



Imagine

Rotary District 5280
Greater Los Angeles
January 2017

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*Pictured: District Governor Greg
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Global Grants Keep the Rotary Wheel Turning. Pgs. 14–16.

DISTRICT CALENDAR

January

15–21 Rotary International Assembly,
San Diego

25–30 District Humanitarian Trip to
Merida, Mexico

February

10–12 PETS

15 Presidents Dinner

28 District Breakfast

March

4 Forum Against the Commercial Sexual
Exploitation of Children (*Pg. 4*)

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April

18 District Breakfast

28–30 RYLA

May

4–7 District Conference, Lake Arrowhead

June

3 District Assembly, Carson Community
Center

10–14 Rotary International Convention, Atlanta



IMAGINE: BUILDING A BIGGER (AND BETTER) CLUB

—by District Governor Greg O'Brien

What is your classification? When I have asked this question at Rotary club meetings, a number of members seem unsure or even puzzled by the question. According to the Rotary Manual of Procedure, “each active member of a Rotary club is classified by his or her current or former business, profession, or type of community service.” When I joined Rotary as a young man, member classification was closely monitored. Like Noah’s Ark, Rotary clubs could have two of everything—two dentists, two realtors, two school principals. Getting to three and beyond was an art form that had to be approved by a committee, and even perhaps, the current occupants of a classification: Hence were created nuanced contrivances such as “commercial realty,” “residential realty,” “industrial realty,” etc.

A few modern principles to keep in mind: If you are a current or retired school principal, your classification is “educator” or “public education,” not “school principal.” If you are the city’s mayor, but before retiring from your business career you had been a civil engineer, your classification is “civil engineer,” not “mayor” or even “retired engineer.” If you have never worked outside the home, but have been an active leader in the League of Women Voters, the hospital guild or scouting, to cite just a few examples, your classification may be “community leader—elections,” “community leader—health,” “community leader—scouting.”

Fastidious attention to such delineations may strike some Rotarians as a quaint anachronism of a bygone era. Maybe. Let’s agree, however, that every Rotary club benefits from having a diverse membership. A Rotary

**If your club wants
to grow its
membership
... take a look at
your community.**

club is not intended to be a society of accountants, realtors or appraisers. Therefore, let me suggest a very practical way to use the classification system today. Paul Harris and his three friends purposely set out to create a club that would be representative of the city in which they lived. Too much of any one occupation would defeat that goal.

If your club wants to grow its membership—and every club should—take a look at its community. Make a list first of the most general types of civic, business, professional, and social service organizations. Under the heading of “civic,” include all governmental institutions, including police, fire, library, post office, public schools, city, county, and state and federal offices. Then list the names of your members in each category. Next make a list of people you know, even slightly, who work in a local government agency. Agree you will invite them to a Rotary meeting, project or fellowship event. Now do the same for all of the

—continues on next page

—*Imagine: Music to My Ears, continues from previous page*

other categories of vocational life in your community, including retail, professional services, private schools, entertainment, etc. Rinse and repeat. *Voilà*. The Rotary classification system can make you a bigger and more interesting club. Employed as I have described, it also provides a simple organizational tool for getting there.

The Rotary theme for January is Vocational Service. If you are (or were) a business, professional or community leader, Rotary wants you. That is our message. Our ark has plenty of room. *Imagine Rotary. Build it and they will come.* ■



DG Greg OBrien made his final club visit to his home club of Palos Verdes Peninsula on December 2.

Forum Against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

SATURDAY MARCH 4, 2017

8AM - NOON

LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

Life Sciences Auditorium

1 LMU Drive • Los Angeles

Free Parking

Reservations Required (Limited Seating)

Tori.Hettinger@Rotary5280.org or 310.670.9792

It's happening here! Join Rotary for this important forum, and learn what you can do to "End Child Sex Trafficking in Southern California."

PRESENTERS WILL INCLUDE

Law Enforcement, Legislators, Judiciary,
Rescue And Recovery

S.T.O.P. SEX TRAFFICKING ... OUR PROBLEM Rotary 



TRAITS OF RARE LEADERS

—by Michael Turner (Woodland Hills), SAG Communications

Although we are just at the halfway point of this Rotary year, planning is underway for those who will serve as president and District leadership positions in 2017–2018 under DG-elect Cozette Vargari. Presidents-elect began their training last month with PREP and continue it next month with PETS.

The key to being an effective club president is being a strong leader. There are **four characteristics of leaders who excel** in their role.

1) Modeling Rotary's Mission and goals.

You are the role model for your members and the community you serve. It is important to practice and promote Rotary's values and mission.

"The mission of Rotary International (RI) is to provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through its fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders."

In addition, you must serve as a foundation for your relationships with club members and the actions they take in their community. The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

- The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
- High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
- The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;

The key to being an effective club president is being a strong leader.

– The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

2) Communications. It is crucial to keep club members as well as the community "in the loop" about club projects and activities. Club members should be given information from RI on a regular basis in order to keep them interested and engaged in Rotary. There are many sources to call on, including RI's weekly e-mails, the website, Rotarian magazine, manuals and handbooks, and social media posts. Inspirational writer Israelmore Ayivor said, "Information leads to transformation. If you are not inspired by being informed, you will expire by becoming deformed!"

3) Walking the Turf. Presidents need to maintain constant contact with their members. If members are absent from club meetings or do

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—Centennial Celebration Continues,
continues from previous page



Tom Clifford, president, University of North Dakota, knew most faculty and staff by name, as well as many students.

not participate in projects or activities, reach out to them to learn why. It may be a transportation issue, lack of money, or overwhelming responsibilities at work or home. Whatever the reason they will appreciate a phone call from you, not an e-mail or text message. The latter two are too impersonal. Continue doing this every couple of weeks just to tell them what is happening at their club and in Rotary. By keeping

them informed, they will continue to be engaged in Rotary they will look forward to returning to their club.

In addition, it is important to recognize members on their birthday, wedding anniversary, and club anniversary. This can be as simple as mentioning their names at meetings or in your club's newsletter. Some may bring in birthday or anniversary balloons or present certificates.

4) Demonstrate High Ethical Standards.

The Four-Way Test is an excellent start, but actions speak the loudest because there are no established ethical standards. Everyone has his or her own and they reflect his or her belief system that drives his or her actions, approach, and attitude toward a wide range of situations. As you carry out your presidential duties remember that your members are watching and listening. If you take the low road they may follow your example. In addition, in this technology-driven age you never know when someone is recording your actions and posting them on social media.

The commensurate leader is engaged with his or her members and Rotary. One of my jobs right after graduate school was at the University of

North Dakota. There were about 9,000 students and 1,500 faculty and staff. President Tom Clifford knew most faculty and staff by name as well as many students. When he walked the campus, which was on a regular basis, he would talk to people. He also knew something personal about everyone: birthday, family members, illnesses, or achievements.

Five years after I left the university, I returned to visit. Walking across the campus I heard someone call my name. I turned around, and there was Tom Clifford. When I worked at the university I was a low-level employee, but he remembered me five years later. We stopped to talk, and he asked, "How are things going in Los Angeles?" I was amazed that he remembered where I moved.

Tom Clifford was a rare leader and a much-admired one. Think about him as you carry out your duties as president in 2017–2018. ■



Philip Mautino (Downey), supervising judge, Los Padrinos Juvenile Courthouse



Dr. Sahar Lashin (Palos Verdes Peninsula), internist, UCLA Health



Connie Chung Joe (Koreatown), executive director, Korean American Family Services



Dr. Keith Curry (Compton), interim CEO, El Camino Community College

“VOCATIONAL” MEANS SERVING THE COMMUNITY

—by Lorine Parks (Downey), IMAGINE Senior Correspondent

Phil, Sahar, Connie, and Keith: Why do these professionals, who spend their days in vocational service, also belong to Rotary Clubs? What part does Rotary play in their lives?

It's redundant to ask these professionals how they put Rotary ideals into action when using their professional skills to serve a community.

“Rotary is a great organization,” says Dr. Keith Curry, interim

CEO at El Camino Community College. “I practice the 4-Way Test in everything. Plus, I try to have fun in everything I do at work and with the Compton Rotary.”

In professions that demand so much personal involvement, how

do these high-intensity achievers “unplug?” Rather than join a service club, wouldn't a doctor, attorney, educator, or judge prefer to spend precious leisure time with physical activities, such as the sport of “spinning,” with the arts, playing a musical instrument, or getting away from it all?

Philip Mautino, supervising judge for 15 years at the Los

Padrinos Juvenile Courthouse in Downey, does all that. As he explains, he is “charged with protecting the public with regard to minors who commit crimes.” But, he adds, “in most cases the minor is not a vicious criminal but a young person who has made as serious mistake.” During Tuesday noon recesses, Phil is a regular at the

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—“Vocational”, continues from previous page

Downey Club, because, he says, “in community service, the giver, the Rotarian, is greatly enriched by the effort.” In Phil’s off hours, he lends

Second Object of Rotary, which calls on Rotarians to “dignify each Rotarian’s occupation as an opportunity to serve society.” The

**Sahar links Rotary and her job
to help her community.**

his fine bass voice to the Chorale Bel Canto of Whittier.

As Connie Chung Joe of the Koreatown Rotary says, “I changed my career path so many times. I started off thinking I was going to work in international human rights, then I was an attorney for seven years, and now I’m working in the nonprofit sector.” Connie went on to say that when working as a lawyer she got tired of the day-to-day litigation, “fighting with the other side.” She wanted something more cooperative and something that would let her work with the Korean population in Los Angeles.

These Rotarians are outstanding examples of the

definition of Vocational Service goes on to say, “Practice your profession with integrity, and inspire others to behave ethically through your own words and actions.”

It turns out that vocational service motivates and energizes these dedicated Rotarians. And vocational service is the very essence of Rotary. It is what sets Rotary apart from other service organizations. The concept of vocational service is rooted in the encouragement and fostering of “high ethical standards in business and professions,” and in “the recognition of the worthiness of “all useful occupations.”

“I do not know the meaning of ‘relax,’” says Keith. “I am always in

meetings and working on items for my institution. I also teach part-time at California State University at Fullerton’s College of Education in their educational doctorate program. I do enjoy spending time with my wife and my six-year-old son, ‘Kamilo.’”



For Dr. Sahar Lashin of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Rotary,

medicine is her

love and pride. She is very keen about helping her patients have a better life, not just a better health, and she says she would go all the extra miles to do so. “What attracted me to Rotary is the power they have in serving people, the know-how to do it, and the perseverance and consistency in providing help and support to those who need it.”

Sahar was born and raised in Cairo, Egypt, and her hobbies are photography, fashion, reading,

and cooking. But all come after medicine and her family. Her life is incredibly full of service to others. “As a Rotarian and a medical doctor, I am lucky to have this great opportunity to link both together and incorporate my presence in Rotary with my job to help my community the most.”

Sahar received her medical degree from one of the oldest medical schools in the Middle East, Cairo University. She specializes in hepatology/gastroenterology and also endemic and tropical medicine and also has taught at Cairo University. “As a Rotarian overseas, I was a member of a Giza North Rotary, which introduced clean water to a small town and provided a source of income for many families who live there. This fulfills my desire to effectively change lives.”

Sahar has a special interest in ethics, and after coming to the United States she took a course at the University of Maryland and

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—“Vocational”, continues from previous page

became a certified trainer in ethics in international medical research. She moved to primary care in a clinical setting to provide “the needed continuity of care lifelong.” Now a physician at UCLA Health in Rolling Hills, she became Board Certified in internal medicine in the United States in 2014.

“Rotarians are so much connected all around the world,” Sahar says. “They respect each other and connect deeply together on a human level, which is very rarely found elsewhere.”

Connie Chung Joe, executive director, Korean American Family Services (KFAM), manages

a 19-member bilingual, bicultural staff plus 10 volunteers who serve more than 7,000 adults and children. KFAM responds directly to the challenges among Korean American families in trauma, adaptation, and



acculturation stresses. “Our goal,” Connie says, “is to help build a community where children and adults are safe from violence, where parents are empowered to nurture healthy relationships and healthy children, and where distressed individuals find recovery, hope, and wellness.”

“It is very well-known that there is an absolute dearth of Korean foster families and zero active, licensed Korean foster families in Los Angeles County,” Connie observed in 2014. Each year, children are temporarily removed from their parents’ care for reasons ranging from neglect and abandonment to abuse. “Specifically, there are 57 Korean American children in the Los Angeles County Foster care system currently, but there are NO actively licensed foster families of Korean descent in Los Angeles County to serve as a match. NONE!”

“Because children of immigrant

households often do not learn English until they start kindergarten,” Connie continues, “it is imperative that they are placed in Korean homes. Being placed in

Connie found a way for her Rotary Club to tap into and assist the Korean community.

non-ethnic-specific foster families that lack knowledge about the children’s language, food, or culture can compound the existing anxiety, confusion, and trauma they have.”

Connie Chung Joe announces the new Korean Foster Family Initiative to recruit Korean foster parents to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate care for Korean children.

Since Connie took on the project, 30 Korean families have been recruited and trained, and 47 children have been placed. And the work continues. Currently, Connie’s club has worked with sister Asian clubs in Little Tokyo and Historic Filipino Town on a project for Christmas. District 5280

encourages collaborating between clubs, and these three clubs have been awarded a District Grant to gift to Korean foster children backpacks filled with wish-lists

items such as skateboards, video games, and clothing.

“Backpacks are especially important to children who have no permanent home and are moved about. They often lack a bag to take personal items with them,” says Connie.

“I hadn’t previously seen the opportunity for our Rotary club to tap into the Korean community,” Connie says. “Now our successful second-generation members can invest back into the community.”

How does Connie find time and space to recreate and restore her energies? She has a husband and two daughters and a circle of girl friends, but another answer is running. “In the past I’ve done marathons,” she says. “Last year I did a half-marathon in New

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—“Vocational”, continues from previous page

Orleans. I like physical exercise. I also do spinning. Spinning helps me unplug.” (Spinning, for the uninitiated, means indoor bicycling using a special stationary exercise bicycle with a weighted flywheel. Classes focus on endurance, strength, intervals, high-intensity race days, and recovery.) Go, Connie. Go!

Keith Curry has an unusual task:

rebuilding a community college.

At the same time, his Rotary Club is rebuilding, too. District 5280 is proud to welcome the Compton Club back into the Rotary family. The club meets every Wednesday. “I enjoy the members of the Compton Rotary. We are small in numbers but very strong in service,” Keith says.

“The Compton Rotary has hosted our weekly meetings on my campus,



so there is never an excuse for me to be late or not to attend,” Keith adds. “I really enjoy the service we provide. We currently have a toy drive going on and it’s rewarding to provide toys to kids from our community.”

“I want to give people hope,” Keith says. “Here is a Compton Community College District with no college.” Compton Community College had its accreditation revoked by the accrediting commission in 2006 because of financial troubles and administrative corruption. Born and raised in Compton, Keith’s goal for this district is to have once again a college.

At present, that accreditation has not been returned to the college. “But by entering into a partnership with El Camino College, we are able to provide accredited courses on our site.” He recently led a campaign to pass a \$100 million facilities bond, Measure C, which was approved by 78% of the voters

in Compton, Lynwood, Paramount, and Willowbrook as well as portions of Bellflower, Carson,

Keith’s goal is for the Compton district to once again have a college.

Downey, Lakewood, Long Beach, Rancho Dominguez, and South Gate. The Compton College District encompasses the cities of Compton, Paramount, and Lynwood. That area includes a number of Rotary Clubs.

“You can be from Compton and be a success,” Keith says. I want students to feel special and at home.” Under his leadership, the First Year Experience (FYE) was established at El Camino College’s Compton Center two years ago. FYE offers a supportive educational environment that encourages student success through shared learning communities and services such as counseling, mentoring, orientation, and campus tours. “Every student can be successful

with the right academic and support services,” Keith says. In the first year of the program, 68 students participated. By the second year, the enrollment more than doubled with over 140 students.

“I was attracted to Rotary,” Keith says, “because I thought it would be a good opportunity for me to meet other individuals who were interested in providing service to our community. Before joining the Compton Club, I knew very little about Rotary. Now, every week I learn something new about Rotary and the service we provide around the world.”



Judge Phil Mautino, says,

“I am charged with protecting the public in regard to minors who commit crimes. But within this cloak of protection, I am required to

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—“Vocational”, continues from previous page

rehabilitate minors into productive citizens.” And how does that directly relate to Rotary? “Our efforts mirror the 4-Way Test,” says Phil. “The minor must be truthful. If he is, his consequences can be withheld or milder.” Phil goes on, “If he lies, that is pointed out as another negative factor.”

“Is it fair?” Judge Phil continues. “The minor must make restitution to the victims. He must do other acts as appropriate to make things right, for example, a letter of apology. My job is to structure a plan to assist minors and then to monitor their progress.” A sense of humor helps him cope. “I give short lectures. I never know if they are absorbed, but they are very popular with parents. I give them ammunition to curb behavior, i.e., ‘You heard what the judge said.’”

An important carry-over of vocation is “to help a young person achieve his or her career aspirations.” In a program

initiated by Phil when he became supervising judge, local judges, prosecutors, and public defenders tell parents and school officials the statistics of the juvenile courts and

For Phil, an important carry-over of vocational service is to help young people achieve their career aspirations.

describe to students the procedures and consequences that can result from criminal activity.

Judge Phil spoke to about 60 Montebello seventh and eighth graders recently. “The purpose was to lower the veil of mystery surrounding the juvenile courts, to let children know they will be responsible, and let the public know that there is money being well-spent.”

Phil hammered home the message that if kids broke the law or failed to do well in school, not only might they end up in a probation camp or juvenile hall,

they might end up short-changing themselves in life. “I want to see all of you be all that you can be,” he told them. “Being an adult means more than being a certain age. It means being able to take care

of and handle yourself. If you get educated, get a job, you can buy whatever you want. But you can

only buy more things than anybody if you work for it. Your job right now is school.”

Montebello Unified School District Deputy Superintendent Art Revueltas praised the judge’s lecture. “We can say the same thing to the kids, but it does not have the impact that a judge can have.” Phil said he hoped for 200 speaking engagements in the next year, covering all the schools and service clubs in the 18 cities and 16 school districts in the area handled by his courthouse.

“Is it beneficial to all concerned? Society can be comforted,” Phil

says, “by knowing that three-fourths of the minors we counsel never commit a crime later in life.” That compares with 30% of adults who do not reoffend.” Put in other numbers, only 25% of minors who come to Juvenile Court go on to a life of crime, whereas 70% of adults who are apprehended do continue.

“I joined Rotary because I believe there is a double benefit,” Phil concludes. “Rotary’s community charitable actions benefit the locality. Second, the giver, the Rotarian, is greatly enriched by the effort.”

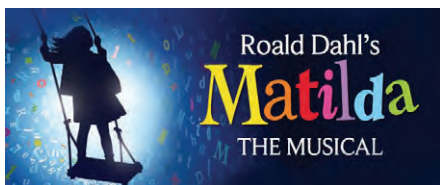
As Sahar puts it, “If we have a focused goal and we all join as one heart, efforts always give fruits, even out of season. That’s what I like and love about my Rotary club. They are very highly humanistic, selective individuals who find it enjoyable to give and help and enjoy the results. I’m lucky to be with you all. I love being a Rotarian.” ■

Rotary District 5280 Vocational Service Presents

Rotary Youth Outreach

A program that gives Rotary Clubs the opportunity to share new experiences with under privileged children.

Join us for



at the beautiful

Segerstrom Center for the Arts

600 Town Center Dr. Costa Mesa

on

Sunday, January 22 at 1 pm

\$25.00 per person*

*Thanks to the generosity of Rotarians and the Segerstrom Center the cost of this day has been significantly discounted.

The cost includes the theatre performance and lunch.

Sponsoring Rotary Clubs are responsible for transportation and appropriate clothing for the children attending the theatre. Clubs may purchase tickets for deserving children and an appropriate number of parent or Rotarian chaperones.

Child participants suggested age 7 and 11 years old.

TICKETS ARE LIMITED

To purchase tickets please contact

Diane Davis

dianedavis4sc@gmail.com



HELP CHILDREN EXPERIENCE THE WORLD OF CREATIVITY

—by Diane DiMarco Davis, RN, BSN, (Downey)
Youth Outreach Chair

**Discounted tickets for a performance of
Matilda The Musical are now available.**

Matilda The Musical is the story of a bright little girl with a vivid imagination. Based on Roald Dahl's classic children's book, *Matilda*, with the help of her teacher, Miss Honey, uses her sharp mind and creativity to over come the unjust world she lives in. The sets are colorful and playful, and the music is award-winning.

Help children in District 5280 discover the magic of musical theatre while experiencing *Matilda*, a story they will know well. Discounted tickets to see *Matilda* at the beautiful Segerstrom Center on Sunday, January 22, are available for purchase now.

District Vocational Services invites your club to share the gift of the theatre with children in your area. Sponsoring Rotary Clubs are responsible for transportation and appropriate clothing for the children attending. Clubs may purchase tickets for deserving children and an appropriate number of parent or Rotarian chaperones by contacting: Diane Davis at dianedavis4sc@gmail.com. Tickets are limited. ■



YOUTH SPOTLIGHT ARTISTIC TALENTS AND UNDERSTANDING OF ETHICS

—by Olivia Patterson Ryans (Inglewood), SAG, Vocational Services

Each year Rotary District 5280 showcases its most talented young people through two highly celebrated events: The Pageant of the Arts, chaired by Rotarian Lance Miller (LA5) and the Ethics Forum, chaired by Rotarian Patrice Jinso-Springer (Hawthorne LAX Lennox).

The Pageant of the Arts is an opportunity for high school students to display their talent and to compete in music, art, dance, and speech for recognition and monetary awards. Students gain valuable experience as well as exposure to university deans and professors. Past performers have received university scholarships because of their exceptional presentations.

The Ethics Forum offers an opportunity for Rotaract Clubs to compete as teams, giving oral arguments on the ethical aspect of current, relevant topics. Each team will explain why their chosen topic is an ethical issue, define relevant terms, provide the pros and cons based on researched facts, and offer a resolution based on the Four Way Test. The Rotaractors are also competing for monetary awards and will present topics such as illegal immigration, gun control laws, global warming, legalization of drugs, and genetically modified food.

Rotarian Judy Delavigne (Westchester) has once again helped make available Loyola

Marymount University as our host site for these events, lending their resources and creating a professional environment for the young people and their guests.

Both events are an opportunity for Rotary Clubs to connect with the community, sponsoring and bringing forth talent from their local schools, churches, universities, theater groups, community centers, and performing arts groups and art studios. [Click here](#) for details on these two events and seek out, discover, and sponsor the talent in your community. ■

GLOBAL GRANTS HELP KEEP THE ROTARY WHEEL TURNING

—by Lorine Parks (Downey), IMAGE Senior Correspondent



Who are the judges? What do they look for when reviewing and interviewing students' applications? What is the interaction and follow up with Global Grant scholars?

JANUARY 13
is the deadline
to submit
applications
to the District.

\$30,000 to study abroad is the size of a contemporary Rotary Global Grant Award, a program designed for college graduate-level students. The hope is

to provide an enriching experience of study and humanitarian service, encouraging students to adopt Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self" as their lifestyle.

The deadline for clubs to submit nominees' applications to the District is January 13, 2017, and judges' decisions will be announced in March.

"There is a lot to learn when applying for

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THE SIX AREAS OF FOCUS FOR THE GRANTS

1. **Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution**, including prevention/resolution, peace and justice studies, international relations or law with a specialization in peace and conflict.
 2. **Water and Sanitation**: water science/engineering, water management, environmental science, epidemiology, and parasitology.
 3. **Maternal and Child Health**: epidemiology, nutrition, global health, public health, health promotion, and nursing and medicine.
 4. **Education and Basic Literacy**: include education, literacy, curriculum development, special education, and school administration.
 5. **Economic and Community Development**: social science degrees with a specific focus on economic and community development, business degrees tailored for social business and micro entrepreneurship or microcredit.
 6. **Disease Prevention and Treatment**: public health and advanced degrees in nursing and medicine
- "It's important," says Richard Cortes, "to teach the younger generation about these six areas of focus and how they can apply to career decisions that will lead them to fulfilling professional pathways that will help humanity thrive."

—Global Grants, continues from previous page

Global Grants," says Dr. Jewel Price, past president of Glendale Sunrise Rotary (2008–09) and chair of the Global Grant Scholars (GGS) Program. "And chairing the program requires attention on a year-round basis. The biggest take away is attention to detail and the importance of timing.

Contributing to a candidate's selection are the applicant's written materials and in-person interview.

"There is no single important personality trait for the scholar," Jewel continues. "It is the profile of the applicants in their written materials and their interview that contribute to their selection. Academic performance, quality of the proposed project, community involvement, verbal presentation, career plans, and close alignment with the proposed area of focus for their studies and project are all critical factors."

Jewel is a former Ambassadorial Scholar to Ireland. "When I went to Ireland in the '70s, the grant amount was \$3,000. I studied psychology and worked with children in special education and elementary schools. I tested the

children individually and wrote assessments and recommendations for their placement in school." Later, Jewel was a college administrator at Glendale Community College. "I worked as a dean and faculty member for California Community Colleges for 40 years," she says. "And yes, I started young, at 25 years old."

What does it take to be a judge, and what kind of Rotary background do these judges possess? Richard Cortes is an assistant professor and academic counselor at Glendale Community College, and he works with Jewel on the selection committee. "I was fortunate to participate as a Rotary Foundation Group Study Exchange representative from the former District 5260 to District 1790 in France," Richard says. "My mentor, Dr. Jewel Price, was the first to introduce me to Rotary back in 2007 when she asked me to serve as Rotaract Faculty Advisor at Glendale Community College." And, Jewel adds, "I was asked to join Rotary by a colleague at my college when she learned that I was a former Ambassadorial Scholar."

Richard was born and raised in New York City, then moved to Los Angeles in 1986. His parents emigrated from Honduras in 1971. Richard received his doctor of philosophy in

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—Global Grants,
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education from Claremont Graduate University. He has published several articles relating to higher education and immigration issues. He and his wife, Mirna, live in Los Angeles.

“We have the responsibility to ensure that candidates’ graduate programs mesh with their chosen areas of focus.”

In 2011, dressed in his native Honduran costume, Richard was selected as one of eight “Outwalkers” to walk beside the Rotary Rose Parade Float. Outwalker wore the traditional costumes of their countries of origin.

“The Rotary Foundation has entrusted in me,” says Richard, “and my fellow District 5280 Global Grant Scholars committee members, to select the best candidate(s) to carry on special projects that will effectively align with one of Rotary’s six areas of focus. In addition, we have the responsibility to ensure that the candidates’ graduate programs also mesh with their chosen areas of focus. To me, this is an important responsibility as a committee member. Most important, I am proud to take part in something that will not only change the life of potential future Rotarians, but change the lives of other



Where in the world might Rotary scholars study?

global citizens that will benefit from the GGS scholars’ work.”

When asked what he looks for in a candidate, Richard replies, “Passion! As a committee, we need to have a strong sense that the proposed project is something the candidates are truly passionate about. When someone is passionate about serving others, we know this person will carry on this same drive and enthusiasm professionally and personally. We enjoy reading candidates’ applications that show vision or thinking outside the box. This is something we seek as potential Rotarians.”

A key feature of global grants is partnership between the District or club where the activity is carried out and a district or club in another country.

How do you follow up with scholars? “We are constantly communicating with Global Grant Scholars via email, video conferencing, and social media” says Jewel. Richard adds, “Each scholar is responsible for submitting quarterly academic and project progress reports. We enjoy viewing their photos with their host Rotary Clubs and onsite projects. Once their studies are completed, we invite them to share their experiences by visiting various clubs in our District.”

When asked how he became interested in joining Rotary, Richard’s reply shows how the Rotary wheel is always turning. “As mentioned earlier, Jewel, a former dean at Glendale Community College, introduced me to Rotary. I was aware of Rotary International but never knew how to get involved until Jewel came into my life. She truly changed it for the better.” ■



WHAT ARE YOUR NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS?

—by Shirley Giltzow (Lawndale)
District Polio Plus Chair

What are your New Year resolutions? After the holidays, so many people are resolving to exercise more, lose weight, etc.

I would like to suggest that you resolve to help End Polio Now. There were so few cases in 2016 (approximately 35 polio cases compared to 74 the previous year), but we cannot let down our guard. The immunizations must continue so that a few cases this year don't spring up to many more cases next year. We are so very close to wiping out this disease on our planet! But, it still takes effort and funding to finish the job.

This is the 100th anniversary of the Rotary Foundation. The first donation given to start the Foundation was \$26.50. Rotary International has

asked every Rotarian in the world to donate this amount to Polio Plus. Last year we had donations to Polio Plus from every Rotarian in District 5280, which made our district the first in the world to accomplish this goal!

Many of our clubs already have donated \$26.50 from each member this year. Won't you and your club join these elite clubs and help make this monumental goal possible? Clubs that reach this goal will be honored at the Rotary District Conference at Lake Arrowhead Resort and Spa in May 2017.

Please contact me to assist you with your donations: 310.377.2979 or shirley_giltzow@live.com. ■

AT THE 2016 ANGEL CITY CELEBRATION

- 450 volunteers were deployed
- Each child (with his or her parents) was given a passport to be stamped by at least 15 exhibitors before receiving a free toy of their choice
- Volunteers prepared and served pancakes, sausages, and juice
- There was a variety of fun activities and entertainment for kids and adults
- A truce among rival gangs was secured for the duration of the Celebration
- A Resource Fair focused on gang prevention and empowered parents with information on after-school enrichment programs for sports, academics, and healthy living. There was information about accessing government services, and about 30 agencies participated.
- A Health Fair, including four mobile clinics staffed by healthcare professionals, offered general check-ups, blood tests, medical specialty consultations, and prevention information.
- The Book Faire helped open children's eyes to the joys of reading. Books were provided by the LA County Library Department and Molina Foundation. Librarians and volunteers worked with the children to encourage reading and improve reading skills.

Angel City Celebration 2016

SOUTH L.A. CHILDREN AND FAMILIES CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS



On a cool, wind-swept day, more than 3,000 children and their families gathered at Ted Watkins Memorial Park in South Los Angeles to participate in LA5's Angel City Celebration, the largest Rotary service project in the Greater

Los Angeles Area. The project started seven years ago, evolving from a simple toys-and-food giveaway in a church parking lot to a now-annual event featuring many activities and

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—Angel City, continues

exhibitors that help to improve the quality of life for underserved families with young children in South LA. The Angel City Celebration also partners with other clubs in the District as well as the LA City and LA County Recreation and Parks Departments.

To learn more about the annual Angel City Celebration and how to participate as a volunteer or donate funds or resources, send an email to AngelCityCelebration@gmail.com. ■



THE WORLD'S LARGEST GATHERING OF SKIING ROTARIANS

41st Annual Dick Linkey Rotary Ski Challenge,
sponsored by Tahoe City Rotary and its Foundation.

March 3, 2017 at Northstar, California

- The course will be a *gentle giant slalom*, not a slalom course and will be maintained as well as any other sanctioned race course at Northstar.
- Rotarians, significant others, and children over 13 years old are invited to participate.
- Check in race day is 8:15–9:30 a.m. The race starts at 10:30.
- Apres Ski with heavy hors d'oeuvres just prior to the awards ceremony.
- Raffle items for the ski day raffle are most welcome.
- Additional information is at tahoe-cityrotary.org under “Annual Dick Linkey Rotary Ski Challenge”

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

- Registration and release forms are online at tahoe-cityrotary.org.
- Participants should fill out the release form online, print, sign, and give it to the team captain, who should fill out the registration form online and submit with all release forms and the club check. Please, don't forget to include racers' ages.
- ***All registration materials must be received by February 24.***
- For further registration information, please call Steve Swigard at 530.583.5296 or (c) 775.771.4163. ■



Imaginative Club Projects

THAI TOWN'S BICYCLE PROGRAM IN THAILAND

—by Lorine Parks (Downey), Senior Correspondent



As it happened, Surasit “Sam” Hakritsuk was president of Thai Town Rotary during 2013–14. And so began this story of partnering across the globe.

Teresa Chung, a member of the club, says that, “Sam went to Thailand to sign a sister club agreement with the Dhonburi West Club (District 3350), which is on the country’s eastern coast, about 100 miles south of Bangkok. There are many popular beaches along the Dhonburi coast. Among them is Pattaya, a long-standing resort town with a seafront promenade. Here the Dhonburi Club proposed the bicycle project with Thai Town.”

Presidents from East and West signed the club agreement and discussed potential projects for collaboration.

The Rotary Club of Dhonburi West has partnered with the Foundation for Rehabilitation & Development of Children and Family (FORDEC), doing projects together for many years. Dr. Amporn Wathanavongs, a well-known and well-loved philanthropist in Thailand, was orphaned at an early age but moved from the depths of despair to become a productive social leader. He provides hope and assistance to the poor children and families living in the slums of Thailand, and he founded FORDEC on Valentine’s Day 1998. The day was chosen because it represented love.

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**—Thai Town Bicycle Program,
continues from previous page**

“FORDEC is a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to helping orphans, children, youth, families, and the aged who are

**The goal of Thai Town’s
international project is to provide
100 bicycles annually for rural students.**

generally living in difficult circumstances,” Sam continues. “The foundation provides material assistance for survival and opportunities for physical and intellectual growth to uplift these people’s living conditions.”

Bicycles for rural students is one of the many projects that FORDEC has been doing for decades. Dhonburi West has been participating in the project for more than 15 years and invited Thai Town to join in this venture. They have been a project partner for three years.

The goal of the project is to provide 100 bicycles annually for rural students who must walk barefoot three kilometers (about two miles) or more to and from school. The bicycles are loaned to the students, and once the students graduate the bicycles are passed on for use by

other students. The teachers in local school districts select the recipients.

The project helps children learn to be responsible for their belongings, teaches them how to repair and share their bicycles with friends or siblings, and develops a strong sense of commitment. Many of these underprivileged children who live in remote parts of the provinces along the Thai/Cambodian border are poor because their families’ land was lost to forest conservation programs.

Last year, bicycles were also distributed to students at 11 elementary schools in Mae Rim and Chiang Dow Districts of Chiang Mai province, in Northern Thailand. These children have added difficulties, as land mines, placed during wars, remain in the area.

Is the project self-sustaining? Yes, because the bicycles will be maintained for years for use by many students. The recipients must maintain the condition of bicycles at all times. ■

Pictured on the right: Sam Hakritsuk, left, of Thai Town Rotary, and Preecha Suwanprapai, of Dhonburi-West Rotary. These past Rotary club presidents partnered to provide bicycles for rural students in Thailand.



CLUB 62

News for and about District 5280 clubs

A Yummy Way to Support Rotary Projects

The San Pedro Rotary Crab Feed is set for Saturday, February 4, 5-9 p.m. in San Pedro at Cabrillo Beach Youth Waterfront Center, 3000 Shoshonean Road.

Come for an evening of fun, food, wine, beer, soda, and friendship.

There'll also be auctions to raise funds to help eradicate polio and support local community projects.

[Click here](#) for more information and to buy tickets.

Support Los Angeles Harbor Charities and Rotary Projects Worldwide!



The Great San Pedro Crab Feed!
Saturday, February 4, 2017 5-9PM
\$65.00/Person *Early Bird Rate*
\$75.00/Person *After Jan. 21*

At the Cabrillo Youth Center
 3000 Shoshonean Rd. at Cabrillo Beach

A Family Style dinner with fresh Northwest Dungeness * Homemade desserts available!
 Crab in a savory Cioppino Sauce with Salad, Crusty * Silent and Live Auctions!
 French Bread and Pasta. Mmmmm!

Tickets online: www.rotarysanpedro.org
 Or call: Arlene Dickey 310-210-8577

Serving our Community Locally - Ending Polio Globally



The Rio Hondo-Vernon Club presented the Max Siesser Humanitarian Award to member Jim Boltinghouse, left. Jim is pictured with the award's namesake, Rev. Max Siesser.

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—Club 62, continues from previous page

The Woodland Hills Rotary Club brought Santa and his elves to Fullbright Elementary School, where they passed out gifts to students from kindergarten to third grade. Photo: Woodland Hills Rotary's Santa



Hawthorne and Da Vinci Science High School Interact Clubs babysitting children.

Interactors Wrap Gifts, Babysit Children

Hawthorne Rotary and Da Vinci Science High School Interact Clubs joined with the military from the Los Alamitos Base to wrap and distribute toys for more than 2,000 children at the St. Margaret Center Holiday Celebration, held at Inglewood High School. The Interactors, along with students from Lennox Academy, babysat youngsters while parents selected gifts for their children.

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The North Hollywood Club partnered with CBS Studios in Studio City to host a holiday celebration for students from 16 underserved area schools. Lunch and gifts were provided.



—Club 62, continues from previous page



San Pedro Rotarians Will Help Stop Hunger Now!

The San Pedro Rotary will be packaging food for Stop Hunger Now on January 14. It's a great way to introduce Rotary to your friends and bring your family along. If you are unable to volunteer, you can donate as little as 29 cents to provide a meal for six, or donate some canned goods/basic staples to stock the local community food banks.

[Click here](#) to learn about, donate to, and register for Stop Hunger Now.

Curious to see what San Pedro Rotarians will be doing at the meal-packaging event? Then [check out this video](#). They'll be packing a minimum of 10,000 bags and hope to double that amount with your generous help!

Something to Celebrate in Beverly Hills!

Beverly Hills Rotary wrapped up another year of service and fellowship at their annual holiday party, held at The Beverly Hills Hotel. American singer-songwriter and Oscar nominee Carol Connors sang an awe-inspiring rendition of the national anthem, and the SoCal VoCals and USC's cappella chorus serenaded Rotarians. The event saw the Club's fall donations total more than \$175,000 after an impressive Rotary Project Day, in which the club raised in excess of \$100,000.



Historic Filipinotown Rotary held their annual Christmas Party at John S. Mina's home. It was fun and a beautiful holiday event. Photo: Redy Babasa. Pictured from the left are Cora Soriano, Rosalie Caratao, Roman Mosqueda, and Ben Aranda.

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In Other Stories

She asked for it. She got it.

Lucille, a very enthusiastic client of Braille Institute LA, asked for a selfie to send to her mother. She made her way on public transit from Compton to the annual holiday program at the Institute on her own! Lucille is high-voltage, said District Governor Nominee Jose Vasquez. Rotarians from throughout the District assisted at the event. ■

DG Nominee Joe Vasquez and Lucille at the Braille Institute Holiday Party.

LATE-BREAKING NEWS

PDG Bob White Has Died

Our District's 1996–1997 PDG, Robert “Bob” White, passed away peacefully on Thursday evening, December 29 with his wife, Beverly, at his bedside. Memorial services are pending. The family and PDG Bob request that in lieu of flowers please make a donation to The Rotary Foundation in his name. PDG Bob was passionately devoted to Rotary service through The Rotary Foundation. Cards and letters may sent to his home at: 4501 Hampton Road Corona Del Mar CA 92625.



Our late PDG Bob White is on the far left in this 2009 photo. Pictured with him are, from the left, Herb Norman, Rick Searey, Jerry Brown, and Gerardo Jaramillo.



RI's 2017 Rose Parade Entry

Lynn Kim (Palos Verdes Peninsula), pictured left, represented our District as she rode on RI's award-winning float, far left, in the 2017 Rose Parade. Dressed in the costume of her native Korea, Lynn rode and waved to the crowd along the five-mile parade route. The RI float, “Doing Good in the World” won the Princess’ Trophy, which honors the most beautiful float 35’ and shorter. ■