



Rotary District 5280  
Greater Los Angeles  
April 2017

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**IMAGINE: Rotary exposes the truth about child sex trafficking.** See pgs. 7-16.

## IMAGINE / APRIL 2017



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[bearsworth@earthlink.net](mailto:bearsworth@earthlink.net).



Greg O'Brien  
District Governor  
Palos Verdes Peninsula

*Pictured: District Governor Greg  
and Carolyn O'Brien*

Michael S. Turner, Woodland Hills  
Senior Assistant Governor Communications

Christine Barnicki, Palos Verdes Peninsula  
IMAGINE Editor/Art Direction/Graphic Design

Lorine Parks, Downey  
IMAGINE Senior Correspondent

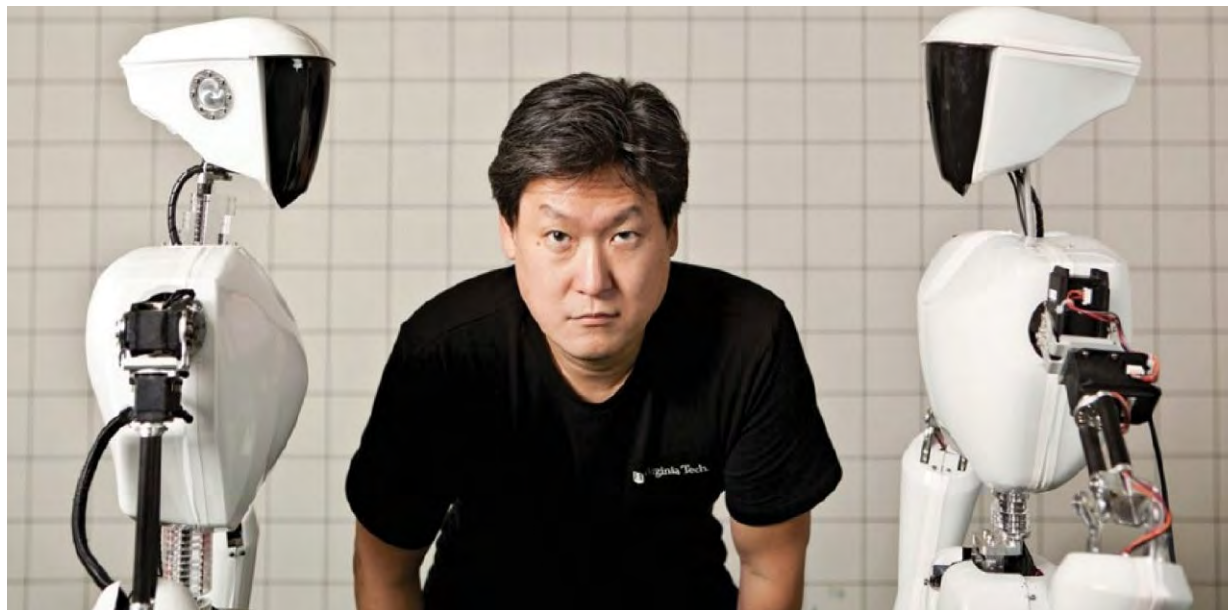
Gidas Peteris, Beverly Hills  
Linton Morgan, Inglewood  
Photographers

### DISTRICT OFFICE

Tori Hettinger, Westchester  
District Administrator

8939 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Suite 210  
Los Angeles CA 90045 310.670.9792

[Office@Rotary5280.org](mailto:Office@Rotary5280.org) [Rotary5280.org](http://Rotary5280.org)



*Dr. Dennis Hong, "the Leonardo da Vinci of robots," will be the guest speaker at the April 18 District Breakfast. See [page 19](#).*

# DISTRICT CALENDAR

## April

- 5 Presidents' Dinner, Van Nuys
- 8 Rotaract Ethics Forum
- 15 PLRS: Improving Your Communication  
and Leadership Skills ([Pg. 11](#))
- 18 District Breakfast ([Pg. 19](#))
- 21-23 RYLA
- 22 Rotary Day of Service

## May

- 4-7 District Conf., Lake Arrowhead ([Pg. 23](#))

## June

- 3 District Assembly, Carson Community  
Center ([Pg. 27](#))
- 10-14 RI Convention, Atlanta ([Pg. 6](#))



# HAMBURGERS AND THE FOUR-WAY TEST

—by District Governor Greg O'Brien

**Some years ago three coworkers went to lunch** at a nearby McDonald's. The franchise was participating in a national giveaway. Each customer received a scratch-off lottery ticket. The prizes ranged from a free bag of French fries to \$100,000.

Two of the women grabbed a table while the third, Alice, went to the order counter.

On her return, Alice distributed their orders and they began to talk. After several minutes one of them said, "Oh, hey, did you get a scratch-off ticket?" Alice peered down into the bag and found it. Pulling out her car keys she scratched the surface of the ticket and stared without saying a word.

"Well, what did we win?" one of her companions asked.

After clearing her throat, Alice said, "It doesn't really matter, because as the customer who purchased the food, that makes me the winner."

On hearing this response, her co-worker grabbed the lottery ticket. "Oh my God," she shrieked. "We won \$100,000." Alice asserted firmly that she was treating the other two to lunch, and therefore she was the legal customer. Her friends countered that it was always understood that they would split the bill. The ensuing, grabbing free-for-all was surely a spectacle as the women abandoned their meals and fought for possession of the winning ticket. Ultimately, one of the two women who had held the table

stuffed it into her purse and headed for the door shouting back at Alice, "We either split three ways or you get nothing, take your pick."

Alice chose to get a lawyer. Her friends did likewise. Perhaps it comes as no surprise that the subsequent litigation was only a slightly more

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## Applying the Four-Way Test to this situation, what would you do?

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civilized spectacle than had been the table fight at McDonalds.

The lawyers agreed completely with the respective positions of their clients. (At this point in the retelling, people always ask if I had been the judge who heard the case. I was not. I only know what I read in the newspaper, and I never learned the outcome of the lawsuit.)

**The legal answer to this case** may not be the same as the ethical answer. Before reaching a conclusion, for fun let us suppose that Alice had won a bag of French fries. Would her friends have demanded equal shares, or would one of them had said, "Alice, you picked up the food, so that makes you the winner." Next, let us suppose that Alice had won \$50. We can easily imagine one of her companions saying, "Alice, technically you are the winner, but I

—continues on next page

—*Hamburgers, continues from previous page*

won't complain if you want to buy our lunch." Friendship, after all, is more important than a fight over a small sum of money.

Next, suppose that one of the co-workers testified that the threesome went to McDonald's twice a month and rotated who would pick up the bill. Her lawyer might argue that this really amounted to a kind of joint-enterprise, which because of their equal participation entitled each of them to a third of the prize money.

If Alice's case found its way to trial without settling first, the outcome may have been determined by whether the jury believed it more likely than not that the three co-workers expressly or impliedly had agreed to split the bill, merely designating Alice their agent for pick-up.

**The Four-Way Test is not just a matter of truth.** The test also asks whether Alice's position was fair to all concerned. Did it build goodwill and better friendships? Finally, was it beneficial to all concerned? By applying the test, do you come to a different conclusion? Ethically, should Alice have shared the prize with her friends? What would you have done?

The District Ethics Forum will be held on Saturday, April 8 at Loyola Marymount University. Rotaract teams from seven area colleges and universities will be competing. I have been asked to give an opening talk on the difference between law and ethics. I think I may start with a bag of French fries.

*Imagine Rotary. Build it and they will come.* ■

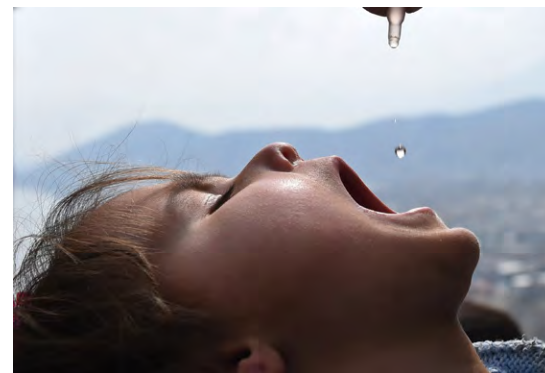
## CONTINUING THE FIGHT AGAINST POLIO

—by Shirley Giltzow (Lawndale), District Polio Chair

**Many Rotarians and non-Rotarians alike have**

**asked,** "Why do we still need to donate to Polio Plus? This disease is practically gone!"

Well, it is not gone, and if we are not vigilant, polio could rise up and become an world epidemic again.



We are so very close to eliminating this dreaded disease forever. We need to continue to immunize children in the Third World countries so those who cross the borders from Afghanistan and Pakistan do not spread the disease. There have only been four cases of polio this calendar year, all in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Two years ago there were 74 cases; last year there were 35 cases. Rotary International is so very hopeful that within two years the disease will no longer be present in our world.

But today, resources are still needed to achieve this long-time goal. Be part of the solution! Rotary International Foundation, during its 100th anniversary year, is asking every Rotarian to donate \$26.50 to Polio Plus, the amount of the first donation 100 years ago at the Foundation's inception.

I'm available to help you with the paperwork needed to give credit to every Rotarian in your club. For assistance contact Shirley at [shirley\\_giltzow@live.com](mailto:shirley_giltzow@live.com). ■





# ANGELA PEREZ BARAQUIO: A LIFE BUILT ON CHARACTER

—by Michael Turner (Woodland Hills), SAG Communications

**Angela Perez Baraquio has a passion** for character education, which includes and complements a broad range of educational approaches, such as whole child education, service learning, social-emotional learning, and civic education. “The goal is to help children to become responsible, caring, and contributing citizens,” said Angela, who spoke at the February 28 District Breakfast.

Her greatest inspiration was her second-grade teacher, who Angela said, “was so important to me because she planted a seed in me that affected my future. Because of her encouragement I wanted to become a teacher just like her.” It took several years for that seed to germinate, and part of the process included participating in athletics during high school. “That is where I really built my character,” commented Angela.

Her first job out of college and at age 24 was teaching. She was an athletic director at a high school. Angela’s students dared her to compete for a third time in the Miss America Pageant. Yes, that’s correct. In 2001 Angela achieved her dream when she was crowned Miss America. Throughout the competition, “I focused on developing and enhancing my character,” commented Angela. In addition, she knew it was important for her to be true to her Filipino roots. “It was an asset and something I had to embrace and celebrate,” said Angela.

In reaching this prestigious milestone she shattered the principles set forth in Miss America’s Rule Seven. At that time, the rule read, “Contestants must in good health and of white race.” “I broke new ground in 2001 and



**Angela made history by becoming the first Asian-American woman, the only-Filipina woman, and the only teacher to win the Miss America competition since the pageant’s inception in 1921.**

made history by becoming the first Asian-American woman, the only-Filipina woman, and the only teacher to win the competition since the pageant’s inception in 1921,” commented Angela.

**In becoming Miss America**, Angela showed her strength, determination, grit, and character. In her life today, Angela still embraces fully the meaning behind the four points of the Miss America crown: service, scholarship, style, and success.

Today, Angela continues to speak to national audiences about character

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—Angela Perez Baraquio, continues from previous page

education and her passion that everyone should achieve a fulfilling and rewarding life. The thing she enjoys is being able to inspire others to achieve their own goals and dreams.

Accomplishing our dreams does not mean the road will be easy. “It will always be challenging,” said Angela, who learned many valuable lessons in competing three times for the Miss America title. Her story is one like no other. As the eighth of 10 children, Angela’s family traveled to the United States and settled in Hawaii in search of a better life. In addition to the obstacles she encountered at the Miss America Pageants, there have been other bumps along the road, including the tragic loss of her younger brother, who committed suicide in 2006.

After her one-year reign as Miss America, Angela married her high school sweetheart and they now have five children. She also returned to her first love: teaching. Angela is the principal at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic School in Gardena. One of the reasons she took the position was that the school parallels her thinking.

“St. Anthony’s offers the type of learning community that allows each child to grow and to reach full potential academically, developmentally, and religiously,” remarked Angela. “This enables the students to see God in every aspect of life. It is in this faith-filled partnership that we truly teach our children the ‘art of living well’ and set them on a path of faith and success for the rest of their lives.” ■



REGISTER NOW





## THE TERRIBLE FACTS ABOUT CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING

—by Lorine Parks (Downey), IMAGINE Senior Correspondent

**The compelling 2014 movie *Sold*** tells the story of how girls are

**Once you are aware, you are never the same.**

sold into sexual slavery. Based on Patricia

McCormick's award-winning novel of the same name, the story features a fictional child, Lakshmi, a Nepalese girl sold into sexual slavery by her family.

But the story really isn't about Lakshmi. It's about child sex trafficking right here in the United States, here in Los Angeles County, where we live.

Aimed at young adult readers, the book was a finalist for the 2006 National Book Award, and Santa Monica Rotary, which has made child trafficking a priority, recently screened the movie.

Patricia's research of the topic revealed terrible real-life facts. With the weight of this appalling knowledge, how did she write such a hopeful book for young adults?

"I was just absolutely drawn to the topic. I'm a survivor of sexual abuse myself," Patricia revealed.

"I had to tell that story from Lakshmi's point of view."

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The author of *SOLD* reveals what drew her to the topic of child sex trafficking, how her in-person interviews with young victims revealed startling facts, and what Rotary might do to help expose the corrupt system that enslaves them and help those caught in its destructive web.



—“Facts About Child Sex Trafficking,” continues from previous page



The novel presents an unsentimental view of how these girls are exploited, while also demonstrating the very real friendships formed in brothels that help these girls survive. How did she strike that balance?

“The key challenge was to allow it to be as bad as it really is, to allow 13-year-old Lakshmi to be raped, to allow her to get a sexually transmitted disease. You love your character so much, so I think the challenge was to allow it to be as bad as it really is, and to balance the kindness and the humanity

that exist side by side with the worst brutality. My hope would be that that kind of awareness and activism would translate.”

#### Patricia answered questions

about the choices she faced as a writer in a 2006 interview with Children’s Bookshelf. “My worst fear is that people would be flattened by it,” she said, “that they would feel despair. And what has happened in response to the novel is that people feel energized by it. And they say, what can I do?”

Teenage readers are quite well-

read and aware of what trafficking is, and they are hungry to find information that a news story or a headline can’t give them.

“To research this, I set up interviews. The guard at the shelter in Katmandu — that was key, to go meet the girls in the rescue shelter for sex trafficking victims — would not let me in. Every three hours, I

**The novel is an unsentimental view of how these girls are exploited.**

would walk by and plead with him. Finally, I brought all these miniature shampoos from my hotel room in a bag and I gave them to him and he let me in.

“Lakshmi is a composite,” Patricia said, “very much a creature of my imagination. But there are little bits and pieces of all those women present in her. She lives with her family in a small hut on a mountain in Nepal. Though she is

desperately poor, her life is full of simple pleasures.”

**But at its heart, the story** in this movie and book is not as simple it seems. “I wanted to write about this terrible crime in America,” Patricia remarked, “but chose Nepal and India because so much progress has been made in those two countries and because English is a language that’s spoken a lot in India and somewhat in Nepal. So I just started emailing people over there and set up a bunch of interviews.”

“I was also able to find a women’s organization that regularly goes to the brothels to provide women with condoms and information about health care and schools for their children. An aid worker acted as my translator. At night the women in the brothels would shoo us out, pull down the shutters, and transform the shelter into a brothel.”

“Rather than sex trafficking

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—“*Facts About Child Sex Trafficking*,” continues from previous page

being cloaked in shame, they welcomed me in to look at the situation and to spread awareness of it. I thought that was incredible. There are a lot of countries, possibly even our own, where we just don’t want our dirty laundry known to the outside world. And so the structures were in place to get access to shelters, to aid workers, and to the brothels.”

**To give the sense of how females are regarded** in this culture,

Patricia let Laskhmi tell this story when she is still a village girl: “I pretend I do not hear him joining in the laughter when the men at the tea shop joke about the difference between fathering a son and marrying off a daughter. A son will always be a son, they say. But a girl is like a goat. Good as long as she gives you milk and butter but not worth crying over when it’s time to make a stew.”

From this point on, the novel

captures the economic realities, both rural and urban, that prompt families to sell girls, and exposes the corrupt system that enslaves them. Lakshmi’s stepfather introduces her to a glamorous stranger who tells her she will find her a job

as a maid in the city. Glad to be able to help, Lakshmi journeys to India and arrives at

“Happiness House,” full of hope. But

she soon learns the unthinkable truth: She has been SOLD into prostitution.

**“At first, I was imagining** I could write a book about a girl who was trafficked but escapes without ever having to work in a brothel,” said

“I wanted to do what no one else had done so far: tell this heartbreaking story from the point of view of one individual girl.”



Patricia. “But as soon as I got there I realized that was completely unrealistic and that I had to write the real truth.”

To tell the story, Patricia used a structure of short vignettes with chapters only a page or two long. “I hope that readers will come away with the same sense of urgency that I had after my experience. Once you’re aware of something like this you’re never quite the same.

“I don’t necessarily mean that people have to go out and start having bake sales, but I do believe that right now there’s a lot of political activism among young people. Kids are aware of Darfur, for instance, and have led the way toward raising money and creating effective protests. It was the same thing with New Orleans. They went down with church groups or

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—“*Facts About Child Sex Trafficking*,” continues from previous page

raised money to help the victims of hurricane Katrina. My hope would be that that kind of awareness and activism would translate.”

When asked why she chose this subject for a young audience, Patricia said in an interview in *Publisher’s Weekly*, “In the past few years, the trafficking of children has gotten a good deal of media attention. But eight years ago, when I had a chance meeting with a photographer who was working undercover to document the presence of young girls in brothels overseas, I knew immediately that I wanted to do what no one else had done so far: tell this heartbreaking story from the point of view of one individual girl.”

#### What can Rotarians do right now

to help a person in Los Angeles caught in this destructive web? You can call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 888.373.7888 or leave strips of paper with that



number in restrooms and cabs, and at airports, hotels, and other public venues.

“A powerful, broad-based organization like the Rotary,”

Patricia commented, “could perhaps play a vital role in reaching out to those professionals who may be the first point of contact for people being trafficked here in

**Once victims have been rescued, we need to provide them shelters and health care.**

the United States: hospital workers, hotel employees, law enforcement, cab drivers, nail and even beauty salons, where the girls are often taken. The girls also are routinely forced to get waxings, so they appear younger.”

Once victims have been rescued, we need to provide shelter and

medical and mental health care for them. There also are private organizations that locate and recover these victims, but that is costly. Educating society to how widespread this practice is would be key. And a long-range goal would be raising the literacy level of children so they become wage earners in an honorable way. This is part of many Rotary programs.

“Thank you so much for putting the mighty force of the Rotary behind this cause,” Patricia said.

In a Mother-Daughter Book Club interview, Patricia added, “I very much had the idea of activating people. I had opportunities to intervene while I was doing the research, but I was thwarted in the things I wanted to do. Then I thought, ‘What I can do is write a book.’ So I couldn’t write it fast enough. I wanted everyone to know immediately about this. I’ve been really amazed at the response.

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—“*Facts About Child Sex Trafficking*,” continues from previous page

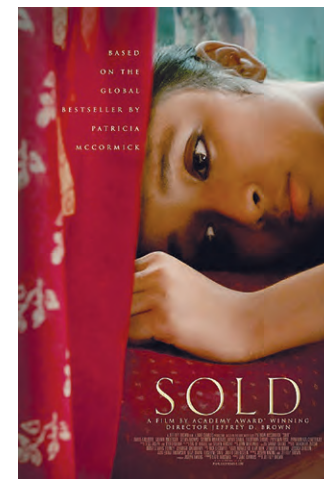
“Kids of this generation tend to be very socially aware and care about issues of social justice and are activists. They want to raise money and they want to learn more. Even kids you wouldn’t anticipate having any kind of connection to an issue like this are interested. I went to a juvenile facility, and I thought, ‘Why are these girls going to care about some girl in a mud hut?’ But they were really moved. And I think it’s because they know what it’s like

in some cases to be betrayed by a family member or to be sexualized inappropriately. Kids are really shocked that this is happening to their peers.

“I believe that young adults want to know what’s happening to their peers on the other side of the globe, but media accounts, by their nature, cannot usually go beyond the surface. To me, there is nothing more powerful—or permanent—than the impact of a book.” ■

## VIEW THE MOVIE

Santa Monica Rotary will screen *Sold*, directed by Emma Thompson, on **Wednesday, April 26 at 7:30 p.m. at the ArcLight Theater at Third Street Promenade**, 395 Santa Monica Place, Santa Monica. The event is being sponsored by Cal State University, Los Angeles. For information, contact Rosemary Regalbuto, [rosemow@aol.com](mailto:rosemow@aol.com).



## The best, all-purpose communication skills class you will ever need!

*Attending PRLS was extremely valuable to me personally, as well as for my Rotary life. It really focused on skills that benefited me in my professional life as well.* —Jeffrey Stern (Woodland Hills), President 2015–2016

## PRLS: IMPROVING YOUR COMMUNICATION AND LEADERSHIP SKILLS

Four experienced instructors will present the history of Rotary and the Rotary Foundation, running an effective meeting, public speaking, and leadership of a volunteer organization. Reservation forms [here](#).

**FEE:** \$50, includes continental breakfast and a sandwich lunch

**DATE/TIME:** Saturday, April 15, 8 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

**VENUE:** in Torrance at the YMCA, 2900 Sepulveda Blvd.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Lew Bertrand, [goodeal@cox.net](mailto:goodeal@cox.net), or Dean Reuter, [reutery.prez@gmail.com](mailto:reutery.prez@gmail.com). ■

# CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING FORUM: HOW IMPORTANT FOR DISTRICT 5280?

—by Lorine Parks (Downey), IMAGINE Senior Correspondent

Hosted by Loyola Marymount University on Saturday, March 4, the District's forum on child sex trafficking focused on the realities faced by the victims and the challenges of the adults who work with them.



Cozette Vergari

**Take DG-elect Cozette Vergari's word for it:**

"Throughout our entire District, children are being brutalized by monsters who profit by selling them over and over for sex."

It's the opinion of Tiffani Cortez, attorney with the Children's Law Center of California, that "Cozette worked hard, not only to bring attention to this issue among her peers, but she reached out to people in the field who are doing the hard work. It's easy to say that you are interested in stopping commercial sexual exploitation of children, but it doesn't mean that you want to do the work. It's currently a hot topic, but there's nothing hot or glamorous about this issue. District 5280 recently held a symposium on child trafficking, highlighting some of the realities our youth face and the challenges of the adults who work with them."

Cozette, an attorney, made her case: "The facts are hard: Pimps make anywhere from \$150,000–\$200,000 per year, per child. And, what does the

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—“Child Trafficking Forum,” continues from previous page

return? That child gets raped an average of 2,000 times annually.

If a child resists, he or she is beaten and/or

drugged into submission. The average age of a victim of child sex trafficking is 13. The average life expectancy of a child after sexual exploitation begins is seven years.”

It's currently a hot topic, but there's nothing hot or glamorous about this issue.

As one of the organizers of the symposium, Cozette emphasized that, “70% of the victims of commercial sexual exploitation of children come from foster care or are runaways; the other 30% come from intact families though seduction via the internet. According to the FBI, an estimated 100,000 underage American children have been sold into slavery, and they are in every state and major city across the country. They are lured through misrepresentation—promises to take care of them, promises to make them models or stars, or as simple as, “you are beautiful—I want to be your boyfriend.”

What got the biggest reaction of the day? “Numerous times the audience gasped at the ugly statistics and the horrors these children face. It is so heinous.” People seemed horrified at some of the things these children must endure, such as tattoos on their face to brand them.

## SPEAKERS, PANELS, TOPICS

**An audience of more than 200 Rotarians** and guests from the District cared enough to come out on a cold Saturday morning. Meeting at Loyola Marymount University, symposium participants were welcomed by DG Greg O'Brien; Dean Bryant Keith Alexander, on behalf of LMU, a sponsor

of the event; and Los Angeles Councilmember Mike Bonin from the 11th District. U.S. Congresswoman Maxine Waters spoke about the issues locally and federally. Representing Drollinger Family Charitable Foundation, a sponsor of the event, Karen Dial.

There were three panels: Stark Reality, Creating Hope, and Advocacy. Stark Reality participants included agents from the FBI and Homeland Security, officers from the LAPD, and deputies from the LA County Sheriff. They were part of the Child Trafficking Task Force participating in a recent statewide sting in which 474 child traffickers were arrested.

What is being done about “Creating Hope?” The panelists were from four non-profit organizations that assist child-trafficking victims: Saving Innocence, Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking, Journey Out, and Communities in Schools.



Cherise Charleswell

**Cherise Charleswell is the development and outreach director for Los Angeles-based Journey Out**, an agency leading the fight for the freedom and survival of those whose lives have been destroyed by sex trafficking. She said, “Child sex trafficking in L.A. has been prevalent for such a long time. It’s not a new epidemic, just one that has been invisible and not openly discussed. And I think that this loss of awareness has helped perpetuate the problem. It has

resulted in not having enough resources to stop it.

“Trafficking has always been prevalent in Los Angeles, it was just going by another name: Prostitution. However, over the years, instead of just relying on adults, the trafficking industry has started

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—“Child Trafficking Forum,” continues from previous page

to rely on children. Additionally, rather than just involving one exploiter, now entire gangs have become involved. The reason is simple: When you sell drugs you can only sell drugs one time. When you sell a 14-year-old girl, you can sell her multiple times in one night. And she can work for you for the next few years and make you a lot of money, because there is always a market for young girls to be involved in sexual exploitation,” commented Cherise

Cherise added, “child sex trafficking is connected to other social ills, such as poverty and homelessness, and the problem has grown and these risk factors have increased.”

What drew the biggest audience reaction was when they “realized that there were adult victims of sex trafficking as well. Perhaps, it was because they had already forgotten about the adult victims, never thought about

Child sex trafficking is connected to other social ills such as poverty and homelessness.

them or considered them victims.

“I used that opportunity to educate the audience about the fact that adults are the long-term victims of sex trafficking. As Dr. Stephany Powell, our executive director at Journey Out stated, ‘domestic

human sex trafficking does not have an expiration date,’ and this means that their exploitation doesn’t stop because of a milestone birthday. Sex trafficking has adverse effects across the children’s life spans, and by the time they reach adulthood they are suffering from complex trauma and stunted development, which contributes to the myriad reasons and obstacles that make it difficult for them to get away from their traffickers and out of ‘The Life.’”



Baz Bazzel

**Three speakers discussed the rescue and recovery of child trafficking victims:** two mental health professionals and Baz Bazzel, a former CIA special-operations group officer who is now president of the Association for the Recovery of children (ARC).

Baz’s organization is an elite group of six former military servicemen with a very special set of skills. Their sole purpose is to find kidnapped American children around the world and return them to their parents. ARC provides training for prevention, intervention, victim rescue, trauma recovery, and advocacy. During the past 24 years, Baz has rescued 60 children.

ARC provides all-encompassing child-recovery services at NO COST to the custodial parents. The clandestine nature of the job makes fundraising difficult. There have been times when ARC has pinpointed the exact location of a child but had to leave him or her with the kidnappers because there wasn’t enough money to pull an operation together. Baz has 40 of those cases sitting on his desk right now.

“In every case we’ve had, the parent initially went to a well-known taxpayer-funded advocacy group first. When I asked what was done for them, and they all said, ‘Nothing. They didn’t help me find my child.’ Sometimes you have to determine what the distance really is and then go the distance. You need to be able to say, ‘Here’s the \$30,000 in airplane expenses and food, and here’s the kid at home,’” commented Baz

ARC’s recovery rate is 100%. Not even the fictional A-Team of the 1980s could boast that kind of success. Baz’s favorite quote from his father, “it isn’t what happens to you, it’s what you do with what happens to you that counts,” helps fuel his fire as he works with his clients. —continues on next page

—“Child Trafficking Forum,” continues from previous page

Baz continues to supply a lot of its financial resources. “We are deeply concerned for the victims’ health and ability to survive longer than a month from now,” Baz remarked. For more information contact Baz at [info@recoveryofchildren.com](mailto:info@recoveryofchildren.com).

## THE HIDDEN TEARS PROJECT

**Jason Marinov is a co-founder of the Hidden Tears Project** and is artistic director, dancer, and choreographer of Marinov Dance. “At Hidden Tears, we partner with nonprofits across the country,” Jason said, “to raise consciousness through media on gender inequality, sexual abuse, and human trafficking, all of which are intrinsically connected.” Our mission is to put a spotlight on the fastest growing illegal industry today: human trafficking and enslavement.

Hidden Tears’s goal is to elevate public awareness of this topic.

The Hidden Tears Project also is a short-form television series created to spark mainstream awareness about the sex trafficking and organ harvesting of American children. “We’re a passionate group of writers, actors, directors, and advisors,” Jason said, “who believe that with more awareness, the epidemic of human trafficking in America can be stopped.

“The Hidden Tears Project is a social movement that we started right in the middle of Hollywood,” added Jason, “with big players in the entertainment industry. I believe that by educating the writers, actors, directors, and producers about human trafficking, the types of content that contribute to its perpetuation will shift. We need to get at this issue from the inside and also empower change makers in the entertainment industry to use their voices.”

Making this one of the most talked about issues in the United States, at the same level as gay marriage has been and police shootings now are, is the goal of this project. Without high-level, mainstream awareness it will be impossible for American citizens or residents, regardless of political or social consciousness, to be unaware that child trafficking is happening, very possibly in their own neighborhood. To learn more about The Hidden Tears Project, visit [hiddentearsproject.org](http://hiddentearsproject.org).

## HOW CAN ROTARY MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

**So, it is simply not enough to help victims** escape “The Life.” They also need the tools and resources to address their trauma and move beyond it so they are able to achieve or regain full independence.

As Cherise of Journey Out said, “The journey out of a life of exploitation, abuse, and violence is a difficult one, especially for those subjected to abuse since childhood. For many there is no such thing as choice, and once they are in, it is extremely difficult to get out.”

Judges and attorneys represent minors in a new courtroom dedicated solely to this issue at the Edmund D. Edelman Children’s Court. Detention, rather than arrest, of minor children is paramount because, under new laws, minors are deemed not to have the capacity to consent to prostitution.

Tiffani Cortez is a lawyer with the Children’s Law Center of California. She said, “people are not aware because they choose not to be. All you have to do is drive down some of the most popular areas and streets known for prostitution in Los Angeles in the evening or early morning—for example Figueroa, Sepulveda, Western—and you will see young girls and women wearing little clothing walking around trying to flag down cars. Or look on

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—“Child Trafficking Forum,” continues from previous page

Craigslist or Backpage.com under the ads section and see all the solicitation taking place.

“But people choose to look but not see. When it doesn’t affect their daughter or their neighborhood, they can choose to ignore it. It shouldn’t matter that foster youth and girls and boys of color are often the most victimized. They are still children, and they deserve to be protected as if they were the most privileged kid in West LA.”

**What can one person do?** “First,” commented Tiffani, “find a way to actually see the problem and talk about it. Take it back to your community, your country clubs, your book clubs, etc. You never know whose opinion you may change about the type of people who fall victim to this system. Additionally, there are people around you who may have been a buyer of sex at some point. They need to be educated, too. They need to know that the girls standing on the corners flagging down cars may be 14, or the girl dancing seductively in a strip club may be 16 and have a pimp waiting to get all of her money after she’s done.

“My second thing,” Tiffani went on, “is simple. It’s easy to think we are here to ‘save’ these children. I believe that is a dangerous misconception. Children are vulnerable and may need help and advocacy. But the youth we work with are survivors. They are fighters, tough and resilient. They don’t need someone to put on a cape and fly in to save them because the real work isn’t getting them out of the life.

“The real work is empowering them and providing enough support, love, and resources to give them other options and keep them out of that life. They are alive because they have the intelligence, instincts, and street smarts to stay alive. But they don’t have the resources to create a different life,

because they are still kids. So rather than focusing on saving them, focus on empowering them and respecting them as young women and men, and they will be much better off,” said Tiffani.

As Jason of Human Tears put it, “Our mission is to have human trafficking become a part of the discussion in American households. When people across the country demand change, change will begin to take place. I

Rather than focusing on saving them, focus on empowering them.

believe human trafficking can and will be addressed in the next State of the Union if enough of us join together.”

As Cherise said, “We must recognize sex trafficking as a public health epidemic that harms not only individuals but also entire communities, and for that reason it should garner substantial resources to help eradicate it.”

Cozette emphasized, “This is just the beginning of a long journey of collaboration, where Rotarians, Rotary Clubs, and Rotary International can partner to make a difference. We need stronger legislation and a ‘re-culturalization’ in our society. It starts with education and creating awareness, but must be supported by action”

Nelson Mandela said, “There can be no keener revelation of a society’s soul than the way in which it treats its children.” ■



Rotary District 5280

Pageant of the Arts

March 11 | Loyola Marymount University



**FIRST PLACE ART CONTEST**  
**TAMMY MENDOZA**  
*El Segundo*



**FIRST PLACE SPEECH CONTEST**  
**SKYLAR MCVICKERS**  
*Palos Verdes Peninsula*



**FIRST PLACE DANCE CONTEST**  
**SIMRAN CHOPRA**  
*Playa Venice Sunrise*



**FIRST PLACE MUSIC CONTEST**  
**CHAN LEE**  
*Koreatown*

# LA'S FIRST ROTACARE CLINIC HAS AN URGENT NEED FOR VOLUNTEER DOCTORS



*Gwyn Petrick*

## “Do you have health insurance?”

That was the first question Gwyn Petrick remembers being asked after being taken to the emergency room. As her hand was guided to scrawl her signature, she thought, “What

would I do if I didn’t have health insurance?”

“That was 10 years ago,” said Gwyn, a Rotarian and past president of the Woodland Hill Club, “and it was the first time I knew I wanted to open a free medical clinic for those without health insurance.”

That dream of a clinic is about to become a reality. For the last three years Gwen has worked diligently to secure proper licensing, a site for the clinic, and equipment and supplies.

What is missing are licensed physicians. “We are seeking several doctors who are interested in volunteering 10 hours a week to serve the healthcare needs of the uninsured and under

insured in the West San Fernando Valley,” commented Gwen. To volunteer your services or if you know someone who would volunteer, please contact Gwen at 818.592.0055 or at [gwyn@gwynpetrick.com](mailto:gwyn@gwynpetrick.com).

The shocking fact is that in California many people do not have health insurance. The uninsured population under age 65 is more than 6.6 million, which is about 15% of the state’s population.

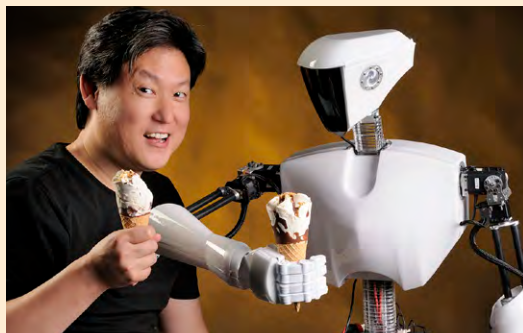
**The RotaCare Clinic**, which will provide free services, is in Canoga Park. “It will bring

The clinic will serve those with the greatest need and least access to medical care.

critical relief of pain and suffering to those who have the greatest need and least access to medical care,” remarked

Gwen. “Our clinic is modeled after RotaCare’s 11 clinics in the Bay Area. That project was launched in 1989.” Her eventual goal is to have RotaCare Clinics across Los Angeles County.

As a true Rotarian, Gwyn has always believed that it is important for us to help others. Rotacare gave her that opportunity to fulfill Rotary’s motto, “*Service Above Self*.” ■



## This is a breakfast speaker our youth will absolutely love!

Thanks to PDG D.J. Sun, we have an outstanding speaker, **Dr. Dennis Hong**, who spoke to the Young Professionals and Rotaractors at the Rotary International Conference, where he received a standing ovation! Don't miss this opportunity to hear an incredible speaker. His accolades include: TED alumnus, professor and founding director of RoMeLa (Robotics and Mechanisms Laboratory at UCLA). He was named to *Popular Science's* 8th annual "Brilliant 10;" "Forward Under 40" by U of Wisconsin, Madison; and honored as "Top 40 Under 40" by Purdue U. The *Washington Post* magazine called Dr. Hong "the Leonardo da Vinci of robots." He has invented a number of novel robots and mechanisms.

## District Breakfast April 18

# SHOWCASING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF INTERACTORS AND ROTARACTORS

—by Bette Hall (Calabasas), SAG Youth

This breakfast  
honors our  
young people.  
Invite them  
to attend!

**They were** at the District Picnic, the Foundation Celebration on the *USS Iowa*, the Angel City Giveaway, at the 3-2-1 Race to End Polio, and other events.

Who, you ask? Why, our Interactors and Rotaractors! They turn up in buses, cars, and by themselves until we have all the support we need to run our District events, setting up tents, moving equipment, relocating filled water buckets, tirelessly helping to manage the games, and many ran and walked in the Color Run to End Polio. Yes, they were having fun, both spraying the colors on runners and walkers, and getting covered with it too!

### Now it is our chance to give back to them

by inviting them to our last District Breakfast of this Rotary year on April 18. This event is traditionally the Youth Breakfast, where we take

a look at what these amazing young people have done during this Rotary year and hear about their future plans.

Let's honor our young people and give them a chance to be at this meeting. Please invite them, and bring as many as possible. This event will sell out fast so sign up early! Very often this is the first Rotary meeting these young people have attended, outside of District events, and they all leave impressed.

**Recognize these young leaders**, Rotary's future, by bringing them to the District Youth Breakfast on April 18. ■

**Interact**  
Rotary Sponsored Club



**Rotaract**  
Rotary Club Partner







*These young participants not only had colorful t-shirts but colorful hands and big smiles, too!*

## Run to END POLIO NOW

*A huge fund-raising success with lots of fun, too!*

—by Wendy Clifford (Wilshire), Co-chair 3-2-1 Go 5k Run to End Polio

### WE RAN, ATE, AND WERE ENTERTAINED!

More than 375 participants and volunteers helped our District raise in excess of \$5,000 for PolioPlus with the 3-2-1- Go Color Run. A happy ending, considering the planning committee discussed canceling the event 10 days earlier when just 50 participants were registered.

The run was tons of fun. Most participants returned with colorful t-shirts, even those who tried to avoid the spray of colors!

Next, we lunched on barbecued hamburgers and hot dogs, chips, and nachos. Cupcakes from Wilshire and Thai Town Clubs were favorites on the dessert table. Congrats to Thai Town for winning the “Best Cupcake in District 5280 Award!”

We had Korean, Filipino, Folklorico, and Hawaiian dancers. We also had a wonderful Venezuelan duo serenading the crowd, and Sweeney Montinola (Carson/Gardena/Dominguez) got folks up to do some Zumba!

### THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

- The North Hollywood Club secured a grant enabling participation by those normally unable to take part.
- More than 75 Interactors and Rotaractors volunteered at the event. We couldn’t do it without them!
- Larry Bender (Hawthorne) brought a busload of Interactors.

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—“Run to END POLIO NOW,” continues from previous page



The fun sunglasses were donated by Arturo Velasquez (Woodland Hills); entertainment was compliments of the Sri Chinmoy Peace Runners; color spray created one-of-a-kind t-shirts.

- Members of the South Bay Sunrise Club set up the run course and handled registration.
- David Henseler and Karen Greenberg (South Bay Sunrise) cooked the hamburgers and hot dogs and prepared the fixings! Assisting were Bob Kelchner, Marianne Kelchner, Jim Beardsley, Joanna Farmer, MaryRose Jeffry, Jess Knauft, Ruth Kurihara-Kelsey, Jean Morris, Rosy Riera-Schwartz, Irma Roche, Yuko Saito-Rodriguez, Lawrence Young, Jon Anderson, and Ligaya Balbas.
- Ruth Kurihara-Kelsey (South Bay Sunrise), secured entertainment for the Peace Festival.
- Generous event sponsors: Arturo Velasquez (Woodland Hills) donated the cruise to Mexico and all of the sunglasses; Don Turner (North

Hollywood) made a very generous personal donation; and PDG Elsa Gillham and Larry Gillham (Wilshire) donated the 50" television!

- Door prize donors.
- Margie Christofferson, Ron Reyes, and Scot and Wendy Clifford (Wilshire) and the Hermosa Beach Club for special assistance.
- DGN Joe Vasquez (Bellflower) donated the wine that was in the many wine baskets!
- Ruth Kurihara-Kelsey, Wendy Clifford, and DGND Melody St. John made the event happen with their months of planning and hard work.

### SPECIAL GUESTS

We were thrilled to have the Sri Chinmoy Peace Runners participate in our event. They brought

their torch to share with our participants and, following the run, serenaded us with a song. Coincidentally, last month they participated in a run in Indonesia and it was a Rotary run. Congratulations to them for spreading peace throughout the world for the past 30 years.

We also heard from William Blischke from Soles for Souls, and the run's participants donated 292 pairs of shoes.

### AND THE BIGGEST THANK YOU GOES TO . . .

everyone who participated and helped us contribute to PolioPlus! We truly are “this close.” ■

When you buy from Rotary's  
reward partners, they donate  
to the Rotary Foundation.

Partners include:

amazon.com

FedEx

Hertz

Lenovo

MARRIOTT

STAPLES

Walmart  
Save money. Live better.

## ONCE AGAIN: WHAT ARE GLOBAL REWARDS?

—by Arlene Dickey (San Pedro), Chair, Rotary Global Rewards District 5280

**Global rewards** is a way to use the buying power of more than 1.2 million Rotarians to generate funds for the Rotary Foundation, while giving purchasers special discounts on everyday necessities. Discounts on hotels, airlines, car rentals, etc., are also available.

Any Rotarian or Roteracter can claim rewards but must have a My Rotary Account to do so. Ask your treasurer or secretary for your Rotary ID number. You'll need it when you go to [Rotary.org](http://Rotary.org) to set up a Rotary account. It's easy to register, but if you need a bit of guidance on the process, [click here](#).

The Global rewards program is an online or mobile app only at this time, and all rewards (or at least 90% of them) are claimed via your computer or mobile app. Check out the program [here](#).

This is the third year of the program, and Rotary is working very hard to come up with new and exciting ideas to keep it fresh. So be patient!

If you have any questions contact: Arlene Dickey at [amdickey@cox.net](mailto:amdickey@cox.net) or 310.210.8577. ■



**MAY 4-7, 2017 | LAKE ARROWHEAD**

# **2017 ROTARY DISTRICT CONFERENCE**

**REGISTRATION & HOTEL RESERVATIONS NOW OPEN!**

**PRICES INCREASE APRIL 6— SIGN UP BEFORE IT SELLS OUT!**







## Imaginative Club Project

# CREATING A BETTER LIFE FOR WESTSIDE YOUTH

—by Warren Brobow (Westchester), District Youth Exchange Chair

Safe Place for Youth’s mission is to inspire, nurture, and empower the resilient human spirit of homeless youth by providing immediate and lasting solutions, one young person at a time. Last year, almost 1,000 youth received services from S.P.Y. Learn more [here](#).

**Westchester Rotary** recently completed a volunteer weekend as part of its Global Grant project with Safe Place For Youth (S.P.Y) in Venice. During Presidents’ Day weekend, approximately 150 volunteers cleaned, painted, and planted flowers and shrubs to make S.P.Y. a more welcoming place for homeless youth in West LA when they come for counseling, health checks, job training, and job placement services.

The \$135,000 Global Grant came from District 5280 DDF; districts in India, Thailand, and Puerto Rico; and the Drollinger Family and



Adam Levine Foundations. Another \$50,000 in funding came from the Westchester Rotary Foundation and the Hannon Foundation.

In coming months, the grant will help increase S.P.Y.’s capacity for delivering services. With assistance from SAG Vocational Services Olivia Patterson Ryans, we’ll soon be looking for Rotarians who have job openings and internship opportunities for qualified S.P.Y. youth. For more information, contact [Warren Bobrow](#). ■



# CLUB 62

News for and about District 5280 clubs

## 2016-17

### Annual Fundraiser

Westchester  
**Rotary**  
Foundation



# MAD EVENT

HONORING OUR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR



**KEN LEW**  
LAPD Officer  
Badge of Heart Founder

**SATURDAY**  
**APRIL 22, 2017**  
**6-10 PM**

**TICKETS: \$100 EACH**

**AUTOMOBILE  
DRIVING MUSEUM**  
610 Lairport Street  
El Segundo, CA

Live & silent  
auction plus  
a chance to win \$10,000!



*"MadMen" themed dinner party  
Dress in 1960s cocktail attire!*



For more information, contact Cindy Williams at [cw@cwbusinesscenter.com](mailto:cw@cwbusinesscenter.com) or 310.600.6196



*The mighty LA5 Scholarship Committee on Application Day reviewing the essays of amazing local students! Rotarians pictured are Alan Bernstein, Ken Chong, Vicky Garcia, Carole Donahue, Robert Donahue, Jon Gibby, and Gina Doyle.*



*Downey Rotary raised critical funds for a citywide program, Gangs Out Of Downey (G.O.O.D.). The auctioneer threw down the gauntlet at the event. #GOOD #KeepingDowneySafer #WorkingTogether.*

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**Too Much Fun?**

**We don't think so!**

JOIN US AT THE FOURTH ANNUAL  
SOUTH BAY  
**BEER & WINE**  
FESTIVAL  
BEER • WINE • FOOD • MUSIC  
**SUNDAY MAY 21**  
ERNIE HOWLETT PARK  
ROLLING HILLS ESTATES

**INFO & TICKETS**  
[sbbeerwinefest.com](http://sbbeerwinefest.com)  
**Save \$5.00! Use Promo Code: 007**

 Presented by the Rotary Clubs of  
El Segundo, Palos Verdes Peninsula,  
& South Bay Sunrise.



## Playa Venice Sunrise Says “Bingo” to Fundraising!

On March 11 Playa Venice Sunrise enjoyed its best-ever Luck 'O the Irish BingoFest, an annual evening of Irish music and drink, drawings, silent auctions, St. Paddy's day food, and nontraditional St. Patrick's day food from Cantalini's. Winners of the 10 bingo games received cash prizes. The final game, a black out of all the numbers, capped off this special evening.

President Peter Smyth spoke for event chairs Gail Goldstein, Gwen Vuchsas, and Lisa Schwab, saying, “Not only did this evening top our largest attendance at 146 people, it also brought record earnings to our foundation of more than \$10,000.” The wearing of the green was only topped by the wearing of smiles!

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—“Club 62,” continues from previous page

## Rotary Club of Calabasas

Rotary 

## Invites You to




proceeds will benefit community projects and rotary

Join your communities for a Fun-Filled afternoon with Bingo, Raffle Prizes, and More!

### \$40 Early Bird

Pre-registration includes  
6-card Bingo, Dauber and Lunch!

### SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2017

Doors Open @ Noon  
Games Start @ 1pm

**Payouts**  
9 Games @ \$100  
1 Coverall @ \$300  
Pull Tabs Games

### Founders Hall

Behind the Library  
100 Civic Center Way  
Calabasas, 91302

**Win**  
Raffle Prizes  
Valued  
@ \$100 each

Pre-register at [www.Calabingo.com](http://www.Calabingo.com)  
For more information contact Lucy Martin at (818) 970-1199  
Or Mail Check Payable to Rotary Club of Calabasas  
P.O. Box 8232 Calabasas CA 91302  
**\$45 at the door • SPACE IS LIMITED**

## IN OTHER DISTRICT NEWS


























## DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

Saturday, June 3  
Carson Community Center

For 2017–2018  
club officers, directors,  
and committee chairs.