

Make a dream come true!

Rotary
District 5280



ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE

DECEMBER 2017



Marine Color Guard, right, at the November district Breakfast that honored military veterans. See other photos on [page 17](#).



“Let’s celebrate and collaborate to truly make a difference.”

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DISTRICT CALENDAR

December

- 1 Global Grant Scholarship Apps Due to Clubs
- 2 Angel City Celebration
- 12–13 Braille Institute Holiday Party

January

- 9 District Breakfast
- 12 Global Grant Scholarship Apps Due to District
- 27 Membership Forum ([See page 15.](#))

February

- 9–11 PETS

March

- 3 Membership Forum
- 10 Pageant of the Arts
- 17 Color Run for Polio
- 21–30 District Humanitarian Trips

RI Convention 2018 and post-trips. Why you should attend. How you can register. See [pages 7–10.](#)



“Thank you for making a difference
in people’s lives.”



HOLIDAY GREETINGS DISTRICT 5280 ROTARIANS, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS

By Cozette Vergari, District Governor

I HOPE EVERYONE HAD A WONDERFUL THANKSGIVING! I was excited to share mine with our new granddaughter, Sydney Joleen Vergari, born October 18. As we head into the busy holiday season, I wish everyone a peaceful and heartwarming celebration with those who are close to you. I know we all wish those in need a safe and peaceful season. I am proud of the many programs happening throughout this holiday season in District 5280. Thank you Rotarians!

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION IN TORONTO PLUS OPTIONAL POST TRIP. Don’t miss the Discounted Early Bird Registration Deadline of December 15 to register for the RI Convention in

Toronto, set for June 23–27, 2018. This is a must for presidents-elect but great for all Rotarians to mingle with Rotarians from all around the world, hear great speakers, and participate in Rotary-relevant breakout sessions. We are putting together a great District 5280 post trip June 28–July 3 in Eastern Canada. Discounted Early Bird Registration Deadline for post trip is December 20. (See more Convention and post-trip information beginning on [page 7.](#))

DISTRICT BREAKFAST NO. 3: THE ASTRONOMY CENTURY IN CALIFORNIA (1917–2017). Register by January 3 to receive the early-bird discount for our January 9 District Breakfast. Our keynote speaker —continues



—continues

will be John Mulchaey, executive director for the Carnegie Observatories in Pasadena. He will share the history of such great collaborative minds as Andrew Carnegie, Albert Einstein, and Edwin Hubble in the 100-year history of Mt. Wilson and the Carnegie Observatories.

Breakfast attendees will be eligible to participate in a drawing, with winners being hosted for dinner by Carnegie Observatories, DG Cozette, and First Gentleman Richard Moon at the historic astronomy observatory atop Mt. Wilson.

DISASTER RELIEF. We continue to accept donations through the RI District 5280 Charitable Foundation for the many recent tragic disasters. You may select those you wish to support in the effort to provide aid to the victims. Northern California is in great need of assistance, due to extensive fire damage. You may donate to the District 5280 Charitable Foundation through the District Website, using PayPal. We are working through the network of Rotary to shepherd these donations to ensure they are received where they are needed and are used appropriately.

Again, thanking you for making a difference in people's lives.

PS: Please direct any questions to Tori Hettinger, District Office administrator at 310.670.9792 or to Tori.Hettinger@Rotary5280.org. ★



Last DG Club Visit. DG Cozette Vergari completed her round of club visits at her home club of Westchester. Pictured from the left are club President Judith Delavigne, DG Cozette Vergari, and President-elect Tori Hettinger, who received the DG's Rising Star Award.

JANUARY EVENTS REQUIRING REGISTRATION

- **Presidents Brunch**, January 20 at Annenberg Beach House in Santa Monica
- **Membership Forum**, January 27 at the Salvation Army in Burbank

Information and registration at portal.clubrunner.ca/50010/





THE MEANING OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON

By Michael Turner (Woodland Hills)
SAG Communications

MANY OF US FIND that the stresses associated with the holiday season can often make it easy to focus on the things that drive us crazy: crowded malls, endless parties, over indulgence at the dinner table, and never-ending visits from friends and family.

The real challenge at this time of year is reflecting on the true meaning of what the holiday spirit signifies. The holiday is the season of spirituality, which is a sense of connection to something bigger than ourselves. Spiritual health is an integral part of our overall well-being. Spiritually is evident in our interactions with others, when we encourage and share hope and go the extra mile to be caring and kind. Some like to think of spirituality as discovering meaningfulness in our lives through Service Above Self.

The holiday spirit is also related to December being the last month of the year. We can learn much from those who don't wait for a date on the calendar to be neighborly and caring. The truth is that we see tragedy and misery around us every day, and while many of us are disturbed by it, we feel powerless. But true holiday spirit urges us to do good whenever the opportunity arises.

THERE ARE MANY SILENT SOLDIERS out there who stay in the trenches year-round demonstrating their loving spirit by making a difference in others' lives. They visit the lonely and the elderly. They work in halfway houses, —continues

'Tis the season of spirituality,
which is a sense of connection
to something bigger than ourselves.

Make a Dream Come True!  DECEMBER 2017



—continues

deliver dinners, visit nursing homes, and open their homes to strangers. Their motivation for spreading joy and love is the spirit we recall each December. When we remember all we have, it makes it so much easier to give to others in a true holiday spirit that lasts all year.

For many, spirituality is connected to questions about life and self-identity, such as:

- Am I a caring person?
- What is my connection to my community?
- How can I live the best possible life?
- How can I serve others?



Here is what some District clubs are doing in December that remind of the true meaning of spirituality:

- Manhattan Beach: Sponsors a benefit concert on December 9 to honor the memory of Sandy Casey, a special education teacher. The proceeds will provide a scholarship to a student with a demonstrated interest in teaching children with special needs.
- For the past 45 years Rotarians have provided support at the Braille Institute Student Holiday Party. This year, they will once again assist on December 12 and 13.
- Downey: A Children's Christmas Party on December 19.
- Westwood Village: Shopping Spree on December 7 for kids from the Salvation Army Transitional Village.

THIS DECEMBER, TAKE TIME to reflect on what the holiday season means for you. What is this time really about? Are you using it in the most meaningful way? ★

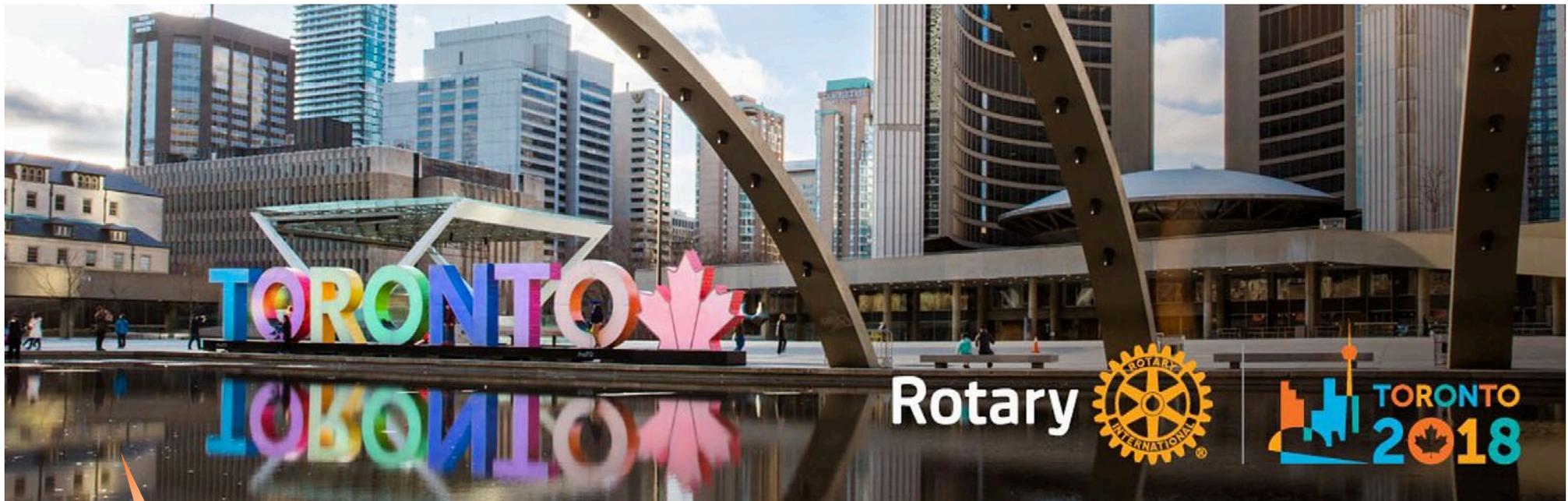


*“You have to grow from the inside out.
None can teach you, none can make you spiritual.
There is no other teacher but your own soul.”*

—Swami Vivehananda



“THIS CONVENTION WILL NOT BE A SNOOZE,”
 says Christa Ramey of the Westchester Club.
 “A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME TRIP,” says her husband, John.



RI CONVENTION: INSPIRATION AROUND EVERY CORNER

By Lorine Parks (Downey) Senior Correspondent

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION: TORONTO, JUNE 21–27, 2018.

From the breathtaking opening ceremony and world-renowned speakers, to everybody’s favorite, the House of Friendship, it will all be ready to welcome Rotarians from around the world. Registration is open: **December 15 is the last day for an early registration discount.** Hotel demand and prices are up due to a separate event Toronto is hosting, so Rotarians are encouraged to register soon.

To learn more about the convention, District 5280 has provided its clubs with two eloquent spokespersons. “My husband and I,” said

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Christa, “have a role in the District best described as promoting the International Convention.

“So if you are a club president and we email or call about coming for a visit to your club, please allow us a few minutes to talk to you about why you should all be attending the convention.”

“Our responsibilities,” said John, “include promoting the convention at District events and club visits and answering questions Rotarians may have about the event. We also will provide information about hotel accommodations, air travel, and the post-Convention trip to Quebec City and Montreal.

“We are not formally dividing up these responsibilities,” John went on, “other than making separate club visits to maximize our ability to promote the convention at the club level.”

BOTH JOHN AND CHRISTA have served as presidents of the Westchester club. Additionally, John chaired and Christa co-chaired the 2012 District Humanitarian Trip to Puerto Rico, which involved conducting 13 service projects in partnership with Puerto Rican clubs.

“I am inspired always by the Convention speakers,” said Christa. “I not only learn things I don’t know about Rotary, but I am also motivated to do more as a Rotarian. I also love just being at the convention—seeing people from all around the world, seeing old friends I have met on District trips, meeting new friends, and seeing people from other countries in their traditional dress. I feel empowered.

“I have been to two conventions officially,” Christa added. “Three if you count Los Angeles. My favorite? My favorite convention will always be my first: England! My husband was club president-elect. We not only did pre- and post-trips to London, but we did everything we had time to do at the Convention in Birmingham. We went on group tours and did a home-host event. I met some beautiful people.”

“I have attended two conventions,” John said, “The one in Birmingham, England, in 2009 and the most recent one in Atlanta. I think my favorite —continues



“I love . . . seeing people from all around the world, seeing old friends I have met on District trips, meeting new friends, and seeing people from other countries in their traditional dress.”

—Christa Ramey



—continues

parts of the Conventions were visits to the Hall of Friendship and the home-hosted events sponsored by local clubs. These sell out quickly, so Toronto attendees should not delay in registering for one of these separately ticketed events not covered by basic registration.

“I also love the Conventions’ keynote speakers,” John added. “They are always tremendous. I would say Birmingham was my favorite Convention, as it was the Centennial, my first, and got me incredibly excited for my year as club president 2009–2010.

“THE BEST REASON FOR ATTENDING A ROTARY CONVENTION,” John said, “is the fellowship! It starts with the Hall of Friendship, where you can meet Rotarians from around the world and exchange ideas about projects, swap pins and banners, and enjoy the international camaraderie that comes with being a Rotarian.

“My favorite memory from a Convention,” John went on, “was riding through the English countryside to attend a traditional English Garden Party put on by one of the host clubs with Rotarians from Norway, India, Nepal, England, and Spain laughing and telling stories as we enjoyed the country view.”

“THE POST TRIP THIS YEAR AFTER TORONTO IS GOING TO BE AMAZING!” commented Christa. “We are going to Quebec City and Montreal. I hope everyone that goes to the convention can take the time for the post trip.”

“We have put together an amazing post-trip,” John said, “to see the best that Eastern Canada has to offer in sightseeing, shopping, dining, and fellowship. We are encouraging every attendee to sign up for this once-in-a lifetime trip!”

“AT MY FIRST CONVENTION,” said Christa, “I found that I am not just a citizen of Los Angeles, or California, or the United States. I am a Citizen of the World. There is nothing that divides Rotarians. We are united for a common purpose: service. If you attend a Convention, you will learn what others are doing to serve. You will get ideas for your club and the District. You will be inspired.”

—continues



Christa and John Ramey

MEET THE RAMEYS: DISTRICT 5280'S RI CONVENTION BOOSTERS

How did Christa and John become interested in Rotary?

“My husband was a Rotarian and he inspires me daily,” she said. “I became a Rotarian when I went to my first International Convention.

I had no expectations. I was not yet a Rotarian. I knew when I left, I was a Rotarian; I just had not joined yet.”

“My interest in Rotary,” said John, “stemmed from the desire to be more involved in my community and to meet like-minded people. Next April I will celebrate 15 years as a proud member of the Westchester Club!”

Committed to charity and service. Christa is the immediate past president of the Westchester Cub. A trial attorney, she is a principal at Ramey Law, PC, where she practices with John. She believes charity and service are important parts of her life, and that Rotary’s motto, “service above self,” is a guide to both charity and the practice of law. “I am a wife, mother, attorney, and foodie looking for balance,” she commented. As a Rotarian, Christa spends a considerable time mentoring high school and college students in the Los Angeles area.

John and Christa take Rotary’s motto very seriously in how they approach their law practice and professional life as well as their personal and charitable work. “We are committed to the idea,” they said, “that giving back to the community, both in providing financial aid and volunteer time, is essential to having a law practice that is more than just a vendor for legal services but a good community partner as well.”





Inspiration AROUND EVERY CORNER IN TORONTO

—continues

“Outstanding memory? I cannot give just one,” said Christa. “I never knew that Mia Farrow was a polio survivor, but I heard her speak about her experience with this horrible disease. I also heard her talk about being married to Frank Sinatra and meditating with the Beatles. I heard Bill Gates and Jane Goodall. I was inspired by some of the most amazing human beings who are looking for ways not only to end polio but to do all sorts of things that are seemingly impossible.” ★



REGISTER EARLY AND SAVE!

ROTARY CONVENTION TORONTO, 23–27 JUNE 2018

Our convenient online system makes registering easy for all Rotary members, Rotaractors, and Rotary club and district employees.

Register today at riconvention.org.

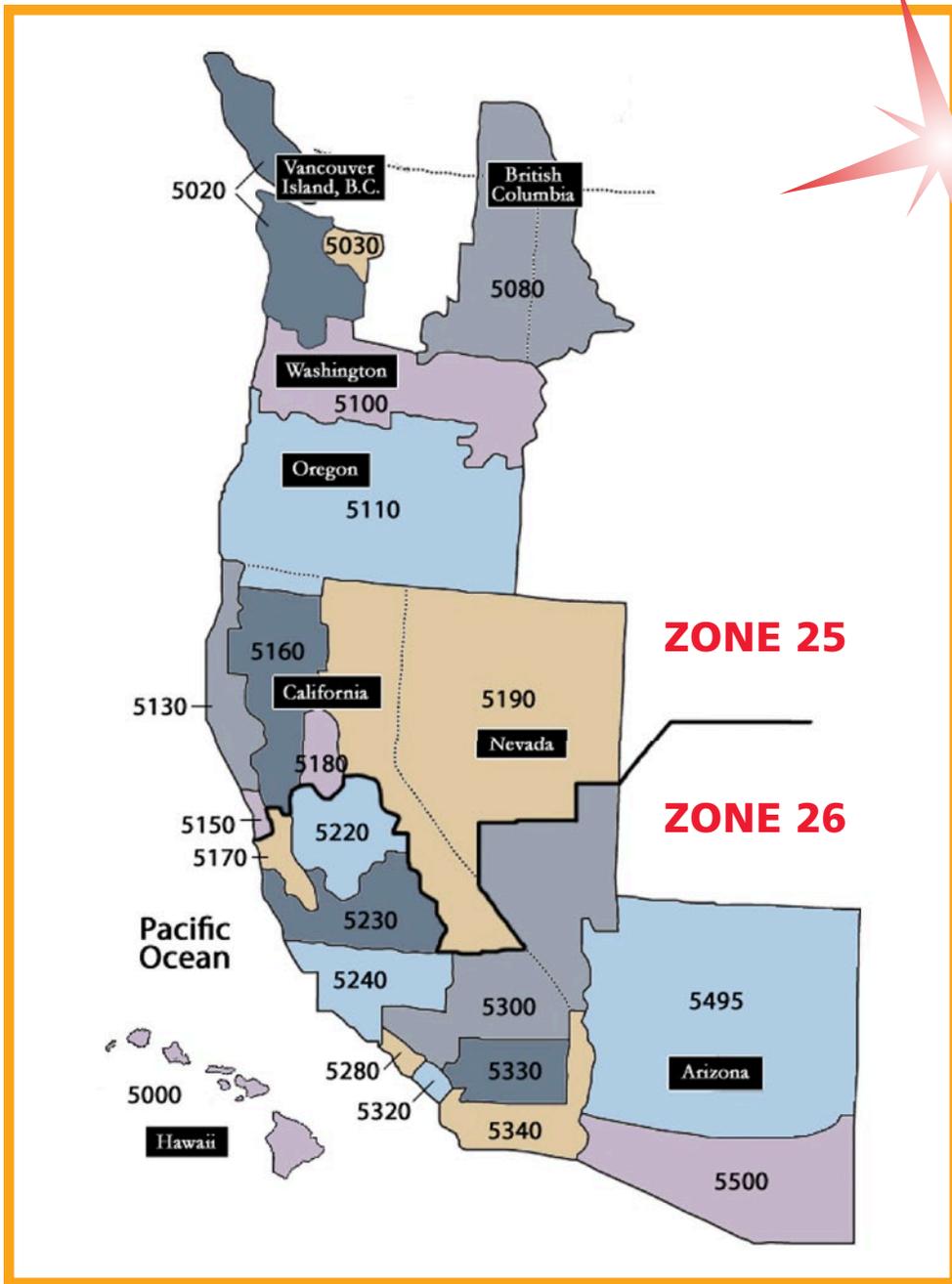
Deadlines

Deadline	Fee (US\$)	
	Rotarians	Rotaractors
15 December 2017	\$345	\$70
31 March 2018	\$420	\$100
After 31 March 2018 until the convention closes	\$495	\$130

Cancellation deadline: 30 April 2018

New this year! Receive \$10 off your full adult registration fee if you register online by 31 March 2018.





GNATS, GETS, ERLS, AND DRLS GATHERED FOR THE ZONES 25–26 INSTITUTE

By Lorine Parks (Downey), Senior Correspondent

NO, THESE AREN'T PESKY INSECTS looking for fruit, but 600 hard-working Rotarians whose years-long training culminated in the Zones 25–26 Institute. GNATS are Governor Nominees and GETS are Governors-Elect. Our District Governor-elect, Joe Vasquez (Bellflower), and Governor Designate **Nomine,** Melody St. John (Hollywood), represented the District and heard thought-provoking speakers and participated in engaging break-out sessions.

“For anyone having served in the military, this is familiar,” said Joe. “It is not only interesting but also convenient that Rotary makes use of acronyms in our everyday Rotary jargon. PETS, WRAG, MOP (Manual of Procedures), and it goes on!”

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL IS DIVIDED INTO 34 ZONES of roughly equal members. Our District Zones 25–26 span the far western regions of the United States and Canada. At the top of this zone hierarchy is Rotary International Director John Matthews, a member of the Mercer Island Club in Washington.

These two zones encompass 22 of the 538 districts in the Rotary world. The territory includes parts of British Columbia and the states of Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Arizona, and Hawaii. It also covers a portion of Idaho, and has a combined membership of approximately 60,000 members in 1,300 clubs.

The 2017 theme was “Partnerships Work,” exploring how Rotary and Rotarians are leveraging their efforts with other groups and organizations that share our passions for service to others. “Intense sessions began four days before the Zone

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DISTRICT 5280 REPRESENTATIVES AT THE ZONES 25-26 INSTITUTE



DGE Joe Vasquez, a Rotarian since 2000 and a member of the Bellflower club, where he served as its Centennial president. He has held many District leadership roles and been involved in organizing humanitarian trips in Latin American and the Caribbean. Joe has received

the District Rotarian of the Year and the RI Service Above Self awards.

Joe and his wife, Rozangela, pictured left, live in Long Beach. They are Major Donors and Joe is an annual member of the Paul Harris Society. The most rewarding

Rotary moments for them come from enjoying fellowship events with other Rotarians and participating in humanitarian service projects in their community and around the world. They enjoy visiting their two daughters and two grandchildren, who live nearby.



Melody St. John has been involved with Rotary almost her entire life, dating back to when her father was a Rotarian in South Dakota and women were not accepted as members. Fast forward to Los Angeles, present day, where she applies her passion for youth programming and has been

involved with Rotary Youth Exchange for more than 20 years. Melody, pictured left, and her husband, Paul (LA5), are co-founders of the Rotary USA Train Tour and have escorted more than 700 international students on a 30-day, year-end journey around the United States.

After graduating from Arizona State University, Melody pursued a career in the film industry and produced many projects. Thirty years ago, she founded the first-ever stock footage library, Video Tape Library, which is still in existence, and which explains her presence in Hollywood.

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Institute,” said Melody. “There are three-and-a-half days of 23 tracks for GNATS and GETS. “This is the culmination of two years of training,” explained Melody.

“Twenty-two governors-elect, including me,” said Joe, “attended GETS in Reno. From 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. there were lectures and interactive sessions. The trainers and facilitators were mostly past DGs from Zones 25 and 26 and other senior Rotary leaders. Administrative staff from Rotary One Office in Chicago also participated in the sessions. We were exposed to more learning by way of dynamic speakers and their programs being included at each of the three daily meals.”

“CLASSES COVERED ALL ASPECTS OF ROTARY,” said Melody, “including membership, foundation, Brand Central, how to support the clubs, leadership, etc.

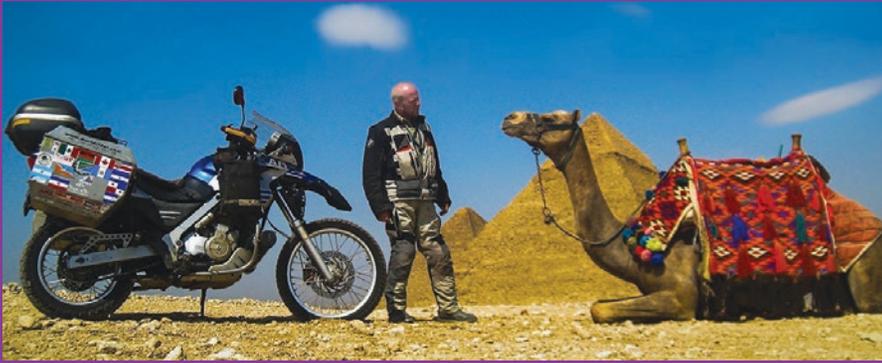
The best part is the collaboration with different districts. We have breakouts and the leadership and trainers consist of some of the best Rotary has, including the current and incoming directors of our Zones. “This gives you a hint of the high caliber and quality of trainers and facilitators at the Zone level,” added Joe.

“Thursday,” said Melody, “there were sessions for ERL’s and DRL’s. ERL’s are Emerging District Leaders and DRL’s are District Resource Leaders (Trainers). Thursday through Saturday was the Zone Institute. Zone attendees consist of all of GETS, GNATS, ERLs and DRLs (with partners), and all current DGs and previous PDGs. “There were approximately 600 in attendance,” said Melody.

On Friday and Saturday, there were panels and breakouts discussing some of the topics important to Rotarians. “Speakers included PRIP

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Speakers at the Zones 25–26 Institute included, from the top, Rotary Peace Fellow Allan Karl, international peace educator Paul Chappell, and Oprah Winfrey’s “All-Time Favorite Guest,” Dr. Tererai Trent, a spokeswoman for education and women’s empowerment.



Richard King (past RI president), IPRIP K.R. “Ravi Ravindran (international past RI president) and RIPE Barry Rassin 2018–19 (RI president-elect). We also heard from Director John Matthews and Director-elect Johrita Solari.”

“ADDITIONAL OUTSTANDING AND AMAZING SPEAKERS were international peace educator Paul Chappell, who spoke about **peace** literacy, and Dr. Tererai Trent, known as Oprah Winfrey’s ‘All -Time Favorite Guest,’” said Melody. “Tererai is an internationally recognized voice for quality education and women’s empowerment. Her favorite motto is ‘Tinogona,’ meaning ‘It is achievable!’”

“Allan Karl, who has explored more than 70 countries on a motorcycle, imparted the message, ‘When you think you have reached the end it is just the beginning.’ Zabit Aimal, a graduate of the University of Nevada, spoke about his life experiences and working with the U.S. military in Afghanistan. He is a Rotary Peace Fellow, who has focused on civil and military relations, peace building, and community development.

“My husband, Paul, loved the Reno area, though we only had a small opportunity to explore,” said Melody. “Alas, no ‘skydiving caper’ as in Merida, but I did have an opportunity to ‘scheme’ with my fellow classmates, and I think there may be some FUN coming.”

“It’s no surprise,” said Joe, “that after being together with colleagues for a week, a kinship was formed. Together we learned more about Rotary. We shared ideas and experiences.

“It soon became apparent that we all shared the same concern: for each of us to prepare ourselves to lead the members in our districts in a manner that best demonstrates and promotes the ideals of Rotary.”

“You can bet that for Rozangela and me,” Joe concluded, “GETS was a momentous opportunity. The marvel of Rotary are the friendships and service to others within our clubs. Being a Rotary DG is the next best thing.” ★



RI's Rose Parade Float:
PLANTING THE SEEDS OF SERVICE



PLANTING THE SEEDS OF SERVICE is theme of Rotary's 2018 Rose Parade float. The design is of a whimsical bunny gazing at a just-planted peach tree, with the peaches representing Rotary's Six Areas of Focus. This dovetails with Rotary International President Ian Riseley's message, "We need to be very conscious of continuously working on our public image, as it is vital that the public understands what we do. It is important for membership development as well as for our relationship with the community."

Here are two of the messages symbolized on the float:

- **Green:** Rotary makes a difference by planting 1.2 million trees by Earth Day April 22, 2018. The number represents the current membership in Rotary. In addition, Rotary recognizes its responsibility not only to the people on our planet, but to the planet itself.
- **Peace:** "Six Areas of Focus for Peace." The almost 17-foot tree has six peaches representing Rotary's Six Areas of Focus. A tag on the tree clearly shows



the symbols representing each area. To further embrace the Peace and Green Messages, there will be a sapling on the float from one of Hiroshima's A-Bomb survivor trees.

LAST YEAR'S FLOAT WON THE PRINCESS TROPHY for "the most beautiful float under 35 feet,"

which was Rotary's fourth award in 14 years. "There was no better way to draw attention to Rotary than to have viewers tune in to be entertained and see our floats," said Joe Ramos, III, chair of the 2018 Rose Parade Float Committee. "This will be Rotary's 39th consecutive entry into the Rose Parade." ★





Membership Nook:

IDEAS TO INCREASE AND RETAIN MEMBERS

By Kathleen Terry (Manhattan Beach), SAG Membership

THERE ARE MANY THINGS TO CONSIDER when bringing in a new member. Here are some things that Scott Pafford (Glendale Sunrise) share as things his club is doing and thinks are important to consider:

- Do you have a clear, written process on how to propose a new member?
- Do you have a way to follow up on visitors who come to your club?
- How regularly do you have a fireside chat? And do you have a standard agenda for your fireside chat?
- What are the duties of sponsors after new members' join the club?
- Have you set up a Red Badge program with a clearly identified list of what you want new members to do before they get their blue badge?
- Do new members get a new member's kit? What's in it?
- Do club members or board members have business cards to pass out to prospective members?

CREATING AN INTERESTING WEBSITE OR FACE BOOK PAGE. You might want to consider creating 45–90-second testimonials from club and new members on why they joined Rotary.

INTEGRATING NEW MEMBERS. Scott shared with me what he says his club's SECRET WEAPON. This is a program Past President Keith Sorem (Glendale Sunrise) created called Lucky Seven. The program is based on another district's program called "Club In A Club," in which the newest seven members in a club meet every other month for a Rotary orientation program or "New Member Assimilation Program" that lasts six to nine months. New members bond as they learn about Rotary, have their questions answered, and do a community-needs assessment that culminates in a community service project.

Scott believes this program, embraced by new members, is responsible for Glendale Sunrise's success in membership development and retention. He believes it is the most important thing a club can do for orientation and retention. The members graduate from the Lucky Seven program as

"Rotarians," anxious to make a difference in the community and world.

To learn more about what Glendale Sunrise is doing, contact Scott Pafford at scottgsr1@gmail.com.

Send your ideas on retention or recruitment to me at terrymanna2@gmail.com.★

Save the Date!
**MEMBERSHIP
 WORKSHOP**
*The Future is in Your Hands:
 How to Recruit and
 Retain Members*
 Saturday, January 27, 2018
 in Burbank
 7:30–11:30 a.m.





LA Harbor Rotaract Club

ROTARACTORS TAKE HOLIDAY CHEER TO THE NEEDY

DURING THE HOLIDAYS EVERYONE IS BUSY.

Families are getting together, parties at work are being planned, costumes are being made, and dinner is being prepared. And there are many District 5280 Rotaractors who are serving the needs of the community.

On November 23, Los Angeles Harbor Rotaract members fed the needy in Wilmington. The Maya Restaurant hosted their annual Thanksgiving dinner, and nonprofit organizations such as I Heart Wilmington, the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce,

and the Wilmington Rotary Club participated. The Rotaractors served turkey, mashed potatoes, and corn and passed out refreshments. They also mingled with guests and distributed toiletries.

LA Harbor Rotaract was chartered in fall 2015 by the Wilmington Club. This year's president, Alexa Victoriano, a member of the club since its inception, works for WestCal Academy as a regional ambassador. She helps students find mentors and internships in their fields in hopes of getting them entry-level jobs before graduating college.

LA Harbor Rotaract is a community-based club, so they are not tied to a college or university. Even though Alexa works farther north, most of the LA Harbor Rotaractors attend LA Harbor College. If you know someone between the ages of 18 to 30 who lives in the Wilmington area and would like meet a great group of young professionals, you'll find information about them at laharborrotaract.weebly.com/.

Happy Holidays! ★

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NOVEMBER 7 DISTRICT BREAKFAST

A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS



① AG Sylvia Hill honoring two veterans. ② Honored veterans pictured with DG Cozette Vergari, far right. Next to Cozette are AG Robert Ryans (Inglewood) and Olivia Patterson-Ryans (Inglewood), chair of Foundation Alumni. ③ Ted Jones (Torrance-Del Amo), co-chair, Camp Pendleton Project. ④ Julio Barrenzuela (Burbank Sunrise) and his partner, part of "Soldiers Who Salsa." ⑤ From the left: guest speaker Linda Sundram (RC Camp Pendleton); Lucy Martin, Calabasas Club president; DG Cozette Vergari; and PDG Elsa Gillham. ⑥ Glenn and Kristen Hemanes (Playa Venice Sunrise) ⑦ Keynote Speaker Lieutenant Colonel W. MacCutcheon.





The
Rotary
Foundation



MILLION DOLLAR *Dinner*

OCTOBER 28, 2017 ★ JW MARRIOTT LOS ANGELES L.A. LIVE



1 Dinner Chair John Mina with Joslyn and Ben Aranda (Historic Filipinotown). 2 NBC's Fritz Coleman, DG Cozette Vergari and Richard Moon (Westchester). 3 Humanitarian Trip Co-chairs Mark Ameli and Guity Javid (Rancho Park). 4 Rob DeCou (Playa Venice Sunrise), who raised money for PolioPlus by participating in the Badwater Ultramarathon from Death Valley to the Mount Whitney Portal with his family and DG Cozette Vergari. 5 Executive Lee Stacy (Burbank Sunrise) and PDG Greg O'Brien (Palos Verde Peninsula). 6 Bobbie Casalino-Lewis (Playa Venice Sunrise) and Kim Williamson (RC Westchester). 7 PDG and Foundation Chair DJ Sun (Koreatown) and Lek Pollard (Westchester). 8 AG Robert Ryans (Inglewood) and Prema Wylie (Santa Clarita Valley).

Make a Dream Come True! ★ DECEMBER 2017

Imaginative Club Project

CELEBRATING OUTSTANDING EDUCATORS

By Lorine Parks (Downey)
Senior Correspondent



PALOS VERDES
PENINSULA
ROTARY
EDUCATOR
OF THE YEAR

**EDUCATORS FROM SCHOOLS
ON THE PALOS VERDES
PENINSULA** are honored
annually at the Palos Verdes
Peninsula Club's "Educator of
the Year" dinner, held at the Palos Verdes Golf and
Country Club in Palos Verdes Estates.

"Palos Verdes is known for its fine schools," said Joan Behrens, Educator of the Year Dinner chair. "And the strength of our schools is those teachers who educate our children. Each year we celebrate our educators and award the standouts, 'The Educators of the Year.' All proceeds go to scholarships and educational programs."

"This is the 37th year of the event," commented Joan. "Jim Hartman and I are event co-chairs, and we were working on this event while —continues

Make a Dream Come True!  **DECEMBER 2017**





LONG-TIME EVENT CO-CHAIRS

Joan Behrens, a graduate of Northwestern University, has lived in Palos Verdes for more than 30 years and has been a private tutor and college admissions counselor for 15 years. She has four daughters and 12 grandchildren. A Rotarian for 12 years, Joan said “I had two good friends who urged me to join”

Jim Hartman, twice past president of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Club, has a Ph.D. in higher education administration and counselor education. He is director of Institutional Planning & Accreditation at The Salvation Army College for Officer Training in Rancho Palos Verdes.

—continues

our club and the Palos Verdes Peninsula Chamber of Commerce co-hosted. When our Rotary club took over the event nine years ago it was a natural transition for us.”

“The Palos Verdes Peninsula club is now the sole sponsor of the event,” said Joan, “and we solicit support from the community to sponsor a reception and dinner to honor 11 teachers annually and to raise funds for scholarships for needy and talented students.”

EDUCATORS TO BE HONORED are selected by their individual schools, and more than 300 guests attend, including the teachers, coworkers, members of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Board of Education, the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District, city officials, and other members of the community.

Educator of the Year Committee co-chair Jim Hartman added, “Our teachers are the caring people in our society. We honor the teachers and their staff. They are the optimists, they are the role models and they lead the way.”

THERE IS A DIVERSITY of public and private schools, elementary and secondary, and two colleges on the Peninsula, and all are included for consideration. Honorees **each** receive a beautiful Seiko carriage clock engraved with their name and an Educator of the Year pin, a keepsake that “only a few are selected to receive—the best amongst the great.” And as an especially thoughtful gesture, “a day for two at the spa at the luxury Terranea Resort,” Joan said.

Each year a unique or special academic program is highlighted. Past years have showcased the television, journalism and broadcasting program at Palos Verdes High School and Chadwick School's college counseling program.

In addition, the honorees each speak to the audience, sharing a little of their background and influences, focus, and experiences as a teacher. Honorees talk about that “a-ha moment,” when a student “gets it,” when a teacher “lights the fire” for a student or a classroom.

Recalling that moment when teacher and student share a common spark of enlightenment is a magical experience. Several recipients have become emotional when talking about the “gift” of being a teacher. “We certainly aren’t in it for the money,” one honoree quipped, lightening the mood. “But we sometimes get apples,” another noted.

“THIS EVENT IS ALSO A FUNDRAISER,” said Joan. “We raise funds for our club’s scholarship program for needy students in both Palos Verdes and through the Boys and Girls Club of San Pedro. Funds from donors for the event are used to assist students with financial need to go to college.”

The evening’s major donors have included the D.K. Kim Foundation, Southern California Edison, Torrance Memorial Hospital Health Care Foundation, Hang-Up Moon, Tridus International Inc., State Farm Insurance, Matson Foundation, John Cameron, Toyota Motor Sales, USA and Jackie and Roger Ignon, among others. ★





CLUB 62

News from District 5280 Clubs



Woodland Hills held its second annual Halloween Family Faire on October 28. The successful event raised funds to support the club's recently opened RotaCare Clinic, which serves the needs of underinsured and uninsured people in the West San Fernando Valley.



Left and above: Photos from the 9th Annual USC/UCLA Tailgate Luncheon sponsored by the Torrance **Del Amo**, **South Bay Sunrise**, and **West Torrance Clubs**.

—continues





LA 5 participated in the HomeWalk 2017 benefiting the United Way of Greater Los Angeles.

Thai Town celebrated its 10th anniversary

Make a Dream Come True!  DECEMBER 2017





Westchester Rotary Clock Dedication at Westchester Village. The clock was donated by the Drollinger Family Charitable Foundation and several Westchester Rotary members. President Myra Luri, Gupta, and Sandy Pressman.



Rotary

Club of Palos Verdes Sunset

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL
LUZIA
A WAKING DREAM OF MEXICO

PV Sunset Rotary Club is having a fundraiser and we are going to *Cirque du Soleil* at the Dodgers Stadium!
 Proceeds will go to the Fries Elementary School Project & other ongoing and future charitable projects.

Sunday, January 21, 2018

TICKET OPTIONS:

Option 1 - Package: \$99 per ticket + round-trip deluxe coach bus ticket
 Pick-up and drop-off at Wilson Park in Torrance. We will depart at 3:30 PM.

Option 2 - Ticket only: \$79 per ticket
 Meet us at Dodgers Stadium at 5:00 pm.

Tickets are selling fast! Deadline to purchase tickets is Tuesday, November 28, 2017.

Purchase tickets online or pay by check.
ONLINE PURCHASE: pvsunsetrotary.org/page/cirque-du-soleil
CHECK PAYMENT: (payable to) PV Sunset Rotary Club
 P.O Box 3173, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT:
 Jon Caplan at 310.709.0283 or jon_caplan@yahoo.com
 or Victoria Perez at pereztori2@gmail.com

Make a Dream Come True! **DECEMBER 2017**



