

# Rotary



Rotary District 5280  
Greater Los Angeles  
Newsletter-Magazine  
Volume 7 | January 2016

Be a gift to the world



## *Rotary Club of Beverly Hills Holiday Party*

*Pictures by Gidas Peteris, Rotary Club of Beverly Hills*

**DISTRICT 5280 MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER**

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**Dear Rotarians and Family,**

This is the start of the new year, which will be full of hope and enthusiasm.

I want to express my appreciation to all District 5280 Rotarians for their service and dedication to the community and the world. During the last six months, we have been very actively engaged in each avenue of service. We have been able to reap the benefits of greater efficiency and productivity in the organization and the implementation of our projects. This has allowed us to better aid those in need.

From today until the end of the Rotary year in June, we need to accomplish everything remaining on our agenda. In order to increase efficiency in the long-term, the district is also initiating a three year strategic plan to support club activities.

January is Rotary Awareness Month. In 1992, the Rotary International Board of Directors decided to dedicate January in honor of Paul Harris, who died in January of 1947. Rotary has operated for over 100 years and has grown to 1.2 million members spread throughout 200 countries. Although the depth and complexity of the organization have grown over the years, its ideals have remained consistent: service above self and helping those in need. Rotary provides the resources to help turn your goals into realities. In order to most effectively utilize these resources, you should find out more at [www.Rotary.org](http://www.Rotary.org).

***Upcoming Events***

January 15 and 16 will be the Rotary International Peace Conference, held at the Ontario Convention Center in Ontario, California. Our district is one of the six host districts for this conference. RI President, Ravi Ravindran and Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair, Ray Klinginsmith will be attending. I hope that many Rotarians from our district attend this important conference. The district website has registration information ([www.peaceconference2016.org](http://www.peaceconference2016.org)).

February 11  
(Thursday)  
will be the  
third district  
Breakfast.  
Our keynote  
speaker will be  
Austin Beutner,  
Founder and  
Chairman of  
Vision to Learn.  
Many clubs in  
the District have  
partnered with  
this organization  
to provide eyeglasses to children in our communities.



May 28 through June 1 will be the RI Convention in Seoul, Korea. Whoever has not registered for the convention should go to the district website for information and registration details.

The memories that you made last year are part of your legacy. Beginning with this month, we can work together to create even more beautiful memories through Rotary. I wish you and your family a healthy, happy, and prosperous 2016.

*Let's be a gift  
to the world.  
DJ Sun*



## The Global Fight to End Polio

By Michael Turner, SAG Communications, Rotary Club of Woodland Hills



**T**hirty years ago, Rotary International, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Unicef, and the World Health Organization set out on a quest to stamp out polio worldwide. And, in 2013 The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation joined in the fight to eliminate polio.

Today, that goal seems within reach because for the first time in history only two polio endemic countries remain: Pakistan and Afghanistan. Both countries shifted their focus to the children who are being missed on vaccination campaigns in order to bring this number down and remove the final hiding places of the virus. In Pakistan this has resulted in almost half a million children being protected against polio who were previously missed. Afghanistan has taken steps to improve its program through strengthened political commitment and coordination, and large swaths of the country remain polio free.

Here is some background information on Rotary's partners in the fight to end polio. The World Health Organization (WHO) coordinates the major strategic planning, management, and administration processes of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. WHO is responsible for the systematic collection, collation and dissemination of standardized information on strategy implementation and impact, particularly in the areas of surveillance and supplementary immunization activities. WHO also coordinates operational and basic research, provides technical and operational support to ministries of health, and coordinates training and deployment of human resources for supplementary technical assistance.

Unicef distributes polio vaccines through National Immunization Days and other campaigns and helps countries develop communication strategies vital to the acceptance of the vaccine on a local level. Unicef

also contributes to the development of policies, action plans, training materials and mobilization.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) deploys epidemiologists, public health experts, and scientists to WHO and UNICEF for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. It also provides funding for the oral polio vaccine and for a wide range of technical expertise and laboratory support. CDC works as a 'viral detective', using its state-of-the-art virological surveillance expertise (genetic fingerprinting) to investigate outbreaks of polio, identify the strain of poliovirus involved and pinpoint its exact geographical origin. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is the largest private funding source to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, contributing over \$1.3 billion to the fight against polio. In addition, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation coordinates high-level government advocacy and valuable partnerships. The Foundation issued a \$355 million challenge grant to Rotary International which it recently met with an additional \$200 million in funding for polio eradication.

Thanks in large part to these polio workers, as well as innovative shifts in strategy, Pakistan and Afghanistan, the only two countries that have never stopped polio transmission, have also been able to make significant progress toward eradication. The global health community is optimistic about achieving full, worldwide eradication by 2019.



## 2016 Rotary Peace Conference to Feature More Than 100 Speakers

**W**hen you think about the need for peace, what do you think about first? Syria? The Middle East? Iran? North Korea? Terrorism at home and around the world?

Of course, these are all places where peacemaking efforts are needed. But conflict resolution isn't solely the work of diplomats. It's an essential skill we need to continually develop to ensure that we have peace in our homes, our schools, our places of employment and our communities.

With this in mindset, Rotary Club members from across Southern California have organized the 2016 Rotary World Peace Conference, which takes place Jan. 15 - 16 at the Ontario, California Convention Center.

The two-day peace and conflict resolution conference, the largest Rotary Club event in the Western Hemisphere next year, will feature more than 100 experts on various aspects of conflict resolution.

"We need to have peace in every area of our lives. And the speakers we've assembled for this conference are going to show us how to get there by highlighting specific strategies we can use to bring peace to our homes, schools, places of work and the communities in which we live," said Rudy Westervelt, convener and CEO of the 2016 Rotary World Peace Conference.

The conference is organized into 13 areas of community conflict. Who should attend is everyone — college students, healthcare workers, school teachers and administrators, social workers, law enforcement, and community organizers.

"Our speakers will address some of the most serious threats to peace we face as children, as students and as adult members of our communities," Westervelt said. "This means our speakers will be addressing some very difficult topics ranging from domestic violence to cyber bullying and gang violence to sexual harassment in the workplace as well as civil rights abuses and conflicts between religions and between nation states."

### **Some of the topics to be discussed include:**

- The physiological effects of stress on the human body.
- How to make your home a place of peace.
- How to create safe learning environments by creating peace in our schools.
- How to solve social issues in your community.

Conference speakers will also address the lessons we can learn from recent historic events as well as the opportunities that are available to us right now to resolve current conflicts in many parts of the world, from the Middle East to the South China Sea.

### **Some of the experts Rotary have assembled for the 2016 Rotary World Peace Conference include:**

- Father Greg Boyle, executive director of Los Angeles-based Homeboy Industries, a non-profit organization that operates the nation's largest gang intervention and re-entry program.
- Carrie Hessler-Radelet, director of the Peace Corps.
- Opal Singleton, a training and outreach coordinator for the Riverside County Anti Human Trafficking Task Force who also serves as president and CEO of Million Kids, a Riverside-based non-profit organization that fights child trafficking in the U.S. and around the world.
- Dr. Bernd Wollschlaeger, author of the book, *A German Life: Against All Odds, Change is Possible*, in which he describes the challenges he faced growing up in Germany in the shadow of his father, a highly decorated Nazi officer. Wollschlaeger eventually converted to Judaism, emigrated to Israel and served in the Israel Defense Force as a medical officer.

**For more information and registration**  
**[www.peaceconference2016.org](http://www.peaceconference2016.org)**



## Keynote Speakers



**Sharon Stone**

*Actor, Producer, Director, Writer, Song Writer/Lyricist, Activist, Humanitarian*



**K.R. RAVINDRAN**  
RI President 2015-16



**SAL KHAN**  
CEO of Khan Academy



**FATHER GREG BOYLE**  
Exec Director of  
Homeboy Industries



**CARRIE HESSLER-RADELET**  
Director of the Peace Corp

**January 15-16, 2015 Ontario California**

**More information and Registration:**

[www.peaceconference2016.org](http://www.peaceconference2016.org)



## Peace Begins With You

Lorine Parks, Contributing Writer, Rotary Club of Downey



Lorine Parks

"Peace and prosperity are inseparable. When one is absent, the other is at risk." So states Rotary's dynamic World Peace Conference, taking place here in Ontario, California, from January 16-18. Rotary is presenting a star-studded line-up to highlight its new focus on Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution.

The January Conference, which is sponsored by five remarkable Rotary districts, 5280, 5320, 5330, 5340, and 5240, features as keynote speaker Rotary International President Ravi Ravindran. We in District 5280 are honored to co-sponsor the first in Governor Ravi's year-long Presidential Conference Series.

Conference Convenor Rudy Westervelt, of the Rotary Club of Lake Arrowhead Mountain Sunrise, District 5330, which is co-sponsoring the Conference, explains the program's hands-on approach to the problem. "Violence, conflict and war rob people of the chance to improve their lives through hard work. And when a society struggles with poverty and unemployment, it sets the stage for unrest."

"The mission of the Rotary World Peace Conference 2016 is to bring together experts with solutions," Rudy continues. "Major issues are occurring in our personal lives, homes, schools, businesses and communities, not just in Southern California, but around the world."

"We are inviting leaders from health care, academia, government, public safety, religions, business, and communities to meet together to share the solutions presented by experts," Rudy continues. "Besides our five plenary speakers, we will have 80 panel and facilitated sessions, designed to deliver proven solutions you can take home."



Rudy Westervelt, DG of District 5330 for 2015-16

Sharon Stone, known for her humanitarian work and the inspiring film documentary *Femme*, will also deliver a major address. As a feminist, she has championed anti-cyber-bullying. Keynoter Sharon believes that her roles are, in order, that of mother, then activist and last, actress.

Recognized the world over for her humanitarian efforts in AIDS, the Bridge Fund, and Hurricane Katrina, her most recent role has been producing and starring in the documentary *FEMME*. *FEMME* shows the inspirational voyage of

women around the world who are actively transforming and healing global society on a daily basis.



Actress & Activist Sharon Stone

Throughout the conference, world class speakers and facilitators will speak on more than 13 different tracks of training in the field of conflict prevention and resolution.

Illustrating the timeliness and practicality of the sessions, here is what distinguished lawyer, arbitrator and seminar presenter Mark Ameli of the Rotary Club of Rancho Park, has to say.

"My history in conflict resolution in our District 5280 goes back to approximately 2008 when PDG Vicki Radel asked me to join her in a project she had undertaken in South LA with former gang members. Since I am a mediator, we thought I could probably work well with the various gang members who have been fighting in that area."

"But after attending gang meetings, I realized that it would be impossible for me to mediate among the gangs. However, it would be possible to teach conflict resolution to the former gang member so that they could mediate among themselves."

We held one session in which I presented the ideas and showed them how it would work.” The techniques Mark will present in his seminar at the conference are based on the idea that since cultural differences cause or contribute to disputes, the understanding of these differences should be used to resolve the disputes. “I attempt to train the attendees how to use cultural differences in negotiation,” Mark points out.

When I found out that our district along with five others would have a peace conference in 2016, I wanted to help and Governor DJ Sun (District 5280) assigned me as the liaison to the organizing committee of the Peace Conference.

Additional speakers include Noah benShea, one of North America’s most respected and beloved poet philosophers. An advocate for disadvantaged youth, Noah has been called the “Guru’s Guru” and a “Zen Mark Twain.”

Father Greg Boyle will be the Friday lunch plenary speaker. As executive director of Homeboy Industries, located in the heart of downtown Los Angeles, and an acknowledged expert on gangs and intervention approaches, Fr. Boyle is a nationally renowned speaker.



*Carrie Hessler-Radelet*

the Peace Corps since June 2014, will be the Friday afternoon plenary speaker. And on Saturday afternoon that role will be taken by Ambassador Mary Peters, who was United States Ambassador to Bangladesh from 2000 to 2003. She is now the new CEO for the Carter Center.



*Ambassador Mary Peters*

And there’s much more. Saturday’s morning speaker will be Dr. Bernd Wollschläger, whose book *A German Life: Against All Odds Change is Possible* describes his struggle growing up in Germany in the shadow of his father, a highly decorated WWII tank commander and Nazi officer. Bernd eventually converted to Judaism, emigrated to Israel and served in the Israel Defense Forces as a medical officer.

A Concert for Peace will conclude the evening of January 16.



*Dr. Bernd Wollschläger*

This is just a taste of what The Rotary World Peace Conference has in store, in two days packed full of high-powered sessions. And meanwhile, across the street from the Rotary World Peace Conference 2016, hundreds of high school students will be hosted at their own Peace Conference, a full day of activities to train these future leaders in peace and conflict resolution.

Ambitious? Yes. Necessary? Absolutely essential.

Thanks to all those who conceived and brought forth this enriching event, Fellow Rotarians, you will become inspired, and will leave with immediate action plans to implement in your communities, because “Peace Begins With You.”

**To register:**  
**[www.peaceconference2016.org](http://www.peaceconference2016.org)**



*Father Gregory Boyle,  
Friday Lunch Speaker*

Continuing this treasury of riches, Carrie Hessler-Radelet, director of



## Rotary's Partnership with the Peace Corps

**R**otary and the Peace Corps have signed a service partnership agreement to enhance our club and district service activities locally and around the world.

Peace Corps, an independent U.S. federal agency, sends U.S. citizens abroad to help tackle the most pressing needs around the world while promoting better international understanding of American culture and enhancing global awareness. Peace Corps volunteers live and work alongside the people they support for a period of two or more years and concentrate efforts to create sustainable change that lives on long after their period of in-country service. Peace Corps currently has volunteers in more than 60 countries.

By working together with active and returned Peace Corps Volunteers, we can continue addressing Rotary's six areas of focus while enhancing goodwill, international understanding, and building capacity to address the most pressing community concerns.

While abroad, Peace Corps Volunteers support sustainable change by working with local stakeholders invested in improving communities. Returned volunteers, those who have completed their in-country service and are back in the U.S., offer a wealth of service project knowledge, interesting community insights from living abroad, and often maintain strong relationships with their host communities and local partners which can include Rotary and Rotaract clubs. In fact, a number of U.S. Rotarians and Rotaractors are Peace Corps alumni and many of our clubs and districts around the world have already worked with local Peace Corps volunteers in their local communities.

To connect with a Peace Corps Regional Recruitment Office in our area, go to [www.peacecorps.gov/recruiters/offices/#5](http://www.peacecorps.gov/recruiters/offices/#5)



## DISTRICT 5280 LEADS THE WAY IN STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

*By Rahla Frohlick, District Scholarship Chair*

We send our heartiest congratulations to the 17 students who have just completed their first semester at the university on a partial scholarship from District 5280. These students were nominated by 14 different clubs in D5280 for the Meredith Olson Rotaract Award (two were given) the District Interact Award (one student was recognized); and the Zentner \$500 scholarship award, given in conjunction with the California Community Foundation (14 students met the criteria.)



*Rahla Frohlick, Rotary Club of Granada Hills*

We are proud to be represented at UC Berkeley, USC, CS Northridge, Northwestern University, CS Dominguez Hills, Colgate, San Diego State University, UC Irvine, Menlo College, UC Davis, Mt. St. Mary's, CS Bakersfield, and UCLA. District 5280 is strong in higher education.

Thank you to all club scholarship and youth chairs who did the interviewing in the spring, and notified the District Scholarship Committee of the carefully selected students. Your hard work is greatly appreciated.





## **Connect with Korea – Touch the World**

The Rotary International Convention travels to Seoul, 28 May-1 June 2016.

Explore this world-class city and discover the rich culture that connects the latest trends with time-honored traditions.

Taste eclectic cuisine and shop for the newest fashions and electronics.

Meet new friends, share ideas, and interact with new technology at this dynamic, unforgettable convention. Connect with the thousands of Rotarians who will come together in friendship and peace.

**There is Still Time to Register  
for the RI Convention**



**Rotary**



## RI PRESIDENT-ELECT



**John F. Germ**  
 President 2016-17  
 Rotary Club of Chattanooga  
 Tennessee, USA

John F. Germ is board chair and chief executive officer of Campbell and Associates Inc., consulting engineers. He joined the firm as an engineer in 1965 after four years in the U.S. Air Force. He serves on the boards of several organizations, including the Public Education Foundation, Orange Grove Center Inc., and Blood Assurance Inc. He also is founder and treasurer of the Chattanooga State Technical Community College Foundation and president of the Tennessee Jaycee Foundation.

Germ joined Rotary in 1976 and has served as RI vice president, director, Foundation trustee and vice chair, aide to the Foundation trustee chair, chair of Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge, RI Board Executive Committee member, RI president's aide, membership zone coordinator, committee member and chair, task force zone and area coordinator, RI training leader, and district governor.

Germ is a recipient of RI's Service Above Self Award and The Rotary Foundation's Citation for Meritorious Service and Distinguished Service Award. He and his wife, Judy, are members of the Arch Klumph Society.

**Register for PETS at [www.socalnevadapets.org/reg](http://www.socalnevadapets.org/reg)**  
**Los Angeles Airport Marriott**  
**5855 West Century Boulevard - Los Angeles 90045**  
**310-641-5700**



## Santa Clarita Valley Celebration Brings Bittersweet Memories

Lorine Parks, Contributing Writer, Rotary Club of Downey

On Veteran's Day 2015 the public gathered at Habitat for Humanity in Santa Clarita for the unveiling of the Harry Bell Memorial & Veteran Memorial Wall. Built to honor all branches of the United States Military, the wall was donated by the Rotary Club of Santa Clarita Valley, Elks and Shriners Clubs as a special remembrance of local veteran



hero, Harry Bell.

On July 5, 2012, the Ventura County Coroner's office had identified a 2011 "SCV Man of the Year" Harry Bell as one of two victims in a two-seater plane crash near Piru. The plane went down at 1:25 p.m. on a Thursday near a residence in an orange grove; the crash site was about 100 feet from Highway 126.

Bell had been a pillar of the community for many years and the news of his death shocked the community. Harry had flown

countless humanitarian missions to Mexico transporting doctors to poor villages to perform free surgeries on burned or crippled children.

A member of the SCV Rotary Club for 48 Years, Harry served as President 1973-74. A Rotarian as well as a Shriner and Mason, he owned the property at the northeast corner of Main and 5th Streets where the Rotary Club holds its annual July 4th pancake breakfasts, so this year's unveiling of the Rotary Cock there held a special significance for Rotarians.

Harry Bell was born on July 2, 1923. He rode in the 2012 4th of July Parade the day before the crash, driving a dignitary in the parade. The previous Monday he had thrown himself an 89th birthday party, harmonizing with his singing buddies in barbershop style. When the Rotary club members launched into patriotic song, Harry was always the first note; singing was one of his favorite hobbies.

One of Harry's proudest moments as a Rotarian was welcoming his daughter Janet into his home club while his best friend (and her god father) Ed Bolden, officiated at the induction ceremony. Ed was SVC's Man of the Year in 1970.

Harry met Ed Bolden, his business partner, fellow Rotarian and lifelong friend, when Harry was working as a civil engineer for the County. He invited Ed to join the local Rotary Club, which broke the color barrier. Later Harry former Bell Realtors which became a Century 21 company, and eventually retired to have more time for his other



passions of singing, dancing, and flying.

Harry Bell's daughter, Janet Austin, left, and Bell's long-time friend and business partner Ed Bolden sit on the new Harry Bell Memorial Bench located on Harry Bell Place following a ceremony honoring Bell and all American veterans. The memorial items, along with a veterans' wall, were dedicated at a veterans community being constructed by Habitat for Humanity. photo by Dan Watson

Harry enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1944 and was proud that he could still get into his service uniform. His bomber group left for Italy with the 15th Air Force, 757 Bomber Squadron and Harry flew 50 combat missions as a gunner and engineer. When the memorial was dedicated, World War II Navy veteran Dick Roelofs, a member of Rotary, was the honorary flag raiser during the ceremony.

"He was my world war hero," said Ed. "He was my hero." ●

Rotary District 5280  
and Vocational Services  
Presents



**ROTARY PAGEANT OF THE ARTS**  
(FORMER ART, DANCE, MUSIC, AND SPEECH CONTEST)

- A presentation by high school youth performing individually in art, dance, music, and speech.
- Open to all high school youth in the District.
- Clubs sponsor and select youth to participate in The Pageant.

**March 05, 2016**  
**Loyola Marymount University**

Late afternoon program with a wine and cheese reception.

*See District web site for information.*

Co-Chair  
Lance Miller  
lance@lancemillerspeaks.com

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Dance Coordinator  
Gwen Vuchsas  
gvuchsas@secoteam.com

SAG for Vocational Services  
Joe Vasquez  
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## E-Club of the Greater San Fernando Valley New Member



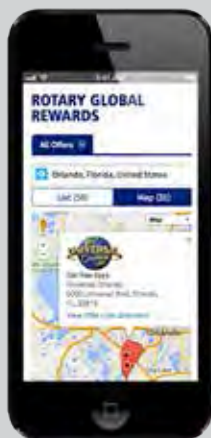
President Roy Glickman and sponsor Todd Gurvis flanking the newest member, **Sharif Ahmed**, financial advisor, Trilogy Financial Services.

## Downtown Los Angeles New Members



From left to right: Mina Soroosh (sponsor) with new member **Marie Enright**, Jennifer Usyak (sponsor) with new member **Jessica Summers** and **Joe Chauvapun** (new member) with sponsor Aaron Weiner.

## Rotary Global Rewards



**Rotary Global Rewards** offers discounts to member on car rentals, hotels, dining, entertainment, and other services. To download a list of vendors visit: [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org).

## Other News

### The Peking Acrobats

Rotary Club of Bellflower • Jan. 9, 2016 • 2 p.m.  
The La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts  
14900 La Mirada Blvd. • La Mirada, CA 90638

### Playa Venice Teacher Mini Grant Award

Rotary Club of Playa Venice Sunrise • Jan. 13, 2016 • 7:30 a.m.

### Global Grant Scholar Deadline For Clubs

Clubs must submit their Global Grant Scholar nominee's application to the District by Jan. 15, 2016

### Make Reservations

Rotary Club of Woodland Hills • Jan. 21, 2016 • 6 p.m.  
Networking, social, & fundraising event  
Mimi's Restaurant  
19710 Nordhoff Pl., Chatsworth, CA 91311

### Malibu Rotary Middle & High School Singing Contest

Rotary Club of Malibu • Jan. 27, 2016 • 6 p.m.  
Pepperdine University  
24255 Pacific Coast Highway • Malibu, CA 90263

### Dunes Cleanup

Rotary Club of Playa Vista • Feb. 06, 2016

### District Breakfast

Rotary Club of Playa Vista • Feb. 11, 2016 (Thursday)  
Westin LAX Hotel  
5400 Century Blvd. • Los Angeles, CA 90045

For additional information on these events, visits each club's or the District's website.

**Editor's Note:** In the December newsletter **Brady Connell** was listed as a member of the Rotary Club of Westchester. He is actually a member of the **Rotary Club of Playa Venice Sunrise**.





## Rotary District 5280 and Camp Pendleton Rotary

By Marie Fremd, Rotary Club of Rio Hondo

On Saturday, October 24, our District participated in the third annual Halloween event at Camp Pendleton, providing a wonderful experience for their families and friends.



Larry Bender and his busload of Interactors and Rotaractors arrived with a contingent of Rotarians driving down from Culver City, Del Amo -

Torrance, Hawthorne-LAX-Lennox, Hollywood, Inglewood, Lawndale, Koreatown, Rio Hondo-Vernon, South Bay Sunrise, and Studio City-Sherman Oaks.

Everyone pitched in and helped set up the food service area, where hot dogs, beans, chips and condiments

had been donated by the Studio City-Sherman Oaks Club along with soft drinks and beer and wine for the Beer Garden. Inglewood provided the hot dog buns, Rio Hondo-Vernon provided water and numerous Rotarians pitched in and provided cupcakes and cookies for dessert. We had hot dogs and trimmings for 500 and it all was devoured! The Interactors and Rotaractors



got busy setting up games provided by the base and the Pumpkin Patch with pumpkins donated by Wilshire Rotary Club. There was a "fishing pond" for the little ones presided over by Rotarians from the Rio Hondo-Vernon Club and a "Streaking for Polio" table where young and old had their hair streaked with purple in honor of World Polio Day.

Our district's relationship with the Rotary Club of Camp Pendleton and Camp Pendleton began during Governor Brad Robinson's year as an afternoon trip to the base during the District Conference. We had heard Linda Sundram, a Camp Pendleton Rotarian, speak at a plenary session and went to see the Memorial Wall at the base, which had been funded by clubs in the area. After placing a wreath at the Memorial, Linda proceeded to tell us in detail about the Marines that had given their lives for our country. It was a very moving experience, and after the trip, Governor Brad found \$10,000 in his budget to donate toward the construction of the Memorial Garden.



Since that time, we have taken tours of the base and collected thousands of items for the families on the base, such as diapers, other baby necessities, and children's books – many thousands of which have just been donated this past summer by Angi Ma Wong's husband in her memory. We also donated household items – kitchenware, linens, sofas, and tables. Anything that is gently used or new that a family starting out in an empty apartment can use. We are now looking for medical equipment such as wheelchairs and walkers that can be used by the wounded who are recovering on the base.

Last year our clubs provided a wish list of items for 10 expectant moms at the base. A baby shower was held with lunch and games that normally would have come from family and friends back home.

We hope to continue this relationship with the families at Camp Pendelton and ask that you please consider donating items at any time. Please contact Marie Fremd at: Marie.fremd@aol.com – or Larry Bender at Laurencebender14@gmail.com



## District Calendar

### January 2016

15-16 RI Peace Conference  
27 - Feb.1 District Humanitarian  
Trip (Panama)

### February 2016

11 District Breakfast  
19 - 21 PETS (LAX Marriott)  
23 Viral Day  
17 President's Dinner

### March 2016

5 Rotary Pageant of the Arts  
12 3-2-1-Go  
26 New Member Orientation

### April 2016

5 District Breakfast  
9 Rotaract Ethics Forum  
16 Rotary Day of Service  
28 - May 1 District Conference  
(Mission Bay - San Diego)

29 - May 1 RYLA  
(San Diego)

### May 2016

28 - June 1 RI Convention  
(Seoul, Korea)



## This Month's Spotlight on: the Rotary Club of Santa Clarita Valley

### TIME FOR ROTARY! ROTARIANS DONATE OLD-TIMEY CLOCK TO OLD TOWN NEWHALL

Lorine Parks, Contributing Writer, Rotary Club of Downey

What to get your town to celebrate its 55th anniversary? The Rotary Club of Santa Clarita Valley gave a civic-sized two-sided Rotary Clock to Santa Clarita for display in its quaint Newhall Old Town. "The Rotary Club donated the clock pedestal and the clock itself," said Chris Ball, a member of the SCV Rotary Club. "And now it will be owned and maintained by the city's landscaping department."



**From l to r:  
Steve Corn, Matt Denny,  
& Louis Esbin.**

The Rotary Clock was installed in front of the Newhall Refinery, a modern western restaurant and gastropub specializing in craft beers, at 24258 Main St, Santa

Clarita.

Much of a community's life centers around a public marker like this one, and the nostalgic phrase "Meet me at the clock" resonates in many memories. Handsome as well as useful, Rotary's upstanding timepiece is sure to become part of daily affairs in this Antelope Valley community.

For those a little vague on their District 5280 geography, you should know that the Santa Clarita Valley is located in Los Angeles County about 35 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles. It includes the communities of Canyon Country, Newhall, Saugus, and Valencia and the adjacent unincorporated communities of Castaic and Stevenson Ranch,

Its population center is Santa Clarita, the third largest city in Los Angeles County, and a notable example of a U.S. "edge city," or boomborg. Santa Clarita was ranked by Money magazine in 2006 as 18th of the top 100 places to live. Six Flags Magic Mountain Amusement Park is located just outside the city limits, and the California Institute of the Arts campus is in Valencia.

The Rotary Clock measures about 30-inch-wide and sit on a six-foot pedestal, Ball said. Cost of the project was estimated to be about \$20,000. Internally lit with LED lights, it has a digital controller making it easy to set the clock. All told, the clock tops out at nine-feet tall.

But this big beauty could not be planted without local help.

When the decorative clock with a rotary emblem on its face was delivered, it took a truck and tractor to do it. A V Equipment Rentals, located on Railroad Ave in Newhall, donated the equipment including a tractor to help install the Rotary Clock.

Rotary Club members got the clock up and running for the Santa Clarita Fourth of July Parade. And on the 4th of July the Club served breakfast by the clock, including pancakes and sausage for its annual contribution to the festivities.

The city donated the space and the foundation. "There is a donor plaque at the base of the clock along with finished landscaping" said Rotarian in charge of the Clock Project Lou Esbin, president of the SVC Rotary Club. As the club's home page states, "As community volunteers, we reach out to neighbors. We build, support, and organize."

