

Make a dream come true!

Rotary
District 5280



ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE

JANUARY 2018



See stories on [page 12](#) and [page 20](#) about Rotary-sponsored holiday parties.

Rotary
District 5280



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Make a Dream Come True!

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

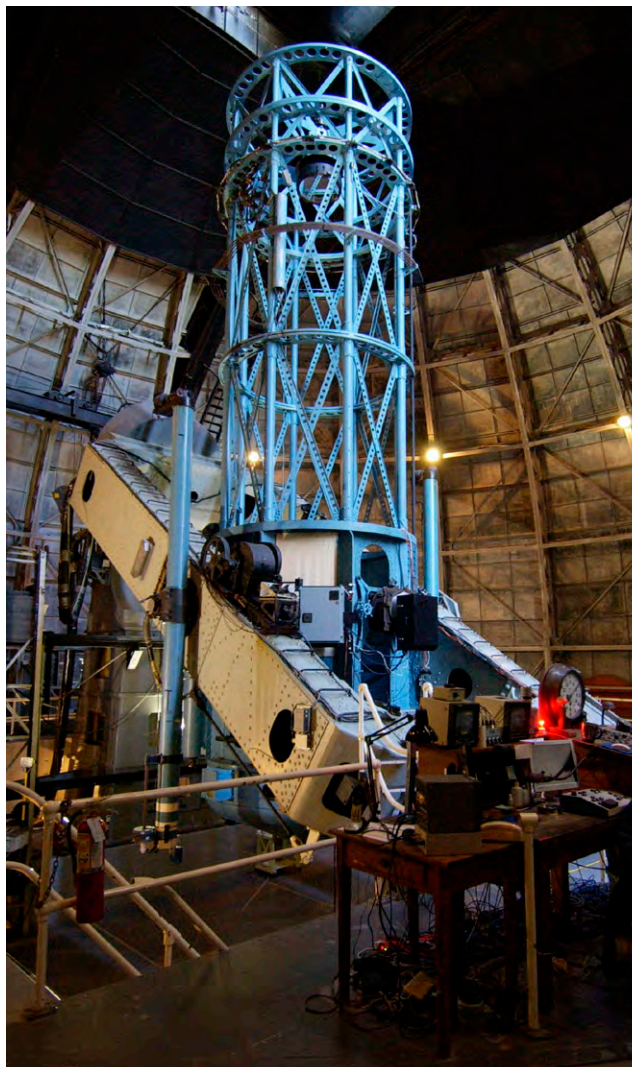
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DISTRICT CALENDAR

January

- 9 District Breakfast
- 12 Global Grant Scholarship Apps Due to District
- 20 Presidents’ Brunch
- 27 Membership Forum in Burbank ([See page 15](#))

February

- 3 PLRS (Potential Rotary Leadership Skills) training in the South Bay
- 9–11 PETS
- 10 Pageant of the Arts Club Apps Due
- 17 PLRS (Potential Rotary Leadership Skills) training in the San Fernando Valley

March

- 3 Membership Forum in the South Bay ([See page 15](#))
- 10 Pageant of the Arts
- 17 Color Run for Polio
- 21–30 District Humanitarian Trips

100-inch Hooker Telescope at Mount Wilson’s Carnegie Observatories. See [pages 7–9](#).



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



HAPPY NEW YEAR DISTRICT 5280 ROTARIANS, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS

By Cozette Vergari, District Governor

I HOPE EVERYONE HAD A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON, with some quality time to relax and enjoy with loved ones! I know many of you were busy making a difference in the lives of individuals and families, spreading joy to those who might not, otherwise, be able to share in the spirit of giving during the holiday season. As we head into the New Year, I wish everyone renewed energy, passion and purpose, as there is more work to be done. **Thank you Rotarians, and to family and friends who have helped along the way!**

Rotary International Convention in Toronto Plus Optional Post Trip. Be sure to register for the RI Convention in Toronto, Canada, to be held 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 breakout sessions about relevant Rotary topics. We are putting together a great District 5280 post trip in Eastern Canada from June 28 through July 3. **Discounted early bird registration deadline for the post trip is January 20.**

—continues



—continues

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. We have an “out of this world” experience planned for you. Our keynote speaker will be John Mulchaey, executive director for the Carnegie Observatories in Pasadena, sharing 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 may participate in a drawing, winners to be hosted for dinner by Carnegie Observatories, Governor Cozette, and First Gentleman Richard Moon at the historic astronomy observatory atop Mt. Wilson.

Upcoming Events Requiring Registration

- **PRESIDENTS BRUNCH** (Annenberg Beach House in Santa Monica) January 20
- **MEMBERSHIP FORUM** (Salvation Army in Burbank) January 27

Disaster Relief. We continue to accept donations through the RI District 5280 Charitable Foundation for the many, many tragic disasters we have recently witnessed and, sadly, continue to see. You may select the disasters you wish to support in the effort to provide aid to the victims of these tragedies, or you may choose to make a donation to the general disaster relief fund. California is in great need of our assistance due to the massive fire damage throughout the state.

You may donate to the District 5280 Charitable Foundation through the District Website, using PayPal. Additionally, you may send a check to the District Office, made payable to RI District 5280 Charitable Foundation, identifying “disaster relief fund” or any specific disaster relief you are supporting with your donation. We are working through the network of Rotary to shepherd these donations, so they are received where and when they are needed and used appropriately.

Again, thanking you for making a difference in peoples lives.

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

*“California is in great need of our assistance
due to the massive fire damage throughout the state.
We continue to accept donations through the
RI District 5280 Charitable Foundation.”*

—DG Cozette Vergari





NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

By Michael Turner (Woodland Hills)
SAG Communications

What is interesting is that
those who volunteer often report
that they feel like they have
more time on their hands.

THE NEW YEAR IS AN INSPIRING TIME because it gives you the opportunity to establish a fresh start. New Year's Resolutions provide an outline for how you are going to make 2018 better than the last year. Many Rotarians list "volunteering" as a resolution, but do not specify what they will exactly do. Here are some ideas:

1. **Donate to Food Pantry.** When you're at the grocery store, pick up some extra cans of vegetables, meats or fruits.
2. **Tutoring.** Youth are in such great need of positive role models, so invest time reading, supervising various activities, helping with homework, or just having a conversation. By the way, January is National Mentoring Month.
3. **New Project.** What do you enjoy doing? Take your knowledge and share it by creating a free tutoring program, fitness class, or sketching lessons. Ask fellow Rotarians to help you.
4. **One-Time Event.** Are you tight on time? That's okay. Develop a single project like a 5K race; speech, writing, or dance competition; or an annual community fundraiser.
5. **Online Activities.** The online world is expanding, so why

—continues



—continues

not take advantage of your skills and teach writing, creating and editing videos, using social media, or financial planning.

6. **Feed the Community.** There are many organizations that will let you use their kitchens to prepare and serve meals to the elderly, homeless, or underserved families. The reward is seeing their faces light up.

7. **Food or Clothing Drive.** Reach out to churches, schools and youth organizations to assist in collecting food or clothing for local nonprofits.

8. **Teaching.** Many schools have eliminated after school programs and this is a golden opportunity to establish a program that will help students to learn math, writing, drawing, public speaking, or other skills.

9. **Tidy up the Community.** There are many parks and organizations that need your help with picking up trash, painting, removing junk, planting trees and flowers, or building cabinets and tables.

10. **Coach.** Many youth organizations are in desperate need of volunteers to coach their teams or work behind the scene.

WHAT IS INTERESTING is that those who volunteer often report that they feel like they have more time on their hands. Think about what volunteer activities you will include in your New Year's Resolutions. ★



*“You make a living by what you get.
You make a life by what you give.”*

—Sir Winston Churchill



DISTRICT BREAKFAST WILL BE OUT OF THIS WORLD!

By Lorine Parks (Downey) Senior Correspondent

DR. JOHN MULCHAEY, DIRECTOR OF STARGAZING AND ALL THINGS ASTRONOMICAL AT CARNEGIE OBSERVATORIES, WILL BE THE SPEAKER AT THE JANUARY 9 DISTRICT BREAKFAST. HE IS THE ELEVENTH DIRECTOR OF THE ORGANIZATION, WHICH ESTABLISHED THE MOUNT WILSON OBSERVATORIES IN 1904.

THE CARNEGIE OBSERVATORIES have just finished celebrating *First Light: The Astronomy Century in California, 1917–2017*. This marks the centennial of the completion of the 100-inch Hooker telescope on Mount Wilson, which saw first light in November 1917. The world's largest telescope of the era, the 100-inch heralded the dawn of modern astronomy.

Mt. Wilson is a 5,701-foot peak directly above Santa Anita and Sierra Madre, in the San Gabriel Mountains. The only approach is from the backcountry through the Angeles National Forest, about an hour from Altadena, on the Angeles Crest Highway. Lovers of astronomy who make the arduous trek to the observatory find the atmosphere is rich with an overlay of time.

Before it opened in 1904, mules carted the lens for a 60-inch telescope. But even that wasn't big enough to suit astronomer George Ellery Hale, —continues



The Horsehead Nebula, found in the Belt of the Constellation Orion

—continues

who was the Observatories founder. Hale wanted a telescope that could collect more light. So, even as the 60-inch reflecting telescope was being built, Hale was looking for funding for a reflector with a 100-inch mirror.

He found it from Los Angeles businessman John D. Hooker, who wanted his name attached to the largest telescope ever built. Once it was installed in 1917 after also going up the mountain on sure-footed mules, the entire telescope weighed 100 tons. All motions of the telescope and its dome and shutters are electrically controlled by 30 motors.

The Hooker, the 60-inch telescope, the 150-foot 60-foot solar tower, and other instruments are used by the laboratory for many university projects. Observations today are made by cameras affixed to the lens rather than the naked-eye, which was used for millennia, including by Arabs in the Sinai desert and the Chinese, who thought they saw a rabbit, not a man, in the moon.

—continues



Star cluster

DR. JOHN MULCHAEY WILL BE AN INTERESTING AND ENGAGING DISTRICT BREAKFAST SPEAKER



With a B.S. in astrophysics from UC–Berkeley, John Mulchaey enrolled at the University of Maryland, where he earned a Ph.D. As a graduate student, he led the team that discovered that some galaxy groups

are bright X-ray sources. This work suggested that galaxy groups are dominated by elusive dark matter that does not emit light but has a strong gravitational pull. These observations also suggest that galaxy-galaxy merging is very common in groups. For some groups, the galaxies may continue

merging until they form a single massive galaxy. In the last few years, Mulchaey has uncovered several of these “fossil group” systems. Studies of them are proving to have important clues into the likely end state of most groups, including the Local Group, where our Milky Way resides.

John has been with Carnegie Observatories for 20 years. Remarked Carnegie president Matthew Scott, “In addition to his outstanding scientific accomplishments, John has proven to be a terrific leader, effective and highly popular with our astronomers. Dr. M’s special field is groups and clusters of galaxies, elliptical galaxies, dark

matter (the invisible material that makes up most of the universe), active galaxies, and black holes.

Dr. Mulchaey’s presentation to District 5280 Rotarians will be a mix of the history of astronomy in Southern California and more recent work, including current efforts in Chile, where he is heavily involved in planning the Giant Magellan Telescope (GMT), and he will continue to be a key coordinator for GMT research in the next decade.

“Dr. Mulchaey is an engaging and energetic speaker who makes his subject interesting and accessible even to those who don’t know much about astronomy,” said Marjorie Heller, who heard him speak at LA 5.



DISTRICT BREAKFAST

VENUE: Crowne Plaza LAX, 5985 Century Blvd.

RSVP by January 3 and pay \$38/person. \$43/person after January 3. RSVP with the District Office: 310.670.9792 or office@rotary5280.org. For more information.

BONUS! At the District Breakfast, for \$20 Rotarians may enter a drawing for a dinner for 20 on Mt. Wilson. Meet at Pasadena headquarters, then take a bus up to the observatory to enjoy a prepackaged dinner and, weather permitting, view the heavens through the 100" telescope.

ON MT. WILSON, THERE IS ALWAYS THE THREAT OF FOREST FIRE and the risk of losing everything, a catastrophe that almost happened as recently as 2009, when the Station Fire raged through the area. The fire burned on the slopes of Mount Wilson, threatening numerous television, radio and cellular telephone antennas on the summit as well as the Mount Wilson Observatory, which includes several historically significant telescopes and multi-million dollar astronomical facilities operated by UCLA, USC, UC, and the University of Georgia State. The L.A. County Fire Department wrote off the site as a loss and was about to abandon efforts, but the Forestry Service overrode that decision, made a last stand, and saved the day. And, the wind shifted.

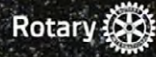
If you live in the Los Angeles area, on a clear day in many cities you can see the white buildings and antennae on Mt. Wilson. For astronomy buffs, go to the website for the Mt. Wilson cam, with minute-by-minute pictures taken toward the area covered by District 5280. The cam site shows classic views of the site and one picture of a worker standing on the rim of the big dome, push broom in hand, after a snow storm.

For a century, Southern California has been a major player in the global research and exploration of our universe. Discover more at our January 9 District Breakfast. ★



Albert Einstein visited Carnegie Observatories in 1931 to confirm his theory of the expanding universe. With a group of men, including Edwin Hubble, Einstein is shown, far left, outside the dome housing the 100-inch lens Hooker telescope.





ROTARY DISTRICT 5280 & CARNEGIE OBSERVATORIES PRESENT

01.09.18 DISTRICT BREAKFAST

"THE ASTRONOMY CENTURY IN CALIFORNIA"



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**JOHN
MULCHAEY**

DIRECTOR,
THE CARNEGIE OBSERVATORIES

ENTER THE RAFFLE

**AN
EVENING AT
MT. WILSON**

\$20/PERSON
BRING YOUR BUSINESS CARD TO ENTER!



EVENT DETAILS

CROWNE PLAZA LAX

5985 W. CENTURY BLVD.
LOS ANGELES, CA 90045

TIME

7:00AM | REGISTRATION
7:30-9:00AM | PROGRAM

COST

BY JAN. 3: \$38/PERSON
AFTER JAN. 3: \$43/PERSON

RSVP

OFFICE@ROTARY5280.ORG
(310) 670-9792



Post RI Convention District-Sponsored Trip to Montreal

June 28–July 3, 2018

Land Rates from \$1,699

Reservation Deadline
January 20, 2018



For more information contact
Arturo and Sandra Velasquez



Majestic
Scenic Travel

818.594.0081 | 818.402.9808
818.943.7724

invelj@aol.com

CLICK HERE FOR TRIP BROCHURE



GLENDALE SCHOOLS: PEACE EDUCATIONAL PROJECT

By AG Makiko Nakasone (Little Tokyo)

THE LITTLE TOKYO CLUB has started a Rotary Global Grant Project: Peace Educational Project at Glendale Unified School District. This is a year-long project for students in kindergarten through 8th grade who are enrolled in the English Japanese Immersion Program as part of their 2017–18 school year curriculum. As a finale, we are planning an ambitious **Rotary Community Peace Conference on Saturday, April 14, 2018**. Thanks to the \$58,000 grant, this Peace Conference will be **free and open to students, their families, and the community**. Please save the date as we are aiming high to attract at least 800 attendees.

The project's goal is to help students learn from history, raise awareness for peace, and take action to maintain a peaceful world. See the flyer on the right, which lists components of the program at the bottom left.

AT THE ROTARY COMMUNITY PEACE CONFERENCE IN APRIL, selected students will present their group projects and participate in a speech contest on peace. The winner will travel to Hiroshima for two weeks during the summer. This also provides a rare opportunity for Rotarians and non-Rotarians to listen to outstanding speakers, including Steven Leeper, who is the first American chairperson of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation; Rotary Peace Fellow Captain D.F. Pace; Paul Chappell, Peace Leadership Director of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation; and Yvonne St. John-Dutra, founder of the Challenge Day compassion provoking program for students; and more.

This project was made possible with the support of the District and L.A.5, Glendale Noon, Glendale Sunrise, and Downtown L.A. clubs. Our international partners are Tokyo Yoneyama Yuai, Tokyo Yoneyama Yuai E-club, and Hiroshima Tonan Rotary Clubs.

[For more information.](#) ★



Save The Date

SATURDAY APRIL 14, 2018

ROTARY COMMUNITY PEACE CONFERENCE APRIL 2018

WAGING PEACE: PERSPECTIVES FOR ACTION

What can we do in today's conflicted world to make a meaningful impact on progress towards peace? Join us to learn from today's children, who are our future peacemakers, and yesterday's survivors in an inspiring program.



Program includes:

- Glendale Unified School District English-Japanese Immersion Program students will present their peace projects exploring the cost of war and the hope for peace
- Winner of peace speech contest for high school students (First prize: a trip to Hiroshima)
- Survivors of the Hiroshima Atomic Bomb ("Hibakusha")
- Japanese Americans who were interned in the U.S. during World War II
- Notable world leaders in promoting peace including Rotary Peace Fellows
- Origami paper crane making workshop to fold 3,000 cranes for peace organizations in U.S. and Japan
- Hiroshima tree that survived the A-bomb: seedling gift presentation

This event is part of a year-long Peace Educational Project through a Rotary Global Grant, hosted by the Rotary Club of Little Tokyo.

When: Saturday, April 14, 2018

Time: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Place: Japanese American Cultural & Community Center, Aratani Theatre
244 S. San Pedro Street, Los Angeles 90012

Contact: Makiko Nakasone
Email: LittleTokyoRotaryClub@gmail.com





Toys for children



Pancake breakfasts for guests



Healthcare screenings and wellness check-ups



BRINGING A JOYOUS HOLIDAY TO SOUTH L.A.

By Lorine Parks (Downey), Senior Correspondent

THE ANGEL CITY CELEBRATION IS A MOVEABLE FEAST, and families flock to the event. In 2017 the Celebration was on December 2 at Franklin D. Roosevelt Park and attracted 1,500 children and their families. It was sponsored by LA5 and 350 Rotarians and other volunteers assisted.

"It's a day-long event in which we empower our South LA neighbors," said Chair Marjorie Heller. "We bring joy to the young children with toys and books and offer parents options for accessing after-school activities and solutions to help keep their youngsters from joining gangs. We give them knowledge of

preventive healthcare and provide wellness check-ups. And this year we even brought snow."

AN EVENT THAT STARTED AS A TOY GIVE-AWAY sponsored by then-Los Angeles Mayor Anthony Villaraigosa quickly grew into a large celebration touching the lives of many at-risk children, their families, and Rotarians when the mayor asked Rotary to assume distribution of all the toys his office received. From its beginning in a church parking lot eight years ago has become an event featuring many components intended to improve the quality of life for under-served families with young children in South LA.

"Today, we have volunteers from 22 clubs," said Marjorie. "And we have participants from clubs outside the District plus community groups, businesses, and churches. "Volunteers help stage the event, pass out toys and books, prepare and serve breakfast, coordinate logistics, check in attendees, take photos and video, and more.

"We had more than 70 additional walk-in volunteers," added Marjorie, "mostly Rotarians, Interactors, and Rotaractors. We had 30 exhibitors with eight medical mobile clinics."

—continues





Rotarians unpack shoes to give away



DG-Designate Melody St. John (Hollywood), left, and DG Cozette Vergari (Westchester) with a girl on her new bike



Shiny new skateboards await new owners!

*Angel City Celebration
is the largest
Rotary service project
in the Greater
Los Angeles Area.*

*Approximately 1,500
underserved residents of
South L.A. attended
the 2017 event.*

—continues

The Angel City Celebration is one of the great events for LA5,” said Rick Gibson, program chair for LA5 and chief marketing officer at Pepperdine University. The Angel City Celebration is the largest Rotary service project in the Greater Los Angeles Area.

THE ANNUAL ANGEL CITY CELEBRATION

PARTNERS WITH both LA City and County Recreation and Parks Departments and has rotated sites among several parks in South LA. The first was Exposition Park, near the historic Los Angeles Coliseum. In 2010, it moved closer to communities most in need of “a little Christmas cheer” for their younger residents.

“A half century after the Watts Riots of 1965,” Marjorie said, “South LA remains one of the most

economically disadvantaged areas of Los Angeles.” Though the demographics have changed dramatically, the problems of the area persist: high unemployment, lack of infrastructure, gang violence, environmental and chronic health problems, and, of course, poverty and its many accompanying ills.

Even when public services and facilities are available to address these issues, residents often lack the information necessary to access them. “Angel City Celebration and the Rotarians coming into South Los Angeles, and particularly the Watts community, means hope,” said Joe Mendoza, deputy director, County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation.

“The attendees are residents of South LA,” said Marjorie. “The children come from —continues



Youngsters played in real snow brought in for the event!



About 1,500 guests, including this family, attended the celebration



Rotaract and Interact volunteers brought youthful energy and enthusiasm



MARJORIE HELLER'S ROTARY MOMENT

"It was at our second Angel City Celebration," says Marjorie, the 2017 event

chair pictured at left. "One mom didn't know what to do with the \$10 Ralph's gift certificates we handed out. Her friend explained in Spanish, then we watched her jump with joy. We asked her friend what she said and why she was so happy. The answer was 'we can have meat for dinner tonight.' This is the moment I realized we are making difference and changing lives!"

—continues

LAUSD and school districts in neighboring cities. The count for the day is about 1,500. Originally, through LA5's connection with the Church of the Latter Day Saints, each family also received ingredients for a complete holiday meal."

USING THE TOY GIVEAWAY AS AN ATTRACTION,

Marjorie explained how Rotarians and their partner organizations began to expand Angel City Celebration from a toy, clothing, and food give-away to a large-scale resource fair and holiday celebration by using their connections in the health care field, including local hospitals, clinics, medical and dental schools, to provide testing and other services at the event.

Literacy advocates and public libraries initiated a book fair and distributed thousands of books. City, state, and federal agencies sent representatives to explain the various services they offer and how to access them.

To entertain attendees while their kids waited for toys, there were carolers, musical and dance performances, arts and crafts programs, and just plain fun activities.

The Angel City Celebration served breakfast to all attendees, complete with pancakes, juice, and sausage. As Cirilo Pinlac (Historic Filipinotown) said, "This is what Rotary is all about, the community, and it's something we really enjoy doing. It's *Service Above Self*, with fun!" ★



Dates to Save!

MEMBERSHIP WORKSHOPS

*The Future is in Your Hands:
How to Recruit and
Retain Members*

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

Salvation Army
300 E. Angeleno Ave.
Burbank
8:30–Noon

SATURDAY, MARCH 3

in the South Bay
Location and time TBA

REGISTER HERE

Membership Nook: **GREAT, FREE RI MEMBERSHIP COURSES**

By Kathleen Terry (Manhattan Beach), SAG Membership

YOU'RE NEARLY MIDWAY THROUGH YOUR YEAR. IS YOUR CLUB MAKING A DIFFERENCE? Is it strong, vibrant, and growing? Are your members engaged and satisfied with their club experience? If the answer is no to any of these questions, there's still plenty of time to make a positive change in your club's future.

Rotary International has eight new membership-related courses available in the [Learning Center](#). Each course includes a variety of materials, including self-guided learning modules. The interactive modules present real-life scenarios that let you test different actions to see what happens. The courses are:

- Is Your Club Healthy?
- Building a Diverse Club
- Online Membership Leads
- Practicing Flexibility and Innovation
- Strategies for Attracting New Members
- Kick-start Your New Member Orientation
- Best Practices for Engaging Members
- Your Membership Plan (coming soon)

You decide which areas to focus on, starting with the course *Is Your Club Healthy?* Ask your membership committee to help you prioritize the courses, then begin exploring.

The courses are free and available on demand, so you can take them at your convenience. Members can access the courses in the Learning Center after signing into their [My Rotary account](#).

Hope to see you at the upcoming January 27 Membership Training in Burbank and the South Bay training on March 3. [Register here](#).

For information Contact Kathleen Terry, SAG for Membership at Terrymanna2@gmail.com or 310.545.4046. ★

Make a Dream Come True!



JANUARY 2018

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ROTARACTORS BELIEVE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE



By Sarah Furie (San Fernando Rotaract), Rotaract Correspondent

DID YOU KNOW?

**Founded in 1978,
the Downtown
Women's Center
is the only organization
in Los Angeles exclusively
dedicated to addressing
the needs of women
overcoming poverty
and homelessness
on Skid Row.**

LIVING IN A LARGE ROTARY DISTRICT CAN BE HARD SOMETIMES.

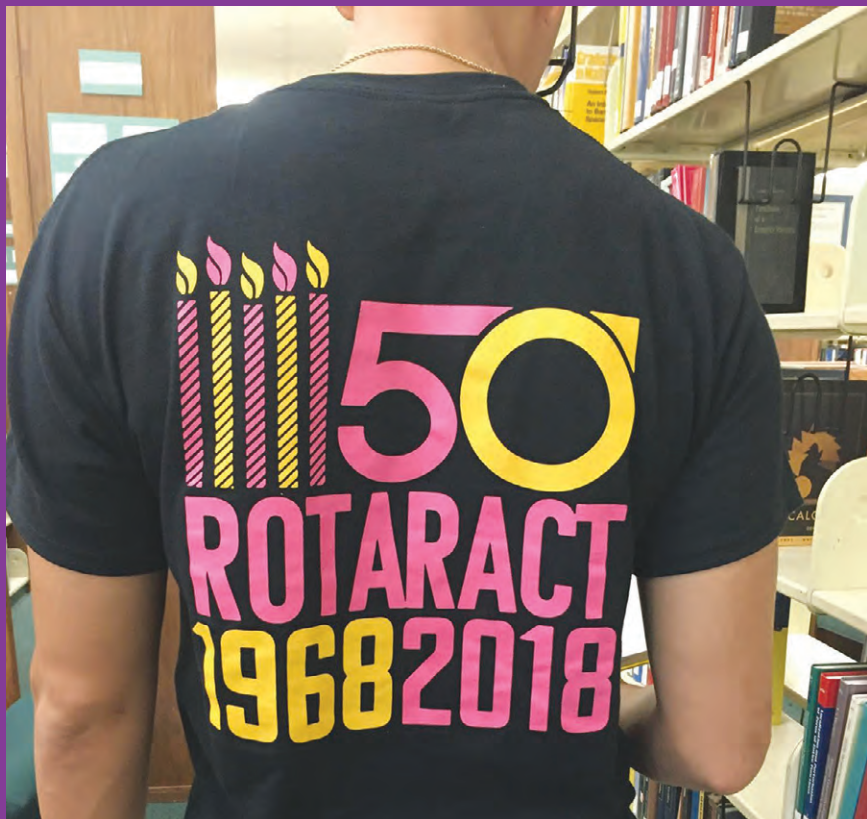
It can be challenging to get everyone together with people many miles and many freeways apart. However, this year, Rotaractors from the board have made it a priority to connect Rotaractors from the entire district. Instead of just getting together for a social event, on November 18, Rotaractors from the UCLA, Marymount University, USC, San Fernando Valley, and Angel City clubs attended a community service event at the Downtown Women's Center (DWC).

[On their website](#) they state their mission is to "provide permanent supportive housing and a safe and healthy community fostering dignity, respect, and personal stability, and to advocate ending homelessness for women." A lot of Rotaract clubs in our district have worked with organizations addressing the needs of the poor and the homeless, so our club members were happy to donate time to DWC.

—continues

(Left) Multi-Rotaractor clubs volunteered at the Downtown Women's Center.





In honor of Rotaract's 50th Anniversary,
District 5280 Rotaractors are selling T-shirts
that have the Rotary logo on the front and
"50 Rotaract 1968 2018" on the back.

The shirts are \$20. If you are interested in purchasing
a shirt, please contact Chris Reyes.

—continues

Ben Shea, an Angel City Rotaractor and UCLA alumnus, is the District Rotaract community service coordinator. He was very happy with the event. The only hitch was that there was a lot of traffic due to a 5K in the area, which blocked certain roads. He shared, "Despite traffic . . . we were all able to have a productive and successful event sorting clothes and plates and dishes at the center. It was amazing to see the work the DWC does to help and empower women in need and get them back on their feet with housing, job searching, and more."

Judy Kim, a USC Rotaractor and District board member, thought the event went well, too. She said, "We were able to meet Rotaractors from schools all across our district, and the event allowed us to participate in different conversations. We are looking forward to the next service event, possibly collaborating with the Interactors."

With such a great turnout, District Rotaractors are hoping to make district-wide community service events more popular and frequent. Be on the lookout for our next event. All Rotarians are welcome. ★



Rotaractors Randy Chavez and Kiko Lin sorted through plates and other dishes at the Downtown Women's Center.



MUSICAL SELECTIONS OF THE 2017 WINNING VOCALISTS

MIDDLE SCHOOL WINNERS

3rd place: Ben Howard's
"Gracious"

2nd place: "Part of Your World,"
from *Little Mermaid*

1st place: "Popular," from
Wicked

HIGH SCHOOL WINNERS

3rd place: Smokey Robinson's
"Who's Lovin' You"

2nd place: Anthony Newley-
Leslie Bricusse's "Feeling
Good," from *The Roar of the
Greasepaint – The Smell of the
Crowd*

1st place: "Popular," from
Wicked

Imaginative Club Project

SINGING UP A STORM IN MALIBU

By Lorine Parks (Downey,)Senior Correspondent



MALIBU MEANS SUN AND SAND AND BAYWATCH

to many, but it also stands for the Malibu Rotary Club's Singing Competition, created in response to District 5280's annual Pageant of the Arts. The event is chaired by a transplanted Canadian, Teresa LeGrove, whose uncle is a past president of Rotary International.

The club holds a concert in Pepperdine University's Raitt Recital Hall and fills its 124-seat theater to capacity. Last year with professional piano accompaniment, 24 students from Krysta Sorensen's vocal classes at Malibu Middle School and Malibu High School competed here for prize money before a panel of music industry judges.

"Last year was the largest number of

competitors," said Teresa, chair of the competition. "In the past, there were usually five or six in each of the two school groups."

This year, in addition to the cash awards of \$200, \$100, and \$50, the first-place Malibu High School winner will perform in the District's Pageant of the Arts competition March 18 at Loyola Marymount University, where the top prize will be \$1,000.

"Previous winners in the Malibu Rotary Singing competition have done well in the District competition," said Teresa. "The 2009 Malibu High School winner placed second in the District and the 2015 entrant placed third."

"**OUR CLUB IS VERY PROUD** to have the opportunity to be involved in the

community," said Teresa, "specifically with the children, and to give them a chance to showcase their talents in a different and very special venue like Raitt Hall.

"The annual music competition started in the early 1990s as a feeder to the annual Pageant of the Arts, and we believe it was started by Rex Levi.

"In the beginning," Teresa added, "Rotary members were the judges. Each was given a rating sheet, and then the scores were tallied. Two years ago, we opted to bring in outside judges who are involved in the music industry. We will be holding this year's competition on Wednesday, January 24."

Has any outstanding local talent been discovered by the —continues





2017 winning vocalists display their award plaques: (top) high school and (center) middle school. Monies earned via the club's Halloween Costume Party (bottom) fund the competition's prizes.



Teresa LeGrove

"Our club is very proud to have the opportunity to be involved in the community, specifically with the children, and to give them a chance to showcase their talents in a different and very special venue like Raitt Hall (at Pepperdine University)."

— Teresa LeGrove, Singing Competition Chair

—continues

contest? "Not directly," says Teresa, "but two recent high school students were accepted to continue their studies at the Juilliard School of Music in New York City."

TERESA BECAME INVOLVED WITH ROTARY

after she moved to California 3½ years ago from Montreal, Canada. "I didn't know many people here, and I was always involved in my community," she commented. "I used to volunteer at my kids' school in many ways. As a family we helped out with a community Christmas dinner, and I delivered Meals on Wheels, as well.

"One reason I looked into Rotary" Teresa added, "was that my uncles were involved in Rotary, and I thought it would be a good organization to give back to and meet new people.

"My uncle, Wilfred Wilkinson, was Rotary International president in 2007–2008, and my other uncle, Tom Wilkinson, was governor of District 7820, which covers the Canadian provinces of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, and Labrador, along with the French islands of Saint Pierre and Miquelon.

"I was thrilled that last year's singing competition was such a success," Teresa said. "It was a full house. We had an incredibly experienced emcee, Ted Silverberg, to run the evening, along with three professional musicians judging the talent. The children really had a great experience singing in the beautiful Raitt Recital Hall. I was told that the 2017 competition was the best and largest so far. I understand the children are looking forward to it again.

"I had wonderful support and help," Teresa commented, "from other members, and we all were very proud of how it turned out. Uncle Wilf's Rotary year theme was 'Rotary Shares,' and we have all shared the excitement of preparing for this contest. We are a small club, so to be able to be involved in a larger event like this showcases our own talents as a team."

WHAT IS MORE FUN THAN PRODUCING A COMPETITION

that rewards school children for excellence in singing? It's raising the money to provide the awards at the club's Halloween Costume Party. The Malibu Rotary Club was chartered in 1971, and they meet at 8 a.m. on Wednesday at Pepperdine University.

[For more information.](#) ★





Fred Manna, husband of **Manhattan Beach** Rotarian Kathleen Terry, helped club members as they assisted at the Sandpipers' Holiday Gift Exchange. The Sandpipers is a non-profit that has touched the lives of thousands of children and families in the South Bay.



The **Calabasas Club**, Motor4Toys, Los Angeles Councilman Bob Blumenfield, and Randy Petrick donated funds and presents for the Valley Women's Center Holiday Party for the underprivileged. An adorable guest is pictured here.



Westchester's Young Professionals held an Ugly Sweater Holiday Party, and Bryson Ishii and Cynthia Salim got into the swing of things.

—continues





The **San Pedro Club** will hold its 4th Annual Crab Feed and Silent and Live Auction Fundraiser on February 3, beginning at 5 p.m. at the Cabrillo Youth Center in San Pedro. The club is assisted by the Culinary Arts group of The Beacon House. The dinner will include Northwest Dungeness Crab in a savory Cioppino sauce, salad, crusty French bread, and pasta, served family style. The event will benefit Beacon House, Harbor Interfaith Services, Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, Grand Vision Foundation, Vision to Learn, YWCA, Boys and Girls Club, Packages for Patriots, Meals on Wheels, and the Salvation Army. [For information.](#)

The **San Fernando Valley Evening Club** sponsored a holiday party for 100 elementary schools students from the San Fernando Valley.



The **Torrance Del Amo Club** brought Santa, his elves, a sack of toys, and a puppet show to Washington School. The joy seen on the children's faces was overwhelming. A big thanks goes to Stu Levy for chairing the event for more than 20 years. (By the way, he also was Santa.)



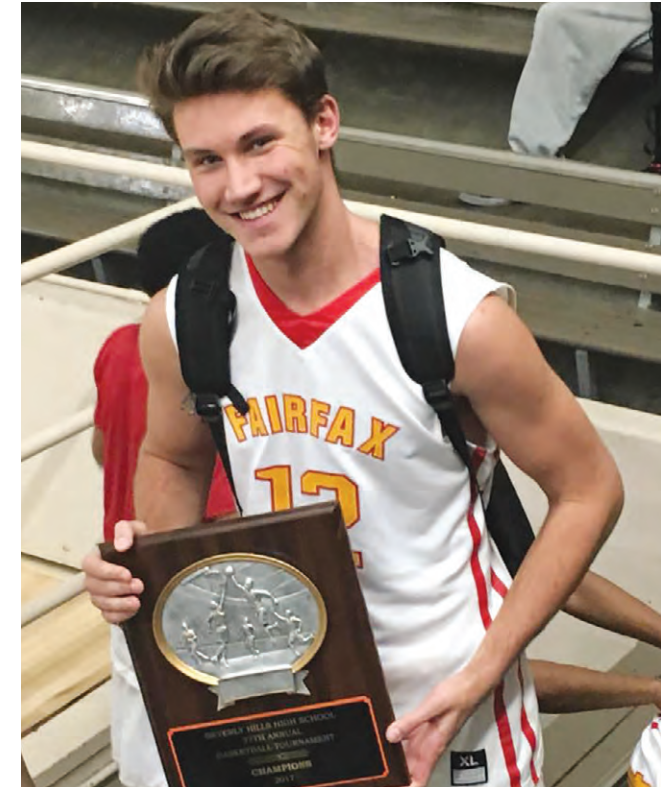


OTHER NEWS

from District 5280



For the past 45 years District Rotarians and their guests have provided support for the Braille Institute Student Holiday Party, which was held on December 12 and 13.



District 5280 Rotary Exchange Student Mikołaj Patryk Karczewski (Poland), who played on the Fairfax High School Basketball team, shows off the first-place trophy.





MAKE A DREAM COME TRUE

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bearsworth@earthlink.net.

Cozette Vergari, Westchester, District Governor

Michael S. Turner, Woodland Hills
Senior Assistant Governor Communications

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

Lorine Parks, Downey
Senior Correspondent

Sarah Furie, San Fernando Valley Rotaract
Rotaract Correspondent

Gidas Peteris, Beverly Hills
Linton Morgan, Inglewood
Lek Pollard, Westchester
Photographers

DISTRICT OFFICE

Tori Hettinger, Westchester
District Administrator

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

Office@Rotary5280.org Rotary5280.org 