



RY 2017-18

**ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**



eBulletin of the

Rotary
Club of Pudu, Malaysia



Table of Contents

Programme / Diary of Events	<u>3</u>
Editorial / President's Message	<u>4</u>
Club Proceedings, Minutes of Meeting	<u>5</u>
The Meeting in Pictures	<u>6, 7</u>
Speaker's CV	<u>8</u>
Speaker's CV (cont'd)	<u>9</u>
Speaker's Text	<u>10</u>
Speaker's Text (cont'd)	<u>11</u>
Joint D3300-3310 Vocational Service Project	<u>12</u>
Joint D3300-3310 Vocational Service Project	<u>13</u>
DG's Visit—First Day 14 Jan 2018	<u>14</u>
Announcements	<u>15</u>
Know Your DG	<u>16</u>
RI News	<u>17, 18, 19</u>
On the Lighter Side	<u>20, 21</u>

Date : 15th January 2018

Issue No : 1713

Berita Pudu

PROGRAMME FOR TODAY

Speaker: DG Dr Manohar Kurup
 Subject: DG's Official Address
 Duty Table: Rtn Chee TK
 Fellowship: Rtn Albert Chia
 Finemaster: PP Gary Lim
 Introducing: PP Ng Sim Bee
 Thanking: PP Dato Muslim Ayob

NEXT MEETING — 5 FEB 2018

Speaker: TBA
 Subject: TBA
 Duty Table: TBA
 Fellowship: TBA
 Finemaster: TBA
 Introducing: TBA
 Thanking: TBA

DECEMBER—VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH

DIARY OF EVENTS—JAN 2018

Date	Time	Programme	Venue
05 Jan	6.30 pm	Community Svc meeting	RSC Dataran
08 Jan	6.30 pm	Regular Club mtg: Employer-Employee Nite	Shangri la Hotel
08 Jan	8.30 pm	International Svc mtg	Shangri la Hotel
11 Jan	6.30 pm	Club Svc mtg	RSC Bukit Kiara
13 Jan	9.30 am	Scholarship Presentation	MBS Kuala Lumpur
14 Jan	9.00 am	DG with Rtc & Itc / Club Assy & Fellowship	TBA
15 Jan	12.45 pm	Regular Club mtg: DG Address	Shangri la Hotel
16 Jan	6.30 pm	Vocational Svc mtg	RSC Bukit Kiara
16 Jan	7.30 pm	Youth Svc mtg	RSC Bukit Kiara
26-28 Jan	9.00 am	District Rotaract Conference	TBA
30 Jan	6.30 pm	7th Board meeting	President Jeffrey's house

**SPECIAL WELCOME
 TO DR MANOHUR
 KURUP, DISTRICT
 GOVERNOR 2017-8
 & DISTRICT FIRST
 LADY MANGALAM**

**TO THE ROTARY
 CLUB OF PUDU**

**ON THE OCCASION
 OF THE GOVERNOR'S
 OFFICIAL VSIT.**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

WELCOME DISTRICT GOVERNOR DR MANOHUR!!!

In a Rotary Year one of the most important events for the Club is the Official Visit of the District Governor to the Club. How true it is. We are into the second half of the year and we are eagerly awaiting the top Rotarian of the District! In his visit besides having fellowship with us, he will also be giving us his views on the development of Rotary in general, views on the District and his opinion of our Club.

To prepare for his visit, we had compiled a comprehensive report of all our Avenue Service activities and the general state of affairs of our Club. Besides that the Rotaractors and Interactors will have an opportunity to meet him and similarly they will have their own reports to give him. At the same time, we will try our best to make the DG feel at home and comfortable.

This of course is not the first time we meet DG Manohur. He has visited our Club before and we did have good fellowship with him at the District Conference and Assembly. It is our opinion that he is a friendly DG and is sharp, articulate and down to earth person. In many instances when I personally needed to resolve some Rotary matters, I just picked up the phone and there he was giving me some valued advice! Thank you DG for your kind assistance over and over again!

It is with a bit of disappointment that the First Lady Mangalam is not here on this Official Visit as many of our Rotarians are just as eager to have fellowship with her! Nevertheless we wish her well.

Assistant Governor Paramesh has worked very hard together with us on this Official Visit. In fact the kind AG has worked hard with us since the beginning! He has provided us with the leadership to guide us and convey to us the latest development in Rotary. In many instances he has motivated us to follow the guidelines of Rotary International and where we lack knowledge of IT to get into the Rotary sites, he was there. Thank you DG Manohur for giving us the AG!

The Last two weeks

In the last two weeks we had been very busy starting with the Vocational Service Project- “**Employer-Employee Dinner**” on 8th Jan where we honored both the employers and employees as contributors and participants to the achievements of Rotary. It was a great success with more than 50 participants.

Thanks to OC Rtn Tenny Lee!

Then on 13th Jan we participated in the District Vocational Service project of honoring the “**Heroes of the Railway**” and promoting the **4 Way Test** as a way of life. We were there at the launching ceremony at KL Sentral and we were represented by Vocational Service Director Rtn Chinniah, Rtn Michelle & Rtn Albert Chia.

On the Sat 13th Jan too we had our mammoth Pudu Rotary Club Charity Foundation (PRCCF) Secondary School Scholarship and Undergraduate Grant Presentation at the MBS where we gave out RM44,000 to 144 students and an undergraduate grant worth RM4,000 to one student. Again it was successful as besides students we also had teachers and parents present to witness the presentation. To top up we had our Honorary Member His Excellency Constantin Nistor as our Guest of Honor.

Jeffrey Yap
President RY 2017-18

EDITORIAL

With the 2nd half of 2018, we lost two key appointment holders—the Hon Secretary and Hon Treasurer. This is not good news for the Club.

These two positions are the pillars of the organisation and would certainly affect the smooth running of the Club, especially with the paperwork for the AGM filing with ROS and the invoices for the 2nd half-yearly dues.

Future boards must therefore insure against this sort of disruptions. One way is to have the incoming Hon Secretary and Hon Treasurer duly nominated as an SOP for the CLP (Club Leadership Plan.)

Dato Muslim Ayob
Past President
Editor

PUDU NEWS

Record of Meeting on: Monday 8th Jan, 2018

Visiting Rotarians	Club	Statistics	
Rtn Abishek Mitra	PAUR (USA)	Club members	20
		Visiting Rotarians	1
		Guests	15+3 Rtc
		Total	39
Guests	Host		
		Birthdays/Anniversaries	-
		Paying Diners	640.00
		Raffles	65.00
		Total RM	705.00

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

INTENTIONALLY
LEFT BLANK.
DATA MISSING

PICTURES TAKEN AT THE MEETING ON 8th JAN 2018



PICTURES TAKEN AT THE MEETING ON 8th JAN 2018



SPEAKER'S CV

Datin Maylene Yong



It is not easy for someone to devote 38 years of her life to charity. It is even harder to create that long lasting impression of being an icon of charity. But for Datin Maylene Yong, it seems so effortless to bring attention of the suffering to the public. There is no gimmick, no publicity stunt. Just patience, dedication and a genuine heart to serve. And the media called her “Queen of Charity”.

Datin Maylene believes everything happens for a reason and God will always be there to help and guide her. Her philanthropy story started when she was 12 years old. During that time, she came across a line of beggars along Penang Road after school. Out of compassion, she gave away her last penny saved for the day. Another defining moment came when she witnessed an abandoned baby picked up by the nun in the convent. These two incidents became the starting point of her philanthropy journey. She told herself, “If I ever do well in my life, I will definitely devote my life to charity.”

This self-realization had led her to be actively involved in charity years later, much with the blessings from her husband, Datuk Peter Yong and her family. In 1980, her big charity efforts came when

she successfully raised funds together with her friends to build the renowned Tunku Abdul Rahman College. It was here at the fundraising dinner, people discovered what a mellifluous voice she had.

And so lending her newfound fame and singing voice, she dynamically pursued her lifelong dream as a philanthropist and held a solo concert in 2002 which managed to raise over RM132,000 for Yayasan Nanyang Press. Success bred success. In 2006, Yayasan China Press approached Datin Maylene to collaborate to celebrate their 60th Anniversary Celebration.

And this was the time when the Glitterama Ladies Charity Group was formed by Datin Maylene. Together with the support from both her peers in the Group, they managed to raise RM320,000 on that memorable night. A double celebration indeed!

Embracing the motto, “We can’t save the world but we can make a difference”, the Group comprises friends who share a common interest and passion – singing to raise funds for charity. The Group also occasionally hold visits to various welfare homes and contribute by entertaining the residents there.

Her charity works continued in 2011 when the Glitterama Ladies Charity Group once again came together to perform and successfully raised RM323,000. In 2016, the Glitterama Ladies Charity Group performed in its 10th Anniversary and Yayasan China Press 70th Anniversary Charity Concert which raised a whopping RM400,000 donation.

For over three decades, Datin Maylene has touched many hearts with her countless charities.

SPEAKER'S CV (Cont'd)

Whether it is orphanage, old folks home, dialysis homes or other welfare homes, the society took notice of her philanthropy works and thus, gave her numerous awards and recognitions in the nation and abroad.

Among them are Mrs Malaysia Universe 2016 Image Ambassador, Global Golden Voice Diva 2015 Singapore, MAWN Passion and Commitment Leadership Award 2015, Asia Pacific Most Caring Heart Ambassador 2014, Golden Phoenix Benevolence Award 2013, Lady Of Excellence Award Singapore 2013, Mrs Asian International Beauty Singapore 2012, CHT Philanthropist Award 2009 and more. Datin was also appointed as the International Brand Ambassador for ELYSYLE (Elegant World) and awarded China ASEAN Top Business Awards 2017. For her philanthropy works and business acumen, she was inducted as an Honorary Member of Rotary Club of Tropicana and Committee Member of Global Federation Chinese Businesswomen World (GFCBW).

For many years, Datin Maylene has also been a judge and advisor for many beauty pageants and the latest were as the Chief Judge and Consultant of Mrs Malaysia International Award 2017 and Judge for Mrs Malaysia Tourism Queen 2017.

Realising that life is unpredictable, Datin Maylene set up Styleicon Prestige as a styling and grooming, and social business networking platform for the members. It is her wish that through this platform, she can nurture the young generations to follow her footsteps to be the next Queen of Hearts. Styleicon Prestige is not an ordinary organisation but one which lends the names of those in style and prestige for a good cause. The organisation is a community of people from various professions

coming together as one to help others by contributing their professionalism, initiatives and compassion for the betterment of humankind.

The journey has not ended. There is no stopping for Datin Maylene as she continues her noble efforts to help others and upholds her motto, "We cannot save the world but we can make a difference". After all, charity has become a part of who she is today.

THANKING

PP Dato Muslim Ayob thanked Datin Maylene for her kindness in coming to RC Pudu to give this talk about her "Joy in Singing." She is no stranger to Pudu having graced our "Family Day" in Nov 2015 at the Autorr Foundation with her rendition of several songs to entertain the audience. And again last year she sang at President Jeffery Yap's Installation Dinner function in July 2017 at the Shangri-la Hotel.

Her compassion and generosity is indeed an example to many of our budding singers, for there are indeed many opportunities and occasions to do good to the unfortunate ones via charity shows and fund-raising projects; and at the same time enhance one's image and practice one's vocal chords.



SPEAKER'S TEXT

Dear distinguished guests and members of the Rotary Club,

First of all, allow me to thank the committee of this Rotary Club for inviting me to give a talk, "Singing for Joy" to you all here. Yes, singing has always been a way to express ourselves and to light up others.

It has proven when we sing, we move the audience to escape into our world. "Singing for Joy" is not just about singing for joy to ourselves but to others. Hence, I like to add, "Singing for Joy and also singing to help others" is my talk here.

It is true. I always look at singing as my strength and my way to help others, especially those in need. I started singing when I was young. I remember singing lullabies to baby orphans when I was just 11 years old.

Yes, I passed by the orphanage one day and saw the nun taking in abandoned babies under their care. At that moment, I said to myself, "if God permits, next time when I grew up and well to do, I like to help others."

But it didn't take long for me to help. I became a volunteer at that young age of 11 years old, taking care of the orphan babies after school hours. I will always sing a lullaby for them to sleep.

And that story of my singing didn't end here.

My debut into singing for charity was encouraged and trained by the late Mr Wu who headed the entertainment section of *Nanyang* and China Press. He was also in charge of the annual event, the Top Ten Chinese Singers from Malaysia and Singapore. In 2002, I staged my first charity show with Wu's help and raised RM130,000.

Since then, I was very actively involved in philanthropy works.

It started when I visited some dialysis patients in 2002.

I decided I wanted to help prolong their life so they could enjoy playing with their grandchildren. And with the support of Puan Sri Ena Ling, the idea struck here that I should form a singing group to help raise funds for others.

Hence, Glitterama Ladies Charity Group was formed. Yes I know 'Glitterama' sounds like a K-Pop girlie band or a Las Vegas showgirl revue but the name was given to me by Allen Tan from 'True Faces' during my first charity concert in 2002. My mentor mentioned to Allen I was like an enchanted butterfly, always shining, glowing and glittering, thus giving light to the less fortunate.

From an initial four members, Glitterama quickly grew to 12 which I thought was a lot but soon expanded to 50 members today.

We had held charity concerts as I realised dialysis centres need to buy new machines every five years so this was the perfect opportunity to help, using whatever little talents God has given us instead of wasting time.

SPEAKER'S TEXT (cont'd)

Today, I am proud that my Glitterama members are still staying with me for over 10 years, and I am happy to also say, it is this success of Glitterama that I initiated another platform, "Styleicon Prestige" which is aimed to help members in styling, grooming and business networking. We have a pool of very talented new members who lend their amazing singing voices for a good cause with us.

Therefore, "Singing for Joy" is not just about singing to oneself, but singing to help others, to raise funds, to make others happy.

Famed British producer and musician, Brian Eno once said, **"Singing is the key to long life, a good figure, a stable temperament, increased intelligence, new friends, super self-confidence, heightened sexual attractiveness, and a better sense of humour."**

It is true. The benefits of singing is more than just bringing joy.

According to a research made at the Frankfurt University, singing can help us boost the immunity. The research had tests of the blood of professional choir members before and after singing Mozart's masterpiece called "Requiem Mass in D minor" for an hour. The researchers realized that in many instances, the protein amounts in the members' immune system, which acts as antibodies or called immunoglobulin A, significantly increased at once after singing.

So singing is actually a useful way to strengthen your immune system.

Singing also helps save lives. Hip-hop pioneer Darryl "DMC" McDaniels battled depression and suicidal thoughts.

He says, "I was probably at my suicidal worst in 1997 during a two-week-long tour in Japan. The only song I listened to then was a soft-pop ballad by Sarah McLachlan called 'Angel'. I cannot overemphasize how important that song was to me in the midst of my depression. 'Angel' kept me serene and alive today.

There are many more benefits of singing. Among them are, singing helps:

*** Improve The Posture**

- * Give us amazing workout
- * Help in our sleep
- * Lower stress levels
- * Is a natural anti-depressant
- * Improve mental alertness
- * Help patients with Parkinson's disease
- * Broaden communication skills
- * Make more friends
- * Boost confidence
- * Increase our appreciation to singers
- * Bring us closer to our loved ones

SPEAKER'S TEXT

* Discover how to listen carefully

* Improve our skin. This last point may sound weird but it is true. The act of singing needs you to take in deep breaths, resulting in improving blood circulation as well as oxygen flow. It is two main factors that are the key to a younger skin.

Besides, singing also adds to facial relaxation and skin saving bonus. In addition to this, you can prevent fine lines from occurring around the mouth due to the use of facial exercises. In case you are too busy to join in facial yoga class, you can consider singing instead as singing can help you gain the same benefits.

So there you are, there are so many benefits of singing. It is more than singing for joy. It is to help others. Here, I like to end with my own quote, a phrase that I live by everyday.

“Blessed are those who give without remembering and take without forgetting” and “We cannot save the world but we can make a difference”.

And by how? Singing.

Thank you and have a good evening,

EVENT—VOCATIONAL SERVICE



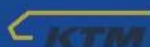
RAIL HEROES



PRIDE OF WORKMANSHIP AWARD

Saturday, 13th January 2018
Lobby Level 2, KL Sentral

Presentation of Awards by
 YB Dato' Sri Liow Tiong Lai
 Minister of Transport Malaysia



EVENT—VOCATIONAL SERVICE AWARD



EVENT — DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S VISIT



PROPOSED PROGRAMME

2ND CLUB ASSEMBLY

FELLOWSHIP DINNER WITH DG DR MANOHUR KURUP AND FIRST

LADY MANGALAM

SUNDAY, 14TH JANUARY 2018

RESIDENCE OF RTN TENNY LEE

6.00 PM

6.00 pm – Arrival of guests and Rotarians

6.30 pm – Arrival of DG Dr Manohur Kurup and First Lady Mangalam

6.45 pm – Welcome Address by President Jeffrey Yap

6.50 pm - Speech by DG Dr Manohur Kurup

7.00 pm – BUFFET DINNER

8.00 pm – Commencement of 2nd Club Assembly chaired by
DG Dr Manohur Kurup

8.05 pm – Board of Directors Reports

9.00 pm – End of Assembly

9.05 pm – Fellowship and Karaoke

9.45 pm – Presentation of gifts to DG Dr Manohur Kurup and
First Lady Mangalam and host Rtn Tenny Lee

10.00 pm – Departure of DG Dr Manohur Kurup and First Lady
Mangalam

10.30 pm – End of Programme

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLUB & ROTARY EVENTS

Event: **SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

Date: 13 Jan 2018

Venue: MBS Kuala Lumpur

Time: 9:30 pm

OC: IPP Sandy Soh

GOH: HE Constantin Nistor, Hon Rtn
Romanian Ambassador

Event: **DG'S ANNUAL VISIT**

Date: 14-15 Jan 2018

Venue: Shangri la Hotel

Time: 9:30 am with Rtc & Itc

6.30 pm with Rtn (assy & fellowship)

OC: Hon Sec Mohan Raj

GOH: Dr Manohar Kurup

Event: **DISTRIC ASSEMBLY (DISTASS)**



Event: **DISTRIC ASSEMBLY (PETS & SETS)**

Date: 20 Apr 2018

Venue: Park Ave Hotel, Sg Petani

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Name: PDG Paul Lee

Date: 4 Jan

Name: Hon Rtn Dato Rosemarie Wee

Date: 7 Jan (Anniv)

Name: Ann Carven (PE CT Heng)

Date: 8 Jan (birthday)

Name: Ann Datin Esther (PP Dr Lee HT)

Date: 10 Jan (birthday)

Name: PP Dato YK Chew

Date: 15 Jan

Name: Ann Juliet (VP Patrick Lee)

Date: 19 Jan (birthday)

Name: PP Alex Chang

Date: 20 Jan

Name: Rtn Dr CC Wong

Date: 20 Jan

Name: Ann Raja Azma (PP Dato Muslim)

Date: 27 Jan (anniv)

Name: Ann Suit Yong (PP Sam)

Date: 28 Jan (anniv)



KNOW YOUR DG

DG DR MANOHUR KURUP & ANN MANGALAM

This Rotary year began with the handover of the Governor's jewel from IPDG Darul Abdullah to me on 30th June 2017. The event was hosted by the Rotary Club of Bandar Sunway and was witnessed by Rotarians from clubs all across the Klang Valley, my friends and my family members. Several Rotarians and friends even stayed on past midnight to welcome me as the new District Governor on the 1st of July. I was very touched by the kind gesture.



In Rotary, no one can hold on to the leadership seat no matter how good one is or how difficult it may be to vacate that seat at the end of the term. Yes, it is only for one short year. Hence, my dear Assistant Governors, District Officers and Presidents, we as a team have to execute our plans immediately as we only have 365 days to do so.

The biggest problem in our District is that of membership. More than 25% of the clubs have a membership of less than 20 members. We must attempt to arrest this problem which has been constantly plaguing the clubs. All Rotarians, with the support of their Assistant Governors and Club Presidents, have an obligation to address this issue. I sincerely hope that all Presidents will recognize this as a problem and genuinely strive to have at least 20 members at any one time. With the right numbers, the clubs will be able to function more effectively to serve the community.

One of the areas in membership that we have failed at is that of attracting Bumiputera members. This year, we have appointed Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Kg Baru City Center to attract and engage them in Rotary. We, at the District, will give them all the necessary aid to accomplish their mission. We have the dynamic Past Presidents Natasha and Qamileeta who are enthusiastic about Rotary and they will spearhead this Bumiputera membership attraction program. Their first promotion was the Raya Get-together on 15th July 2017. I noticed that many Rotarians attended and supported this event.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all Rotarians, especially those holding a position in Rotary, to register and get acquainted with Rotary Club Central for that is the way forward for all future dealings in Rotary. The Rotary.org website has been refreshed and the Rotary Foundation grant application process has been made simple for your easy usage. We want to achieve a 100% registration rate in MY Rotary.

The increase in the number of Rotaract clubs in our District augurs well for the future leaders in our District. We must engage these young leaders in all our projects and activities and continue to develop knowledgeable leaders for generations to come. Only then will they feel a sense of belonging and remain in the Rotary family.

The Organ Donation Awareness team is working very hard to ensure that our awareness campaign will be a successful one by the end of this Rotary year. You will be hearing from us very soon.

We Rotarians work and see differently: Our multi-disciplinary perspective helps us see challenges in unique ways.

We think differently: We apply leadership and expertise to social issues – and find unique solutions.

We act responsibly: Our passion and perseverance create lasting change.

We make a difference at home and around the world: Our members can be found in your community and across the globe. That's the theme for this Rotary year – ROTARY: MAKING A DIFFERENCE. So together, let's make that difference.

Dr Manohur Kurup
District Governor 2017/18.

RI NEWS

In Mexico's migrant shelters, a Rotary scholar puts his education into action

There are two inescapable elements of southern Mexico.

The first is dust – desert rock ground to a powder that finds its way into your every crevice: the backs of your knees, the folds of your eyelids. You cough it up as you drift to sleep and discover its brume settled across your bedsheets in the morning.

The second element is violence.

I found both on the gritty tracks of the “Beast.”

Over the past half-century, millions of Central Americans have crossed Mexico from south to north, fleeing poverty, decades-long civil wars, and, most recently, brutal gangs. To escape, migrants used to ride atop the cars of the train line known as the “Beast.”

In July 2014, Mexican immigration officials announced a plan called the Southern Border Program; part of it entailed closing the “Beast” to migrants. Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto said the plan would create new economic zones and safeguard migrants’ human rights by securing the country’s historically volatile southern border. Instead, the number of migrants beaten, kidnapped, and murdered has skyrocketed. Some have even been victims of the black-market trade in organs.

In early 2015 I had just completed my studies as a Rotary global grant scholar, earning a master’s degree in the anthropology of development. I had studied how trade and development initiatives in Mexico could make people’s lives more perilous, not less. To learn about what was going wrong, I went to southern Mexico to use the skills I had gained through my global grant studies.

Southern Mexico is poor and rural, made up of small *pueblos* and subsistence agriculture. In some ways, I felt at home. I grew up in rural Georgia, and I became interested in immigration after teaching English to farmworkers harvesting cabbage, berries, and



In 2015, shortly after finishing his studies as a Rotary Foundation global grant scholar, [Levi Vonk](#) went to Mexico to work with migrants. He has written about what he saw, and about the experiences of migrants themselves, for Rolling Stone, The Atlantic, and National Public Radio. For Rotary Foundation Month, we asked him to describe what he has done and learned. Vonk studied at the University of Sussex, England, sponsored by the Rotary clubs of Shoreham & Southwick, England, and Charleston Breakfast, S.C. His master’s degree in the anthropology of development and social transformation led to his becoming a 2014-15 Fulbright fellow to Mexico. He is now a doctoral candidate in medical anthropology at the University of California at Berkeley.

DISTRICT NEWS

Christmas trees in the foothills of North Carolina. Many of the men I worked with were from southern Mexico. Their descriptions of the violence brought by drug and human trafficking led to my interest in the region.



To understand how the Southern Border Program was affecting people's lives, I stayed in migrant shelters, which are not unlike homeless shelters or temporary refugee camps. They are often without reliable running water or electricity, but they do provide migrants with a warm meal and a place to rest before they continue north.

At first, shelter life was a shock to me. Sick or injured people arrived nearly each day. Severe dehydration was a big problem, and some people had literally walked the skin off the bottoms of their feet. I was there when a gang member entered the shelter to kidnap someone, but shelter directors stopped him.

By the time I arrived, shelters along the tracks of the Beast had seen the number of migrants dwindle from 400 a night to fewer than 100. Shelter directors explained that the number of Central Americans fleeing into Mexico each year – around 400,000 – had not fallen, but because immigration agents were now apprehending anyone near the Beast, people were afraid to approach the shelters. These safe havens had been transformed into no-go zones. "This is a humanitarian crisis on the scale of Syria," one director said to me, "but no one is talking about it."

In the shelters, I chopped firewood, cooked dinners, and scrubbed kitchen floors. I changed bandages and helped people file for asylum. And I lived and traveled with mi-

RI NEWS

grants headed north, recording their stories – about why they left, where they hoped to go, and what they had faced on their journeys.

Mildred, a single mother of three, was fleeing gang members who threatened to kill her family if she didn't pay them a protection fee. Ivan, the oldest brother of six, singlehandedly resettled his entire family in Mexico – including his elderly mother and his two toddler nephews – after hit men tried to kill them in their home in Honduras. Milton had lived in New York City for years – and had sheltered ash-covered pedestrians in his apartment during the 11 September 2001 terror attacks – before being deported.

The things I learned were terrifying. Instead of shoring up Mexico's borders, the plan had splintered traditional migrant routes. Those routes had been dangerous, but they were also ordered and visible. Migrants knew approximately which areas of the train passage were plagued by gangs. They were prepared to pay protection fees – generally between \$5 and \$20. They traveled in groups for safety. And they were often close to aid – a shelter, a Red Cross clinic, even a police station.

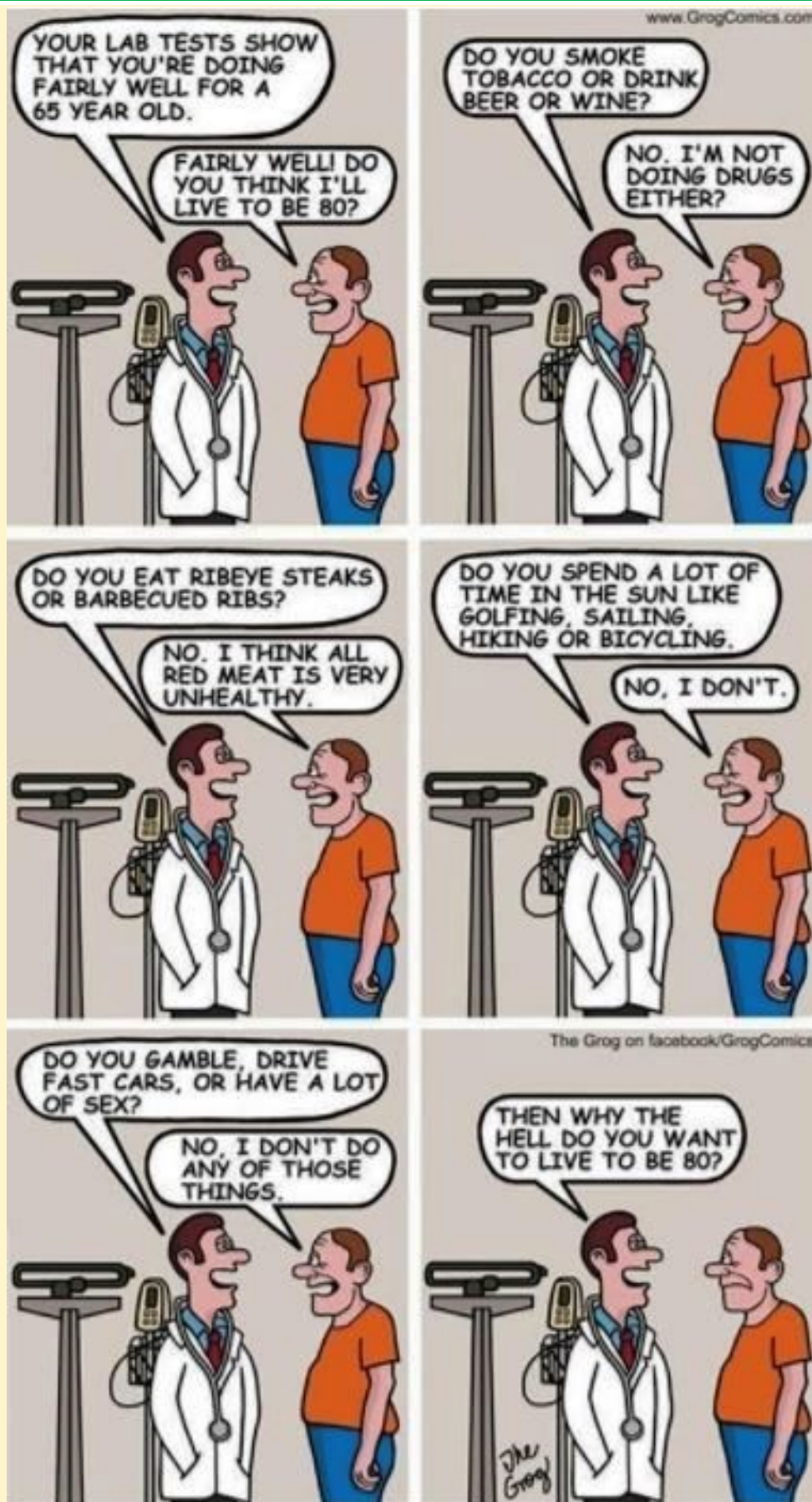
The Southern Border Program changed that. Hunted by immigration officers, migrants traveled deep into the jungle, walking for days. Gangs, which had previously extorted money from migrants, now followed them into these isolated areas to rob, kidnap, or simply kill them.

The Southern Border Program has failed as a development initiative. Not only has cracking down on immigration made southern Mexico less safe, but the increased violence has deterred business investment that the region so desperately needs.

During my time as a Rotary scholar, I learned to look at development differently. We often think of international aid in terms of poverty reduction, and we often see poverty reduction in terms of dollars spent and earned. The anthropology of development aims to analyze global aid in another way. We pay particular attention to how initiatives play out on the ground to determine just what local communities' needs are and how those needs might be met sustainably and, eventually, autonomously...

For further reading go to "The Rotarian" Nov 2017 issue.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE



ON THE LIGHTER SIDE



Dangerous Wifey Joke

My wife and I were watching *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire* while we were in bed. I turned to her and said, 'Do you want to have sex?'
'No,' she answered.
I then said, 'Is that your final answer?'
She didn't even look at me this time, simply saying, 'Yes..'
So I said, "Then I'd like to phone a friend."
And that's when the fight started...
The doctors say I will walk again, but I will always have a limp.