

by Art Harrington



### **Our new treasurer**

In response to Paul's appeal last week, Ed Marin has stepped up to serve as our Club Treasurer next year.

Ed is a Financial Advisor with Chase Bank. He has been a member of our club for about a year and a half, but has prior Rotary club experience before moving to Bullhead City. We really appreciate Ed's willingness to assume this very important position in our club.

**Celebrating Christmas** by Art Harrington

## **Christmas Dinner is Friday**

The beautiful Laughlin Ranch Grill will be hosting our Club's Christmas Dinner Meeting this Friday, December 19th. Our



fellowship gets underway with a no host bar at 6:00, followed by a sumptuous buffet at 7:00.

Club members, spouses and guests are all in for a treat at this very special evening **Sharon Rains** has planned for us. The cost for members is included in your dues. The cost for members' spouses and guests is \$35.

If you have not purchased the tickets you need yet, call Sharon today! You can reach her at 704-6300 at work, on her cell phone at 444-2854 - or contact her at srains@amfam.com

**REMINDER:** Our club will not meet at noon this Thursday, since we will be gathering instead on Friday night for our Christmas celebration dinner. We will also be "dark" the next two weeks, due to Christmas and New Years Day both falling on Thursdays this year.

Made those donations yet? by Art Harrington



Contributions with big benefits

Last week we reminded you of the Arizona Tax Credits that are available when a couple donates \$400 (or an individual \$200) before the end of the year to the **Arizona Rotary Vocational Fund.** If you itemize deductions, you get every cent of that back as a credit on your state tax return - *plus* being able to take it as a charitable deduction on your federal tax return as well.

A completely different \$400 tax credit is available if you donate another \$400 to Mohave High School for our **Interact Club**.

Forms to assist you with your donations are available from Harrington Financial Services.

(**CAUTION:** You must be itemizing deductions to get the credit for the Vocational Fund donation, and some limitations may apply. The state tax credit forms to be used are Form 322 and Form 321 for these credits. Consult your tax professional about the application to your particular tax situation.)

#### **Our Foundation at work**

## Making the connections



# Former Rotary Peace Scholar starts program for abducted children

Charles Ojok counts himself lucky - twice. He was abducted at age 11 by rebel troops in his native Uganda and forced to become a child soldier. Four years later, he escaped and returned to his village, only to shoulder parental responsibilities for his two younger brothers. Operating a motorcycle taxi, he earned barely enough for food and school tuition. Now he has the opportunity to learn the construction skills that will enable him to build a better future.

The US\$1,200 cost of Ojok's four-year vocational training will be funded by a new education sponsorship program developed by **Francesca Del Mese**, a 2002-04 Rotary World Peace Fellow from Great Britain who graduated from the University of Queensland in Australia. Del Mese, a lawyer working for the British government, traveled unofficially to Uganda in 2007 to advise a London-based nonprofit concerned with human rights violations stemming from the East African country's 20-year civil war. Del Mese interviewed dozens of the some 30,000 Ugandan children who have survived abduction.

"I typically would hear that they had been taken in the middle of

the night by rebels, their families were murdered in front of them, and they were beaten and forced to fight for several years before either escaping or being released," Del Mese says.

Having missed the chance to receive an education, those who returned home found only menial jobs with meager wages, such as picking up garbage or digging holes. "Without education, their chances of getting better jobs are hopeless," stresses Del Mese. "Many [interviewees] were specific about what they wanted to be: teachers, tailors, builders, accountants."

Working with a Ugandan NGO, Del Mese gathered the stories of several youths like Ojok and presented them to District 1260 (England) Rotarians in late 2007. Soon after, a club and an individual Rotarian indicated their interest in sponsoring Ojok and another former child soldier.

Photo: Francesca Del Mese (left) and a colleague from the United Nations Special Court for Sierra Leone in Freetown, where Del Mese worked during her Rotary World Peace Fellowship

**Dividends on Rotary dollars** by Art Harrington



#### **Recognize this man?**

He is **Paul Volcker**, chair of the board of the Group of Thirty in Washington, D.C., an international economic and monetary consulting group. He served in numerous U.S. government posts for 30 years, most prominently as chair of the Federal Reserve, and has held many positions in banking and economics.

Paul studied economics as a 1951-52 Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar at the London School of Economics.

Former Rotary Ambassadorial Scholars are today some of the most respected leaders in the world. Rotary's investment in their scholarships for international studies continues to pay dividends and to help shape this world as a better place.

Have you made your contribution to The Rotary Foundation yet this year?