.

Driving to Blue Jay in very dense fog, wearing layers of clothing, hats and gloves, sleeping in bunk beds in a cabin full of teenagers – this we did for RYLA. What an exhilarating and fun experience Larry and I had with 200 plus high school students being trained to be leaders. Our hats off to Elyse Beardsley and Joe Harding for providing a life changing experience for our future leaders. It was great to see many Rotarians spending the weekend at RYLA April 24-26.

The last Presidents Dinner of the year was held at Del Rey Yacht Club, April 30. Thank you, Robert Ippolito and Melody St. John, for a fun fellowship event. I am so proud of our Presidents who have bonded and shared ideas and completed projects together throughout the year. You are all dedicated leaders.

Speaking of our great Club Presidents, the District Conference is around the corner. We have done a lot of great Rotary work this year.

Our Club Presidents have worked very hard. They started planning a year and a half or so ago and then took that plan and implemented it to the best of their ability. This resulted in your clubs growing stronger in service and in fellowship. This truly is the gift that Presidents and other club leaders give to their members.

The best way that you can recognize your President's hard work this year is to join them in celebration at our District Conference. The District Conference is a celebration of all your accomplishments this year. It has been a VIBRANT year and it's time to party. Arturo Velasquez, District Conference Chair, and his committee have planned a great weekend at a terrific venue. Join the fun and get onboard!. Don't be left out. You'll be glad you came.

See you at the District Conference!

*Light Up Rotary  
and Be Vibrant!*

*Elsa Gillham*

## Paul Harris: The Need for Rotary

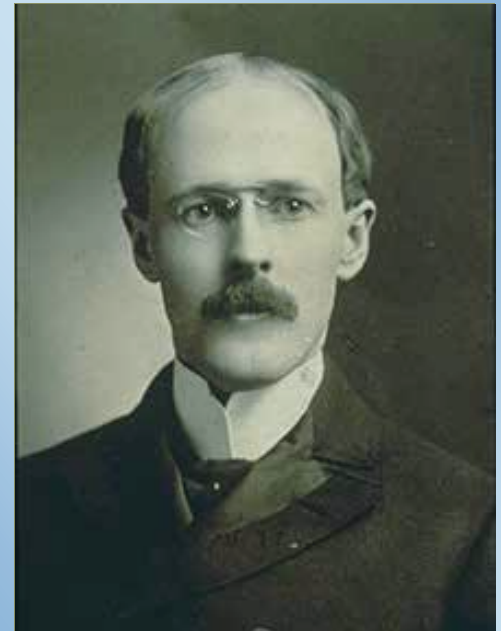
By Rotary Heritage Communications staff

In My Road to Rotary, Paul Harris recalled how his longing for friendship like that he had known in Vermont was one of his inspirations for founding Rotary in 1905. But in 1935, in *This Rotarian Age*, he wrote of the need for Rotary, from a wider perspective:

“It is conceivable that Rotary might have been born under sunnier skies, in a climate more equable, and in a city of mental composure; but many will contend that there could have been no more favorable birthplace for Rotary than paradoxical Chicago, where the battle for civic righteousness was being so fiercely waged.”

Harris moved to Chicago in 1896, and found it a stark contrast to what he had experienced in his youth in Vermont. In *This Rotarian Age*, he recalls Chicago as a city with poor sanitation, harsh working conditions, corrupt politicians, and economic hardships—“business was in a bad way” and “community spirit was at a low ebb.” Yet amidst the corruption and pollution, there were “hundreds of good deeds, unheralded and unknown.” Harris includes the recovery from the great Chicago fire of 1871, the creation of Hull House in 1889, and the founding of many universities and museums, as examples of the enthusiasm and determination of community leaders to do good in Chicago.

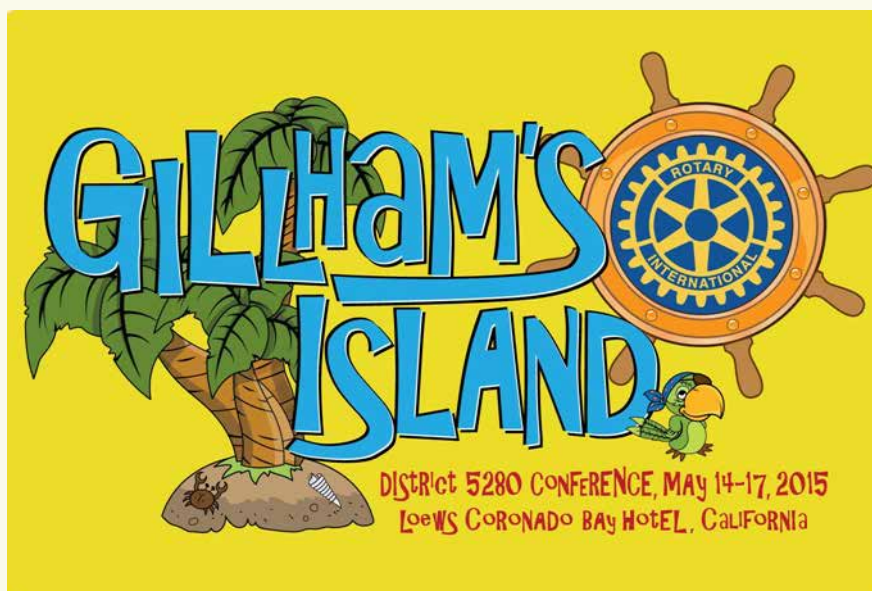
Today, Rotarians remain committed to doing good in their own communities and around the world. Share with others not in Rotary, what you, together with your club, do in your community to make it a better place to live and work.



Paul Harris, soon after he started practicing law in Chicago in 1896

## Nepal Earthquake Disaster Relief Fund

As you are well aware, on April 25, a magnitude 7.9 earthquake hit Nepal. Our Rotary District 5280 fully understands the urgent need and is organizing a relief effort. Both immediate and long-term action plans need to be enacted. For immediate action, together with RI's endorsement, any club-generated financial support can be channeled through either 1.) The D5280 Disaster Relief Fund or 2.) Disaster Aid USA (provider of ShelterBox, etc.). Please go to District web site for more information.



Chair Arturo Velasquez, member of the Woodland Hills Club, and wife Sandra



## *Rotary District 5280 Reception*

*Hosted by District Governor 2015-2016 D. J. Sun*

**Sunday, June 7**

**12:30-2:00PM**

### **Restaurant Camaue**

Holiday Inn Sao Paulo Parque Anhembi  
Rua Professor Milton Rodriguez #100 Parque Anhembi  
Sao Paulo, 02009-040, Brazil  
(within walking distance of the Convention Center)

**\$15/person**

Checks payable to "Rotary District 5280".  
Mail to 8939 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Suite 210, Los Angeles, CA 90045

### **RSVP**

by May 22 to [office@rotary5280.org](mailto:office@rotary5280.org) or 310-670-9792  
Please indicate the number of attendees



## Youth Scholarships

It is that time of year for you to select candidates for the youth scholarships we award in conjunction with the California Community Foundation. The deadline for receipt of application forms is May 30, 2015. There are three types of scholarship awards:

1. Patricia Kim Scholarship - one \$1,000 scholarship awarded to an exemplary Interact member; the sponsoring Rotary Club does not match these funds; (winner will be selected by the District Scholarship Committee)
2. Meredith K. Olson Rotaract Award - two \$500 awards to active Rotaract members; the sponsoring Rotary Club does not match these funds; (winners will be selected by the District Scholarship Committee);
3. Approximately 25 Jules Zentner Scholarships of \$500/each awarded to either Interact members or other outstanding youth in your local high school. These awards must be matched by at least a \$500 award from your club.

District 5280 has 63 active clubs. In order for us to be "fair to all concerned," each club may submit ONE application for each of the three awards. Receipt of

the application forms at our district office will be time stamped and taken in order of receipt.

If we do not receive sufficient applications to award one Zentner per club, the committee may ask you to submit a second application. We will abide by the Four Way Test.

If you have any questions, please contact me either by e-mail at [rlhlindsey@aol.com](mailto:rlhlindsey@aol.com) or by calling me at: 818-790-6643. Additional information is available on the district web site.

With joy in Rotary,  
Rahla Frohlich, District 5280 Scholarship Chair



Rahla Frohlich, Scholarship Chair, and husband PDG Drew Frohlich, both members of the Crescenta Canada Club.

## District Calendar

### May | Promote Int. Convention

14-17 District Conference at Lowes Coronado

### June | Rotary Fellowships

6-9 Rotary Intl Convention-Sao Paulo  
20 District Assembly

## WHY ROTARY?

By PDG Eli Gauna, a member of the Redondo Beach Club

**1** 970/71: I was recruited by Rotary with promises of fame and fortune - self serving? Yes. Stuck around for the net-working opportunities (I'm a lawyer).

1972/74: I enjoyed the fellowship of weekly meetings and friendly social/recreational events, e.g., golf, poker nights, bowling league etc. - truly a "knife and forker."

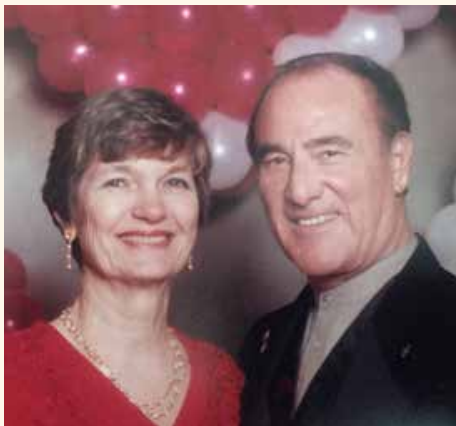
1974: At the Rotary District Assembly, my first Community Service experience involved a group of challenged (at the time referred to as mongoloid) persons who were introduced to us. I was assigned to chaperon a 20-year old young lady (mentally 5 years old and verbally and physically "handicapped"). I knew "these" people existed but I had "never touched one," and one had never touched me.

I guess I was never meant to be spiritually nor emotionally dead - I WAS TOUCHED and allowed myself to be touched and remain so to this day.

Over my Rotary years (1972-current) I have had many a "Rotary Moment" that has reinforced my love for Rotary's motto Service Above Self.

I am a better human being because of Rotary and the beautiful friends I have made as we trudge the Rotary Road of Service are priceless.

Join me, you'll be happy you did. I'll be your friend and you can be mine!



PDG Eli Gauna and wife Alice

## Why Rotary?

By Teresa Chung, a member of the Thai Town Club

**A**s a member of the Rotary Club of Thai Town in East Hollywood, I have surprisingly found myself able to connect in more meaningful ways to my home country of Thailand through our clean water projects and fundraising to support children in need. Traveling back to Thailand as a Rotarian has given me new perspectives on some of the cultural and social issues while affording me a wider network of like-minded people to help effect change.



Teresa Chung and Rueben Lim, also a member of the Thai Town Club

I have been inspired by other Rotarians like Jim Dyer who gave so much of himself to Rotary and causes in which he believed such as Shelterbox. In Rotary, I have learned that the more you give of yourself, the more you actually gain. In working with our youth through Interact and our youth competitions, I have been inspired by their talents and unique points of view that remind me to keep an open mind to new ideas and, in turn, empower them to help bring communities together and achieve personal goals.

While helping others is the core of Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self", what you come to learn after years of working to live by that motto is that doing so is actually one of the greatest ways one can improve and grow as a person.



## WHY ROTARY?

By Matt Schaff, a member of the Woodland Hills Club

I was in Peru four years ago leading a Group Study Exchange team of four young non-Rotarians. We were in the city of Trujillo and after an early breakfast we were taken by local Rotarians to see a project. We turned down a side road and approached a large dump on the outskirts of town. Trash was everywhere as fires burned off in the distance. The sky was smoky and as far as the eye could see the vista was an eerie, colorless, grey apocalypse. Soon we approached a large compound with 18 foot concrete walls. As the large metal gates swung open I was expecting us to be visiting a recycling facility.

Imagine my surprise when suddenly the vivid colors made you forget what the outside world was like. It was like a scene from the movies. We had left Kansas for the City of Oz, for inside the compound was an elementary school. Happy students in uniform were there to greet us. We had a tour and visited the kitchen where staff and young people shared breakfast and lunch. We visited each classroom and gave the students an impromptu English lesson and answered questions. We saw the playgrounds, soccer field, vegetable gardens, and the animals they kept. We were amazed by the self contained wetlands which served as a water

reclamation system providing a means to recycle their waste water.

Why would Rotary build a school here? Our question was answered when we climbed to the top of the only building that had a view of the exterior of the Eden we were in. We had forgotten the outside world and the Dante's Inferno we had witnessed as we drove in. As we focused on our view of the horizon, we could see not far off in the dull grey distance, a small village. It was in that moment we realized that the parents of these children were trash pickers and these were their homes. It was later explained to us that the parents had no way to send their children off to school so Rotary brought the school to them. These young people now had a chance to get an education and remove themselves from their circumstances. That is what Rotary does best at home and around the world. Rotarians recognize a need and provide a solution. We should all be proud to support and belong to such a fine organization.



Matt Schaff and wife Wendy

## RYLA | April 24-26



RYLA arrivals



RYLA Co-Chairs Elyse Beardsley and Joe Harding, members of the El Segundo Club



One of many RYLA group photo opportunities

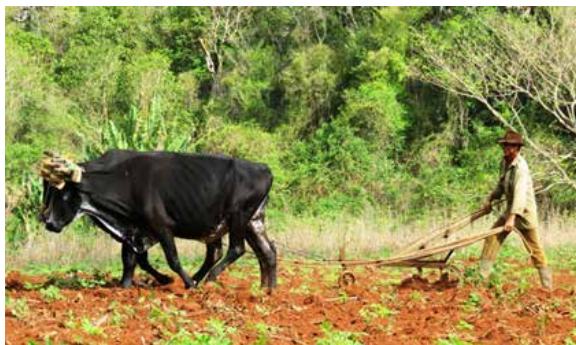
# CUBA

By Natalie Whitsett, a member of the Crenshaw-Watts Club

**R**otarians, have you ever visited a foreign country that made you feel like you were home? Well, for me, this was Cuba. I don't know whether it's a past life experience or just that the people were so charming and friendly. But the food, the drinks, the music, and the old American cars (yes, they were everywhere) made Cuba a special place for me. Now don't get me wrong, Cuba needs upgrading and painting, but it is the best kept secret in the Caribbean. Old Havana and the countryside are typical old Spanish Colonial. My experience in Cuba was an "aha" moment and I am glad that I was joined by members of my Rotarian family.



Natalie Whitsett



# Rotaract Ethics Forum | April 11



USC Rotaract Club



David Igboanugo, member of CSU Rotaract Club with winning presentation



Ethics Forum Chair John Green, a member of the LA5 Club



LMU Rotaract Club

# Rotary Day of Service (RDoS) | April 11



**SAN PEDRO ROTARY CLUB DAY OF SERVICE  
BRING ALONG A FRIEND!!!  
SATURDAY APRIL 11, 2015**

at  
**WILLENBERG CAREER AND TRANSITION CENTER  
308 WEYMOUTH AVENUE  
SAN PEDRO 90732  
[310-548-1371](tel:310-548-1371)**

- 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM – CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST PROVIDED
- 9:00 - 12 NOON - VARIOUS WORK STATIONS INSIDE AND OUT
  - GARDENING (Bring your favorite gloves, hat, hand tools)
  - GREEN HOUSE ORGANIZATION
  - PAINTING CLAY POTS
  - INSTRUCTIONAL LAB INVENTORY
  - INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS PREPARATION
  - LIGHT FURNITURE ASSEMBLY (Bring your favorite tools)
  - HISTORIC PHOTO SORTING AND ORGANIZATION
  - SORTING AND CLEANING STORAGE CLOSET(S)
  - Not to worry; work tools will also be provided, so just bring yourself and a friend!

**PARKING:**  
FROM THE INTERSECTION OF WESTERN AVE AND 1ST STREET; EAST ON 1ST STREET SOUTH ON HARBOR VIEW. ENTER SCHOOL GROUNDS FROM GATE AT 3RD AND HARBOR VIEW (EAST SIDE OF CAMPUS). PARK ON SCHOOL YARD. THE GARDEN WILL BE IN VIEW AT THE NORTH END OF CAMPUS AS YOU ENTER THE GATE.

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST, BEVERAGES, INSIDE WORK STATIONS AND RESTROOMS LOCATED INSIDE BUILDING ADJACENT TO PARKING AREA.

Announcement by San Pedro Club



Members of Woodland Hills Club making lunches at Pacific Lodge Boys Home



Members of Bellflower Club playing games and entertaining residents at senior center



RDoS Chair Olivia Patterson-Ryans, a member of the Inglewood Club, and husband Robert Ryans, a member of the Crenshaw-Watts Club

Last Presidents' Fellowship and Dinner for 2014-15 | April 30



Governor Elsa and leaders enjoying the evening at Presidents' Fellowship and Dinner for the year.



I'm going to the bar with my jumper cables.

Ok. But you better just have a drink and not start anything!

