

## DG Penny's May message

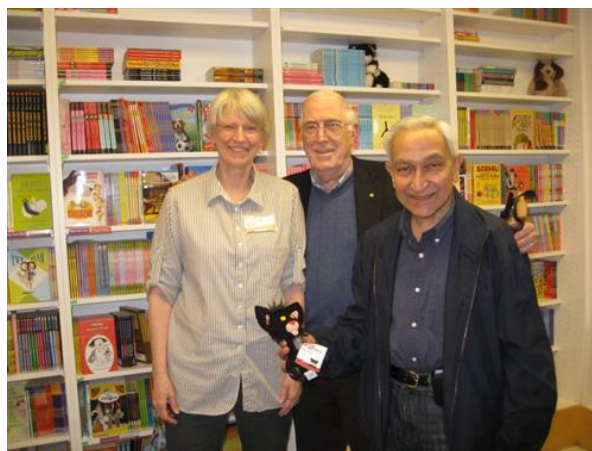
The month of May is a time for celebration in Rotary and recognition of the success of this Rotary year of Building Communities Bridging Continents.

May 6 to 8 of course is the annual District Conference being held this year at the River Rock Casino Resort in Richmond. Many Rotarians will be there to celebrate with Penny's Posse. Many clubs and Rotarians will be recognized at the conference for their service projects, their PR efforts, literacy activities, membership and Foundation involvement. Which club will be selected as the Outstanding Club of the Year? Which Rotarian will be named Rotarian of the Year?

District 5040 is partnering with the Rotary Club of Richmond Sunrise on a legacy project for the District 5040 Conference. We have challenged all Rotarians to donate new books for children at the beginner level to 16 years old. Rotary has been instrumental in increasing the number of new books for children registered with the Richmond Christmas Fund. In keeping with our Rotary mandate to increase literacy, we can increase support this year.

In 2010 the Richmond Christmas Fund served over 2500 individuals who otherwise would not have been able to enjoy the holidays. Our goal is to send every child back to school in January with a great story to tell.

Several clubs have challenged all their members to donate books. The Rotary Club of Vancouver Arbutus went on a shopping trip to buy three books per member from Kids Books in Vancouver to add to the Literacy Legacy project. We hope that you too will support this literacy initiative.



Besides the District Conference this month, Rotarians are planning to attend the International Convention May 21 to 25 in New Orleans. What an opportunity this is to celebrate the Internationality of our organization and enjoy the wonderful city hosting the convention. It is not too late to plan to attend the convention and join with other District 5040 Rotarians as we continue the party.

The sun is shining and finally spring is in the air. The Canucks are still in the playoffs. Rotary clubs are busy with Foundation dinners, Wine Festivals, Auctions and other special events. The two clubs in Sechelt celebrated the start of the new Chatelech Interact club as part of their Foundation Dinner. The Rotary Club of Steveston Richmond held their very successful annual Steveston Seafood and Wine Festival – always a sold out event. And there are many more.

The next two months are filled with the final events of the year. Clubs are also starting to plan for the next Rotary year with their annual Installation dinners to thank the outgoing Executive and to formally install the new.

There is lots to celebrate and lots of opportunities to celebrate Rotary in the next two months. I hope that each one of you is planning to be part of the fun and excitement of these events. As they say in New Orleans – Let the Good Times Roll.

DG Penny