

Rotary



Rotary District 5280
Greater Los Angeles
Newsletter-Magazine

Volume 13 | July 2015



District Governor DJ Sun with his wife, Ellen and Steven and Liz H. Kim, members of DJ's home club, Rotary Club of Korea Town, accepting the District Governor's Banner at the District Conference in Coronado in May.

DISTRICT 5280 MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER

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Be a gift to the world



From Governor DJ...



Dear fellow Rotarians,

With the new Rotary year beginning, I am very hopeful and enthusiastic. District and club leadership plan to implement new activities, events, and projects. Rotary International President Ravi Ravindran has chosen this year's theme: Be a Gift to the World. Rotarians, through their activities, have been a gift to the world. Now, we will become an even bigger gift.

This year the district will implement an e-directory to help our members network. Each member will be included in a Rotary database searchable by profession. Many clubs in our district will focus on projects within our community that have relevance, sustainability, and a substantive impact. We will strive for a new balance in our projects by allocating our funds and skills to help our local communities.

We are all very active and sometimes we forget what the purpose of Rotary is. It bears repeating:

The object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideals of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

1. The development of acquaintance as an

opportunity for service;

2. 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;

3. The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business and community life;

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

Two upcoming events should be on your calendar:

July 25th: The opening ceremony for the Special Olympics World Games at the Los Angeles Coliseum. 1,000 Rotarians and their families will sit in the same section. All participants will wear the same t-shirts. This will provide fellowship, promote Rotary, and most importantly support the Special Olympics.

July 28th: The first district breakfast at the Westin Hotel adjacent to the Los Angeles International Airport. The guest speaker will be Bill Magee, M.D., founder of Operation Smile, which has provided corrective surgery for over 200,000 children born with cleft lips and cleft palates.

My thanks goes out to the newsletter publisher, directory publisher, district leaders, and club presidents and leaders for their effort, time, and dedication. They are an extraordinary group of experienced Rotarians who will help you attain your goals.

Let's make our year effective and productive. Let's be proud of ourselves. Let's have fun.

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

D. J. Sun



ROTARY DISTRICT 5280

DISTRICT BREAKFAST

TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2015



KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

William P. Magee, Jr., D.D.S., M.D.
Co-founder and CEO of Operation Smile



William P. Magee, Jr., a leading plastic and craniofacial surgeon, founded Operation Smile in 1982 with his wife, Kathleen S. Magee, and serves as the organization's CEO. Operation Smile is a worldwide children's medical charity whose network of global volunteers are dedicated to helping improve the health and lives of children and young adults. Dr. Magee's work on behalf of children around the world has led to the receipt of numerous awards and honors including the first \$1 million Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize in 1996 for "...exemplary and significant contributions to ease human suffering."

TIME

7:00AM | REGISTRATION
7:30AM | BREAKFAST

LOCATION

WESTIN LAX HOTEL
5400 W. CENTURY BLVD.
LOS ANGELES, CA 90045

COST

BEFORE JULY 21 | \$38
AFTER JULY 21 | \$43

RSVP

TO DISTRICT OFFICE AT
OFFICE@ROTARY5280.ORG
or
310-670-9792

PARKING

FREE SELF PARKING IN
HOTEL PARKING
STRUCTURE

.....
CLUB _____ # OF ATTENDEES _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please return this form with payment to the District Office at:
8939 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Suite 210
Los Angeles, CA 90045

Make checks payable to:
Rotary District 5280

Please note: Clubs reserving a full table of 10 will have a reserved table. For clubs with less than 10 attendees, there will be open seating.

A reservation made is a reservation paid. Clubs are responsible for payment of all reservations, regardless of attendance.

The Meaning of "Service Above Self"

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

Rotary's official motto, "Service Above Self," traces its roots to 1911 when a variation of it was approved at the National Convention in Portland, OR. In a speech by Ben Collins, President of the Rotary Club of Minneapolis, he noted that his club's slogan was "Service, Not Self." The Rotarians in attendance adopted the motto. Over the years, the phrase was tweaked and in 1950 Rotary International officially adopted, "Service Above Self."

I was first introduced to Rotary and its mission when I was part of a Group Student Exchange to the Philippines in the late 1970s. This program, which is no longer offered by Rotary, allowed business leaders under age 40, to learn about Rotary and other cultures. For six weeks we traveled across the Philippines visiting numerous Rotary clubs and learning about their projects.

One searing memory was visiting a government-run hospital. It was a hot and humid day and it was stifling inside the facility, which had no air conditioning, inadequate equipment and resources, and an insufficient number of nurses and doctors. The staff was also overwhelmed by the number of patients they were treating.

For the patients, the situation was just as depressing. In addition to the inadequate care, the patients had to share beds, depend on their families for food and assistance with changing bandages, cleaning wounds, and giving medications or treatments. As for sharing beds, while one patient slept or rested the other patient was either sharing half the

bed or sitting or lying on the floor. Chairs were lacking.

The Filipino Rotarians were assisting the hospital by recruiting and training new staff and most important, navigating the tangled and corrupt web of governmental bureaucracy under President Ferdinand Marcos, in order to import necessary medical equipment and supplies. For the Rotarians it was a frustrating and never ending battle but they persevered to complete their vital mission, "Service Above Self."

About 20 years later, I joined the Rotary Club of Woodland Hills. I will remember my experiences in the Philippines along with a better understanding of Rotary's motto, "Service Above Self." I encourage others to join us in actively promoting "Service.

Please share your Rotary experiences with others in our District. Please send your stories to me at bearsworth@earthlink.net



ADULT ILLITERACY...

An American Tragedy!

**For over half of the adults in Los Angeles County,
the hardest part about getting a job isn't the
interview... It's filling out the application.**

Join Kelly Tyler

**Senior Librarian for Adult Literacy, L.A. Public Library
in a Stimulating Conversation on
The Impact of Adult Illiteracy**

Wednesday, August 12, 2015 | 7:00 a.m.

**Rotary District 5280
Literacy Breakfast**

**Lawry's The Prime Rib
100 N. La Cienega Blvd.
Beverly Hills
complimentary continental breakfast**

Rsvp: tori.hettinger@rotary5280.org | 310-670-9297

**For info contact Chairperson Olivia Patterson Ryans
310-946-5454 | olivia5280@att.net**

**Los Angeles has the highest rate of
functional illiterate adults of
any major city in the U.S.!**

Rotary 

District Calendar

July 2015

- 15 District Governor's Club Visit (Westchester)
- 17 District Governor's Club Visit
(Santa Monica)
- 18 Presidents Dinner and District 5280
Leadership Reception Hosted by DJ, at the
home of the General Counsel from South Korea
- 21 District Governor's Club Visit (Burbank)
- 21 District Governor's Club Visit
(Burbank Sunrise)
- 21 District Governor's Club Visit
(Northeast Los Angeles)
- 24 District Governor's Club Visit
(Palos Verdes Peninsula)
- 28 District Governor's Club Visit
(Crescenta-Cañada)
- 25 Opening Ceremony Special Olympics world
Games
- 25 Presidents and District Leadership
Reception
- 28 District Breakfast
- 30 District Governor's Club Visit
(Pacific Palisades)
- 30 District Governor's Club Visit
(Westwood Village)

August 2015

- 12 District Literacy Breakfast

September 2015

- 12 District Leadership Training Seminar
- 20 District Picnic (Redondo Beach Seaside
Lagoon)
- TBD Membership Seminar

October 2015

- 3 New Member Orientation
- 20 District Breakfast

November 2015

- 14 Rotary Foundation Celebration
- TBD Presidents Dinner

December 2015

- 11 Deadline To Register for Seoul Tour
Guided by DJ
- 12 Angel City Celebration

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
- TBD Presidents Dinner

March 2016

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

April 2016

- 5 District Breakfast
- 16 Rotary Day of Service
- 28 - May 1 District Conference (San Diego)
- 29 - May1 RYLA

May 2016

- 4 -10 RI Convention (Seoul Korea)

RotaCare to Provide Health Care Services to the Uninsured in Our District

By Lorine Parks, e-newsletter editor, member of the Rotary Club of Downey.



Gwyn Petrick

“Do you have insurance?” That is the first question Gwyn Petrick remembers being asked, after being taken to the emergency room. As her hand was being guided to scrawl her signature, the thought came to her, “What do they do with you if you don’t have insurance?”

“That was ten years ago,” says Gwyn, a Rotarian and former President of the Rotary Club of Woodland Hills, “and it was the first time I knew I wanted to open a free clinic for those that didn’t have insurance.”

True to the Rotary motto of “Service above Self,” today Gwyn finds herself embarking on a major humanitarian project for District 5280 that will literally be saving lives.

The shocking fact is that in California many families do not have health insurance. The uninsured population under age 65 is more than 6.6 million, which is about 20% of the state’s population. Almost 75% of these uninsured Californians are U.S. citizens or lawfully present immigrants.

According to Gwyn, it will take private philanthropic help to meet the needs of these uninsured. District 5280 is taking a leading role in this crisis, with RotaCare Greater Los Angeles.

The Canoga Park RotaCare Free Clinic has been created as a pilot project “to bring medical care for the relief of pain and suffering to those who have the greatest need and least access to medical care.”

Who is not covered by the Affordable Care Act? There are many without health insurance who live right here in the San Fernando Valley. There are those who are



too poor to afford the out of pocket costs and

deductibles of medical insurance, and those like the elderly, who may be eligible for Medicare, but don’t know they are eligible or how to sign up.

Who else is not covered by the Affordable Care Act? The answer ranges from illegal immigrants, to those living in the Gap. No, that’s not a clothing store. It’s the way sociologists refer to middle class families that make too much to qualify for tax credits, but cannot obtain affordable coverage. It’s called living in the GAP. California has the largest proportion of uninsured families in the nation.



This pilot clinic receives no funding from government or medical insurance. “We have \$5,000 in donations from Rotarians and from Rotary Clubs,” says Gwyn “We have a website, rotacarela.org., and there is a DONATE NOW button on the site.”

Initially the clinic will be located on the property of the Canoga Park Presbyterian Church. The clinic will be staffed by medical personnel from leading area hospitals such as Kaiser Permanente. Patients will be treated and provided with prescriptions for free or at a highly subsidized cost from area pharmacies.

“I have visited 12 Rotary Clubs so far, and I hope to visit three more soon,” Gwyn adds. Directors for the Canoga Park Advisory Board, the group that will be responsible for actually setting up the clinic and which oversees the project, includes doctors who have experience in setting up new practices, and an oncology nurse.”

Gwyn opened up her State Farm office in Woodland Hills 22 years ago and has been award some of State Farm’s highest honors. As a true Rotarian. Gwyn has always believed that if she became successful in her agency, she would have an enhanced ability to give back to others. RotacCare is giving her that opportunity.



Lorine Parks

Rotary Club of Downey

Welcome to the No-Box RYLA

By João Victor Gomes Santos, Rotary Exchange Student from Brazil



Think about a place up in the mountains, where your worried thoughts stay at the bottom of the hill. No problems. Just an open mind. Welcome to a place where lives can and will be changed. Participants come back down from this magical spot three days later, filled with joy, leadership skills, excitement, and lots of new friends. Welcome to RYLA!

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) an extensive and intense program. However, its organizers make the whole process very satisfying and enjoyable. It's basically a place where leaders are created.

When I arrived at the Alpine camp, I was freezing. The weather looked really bad. I could see buses full of students just like mine coming through the dense fog. One, two... five buses in total. How many people, I thought to myself? After three days, these people became a part of my family.

Right away, we heard a talk about what RYLA stands for. Some people raised their hands when asked to show those who did not know why they were there. Thankfully, I wasn't one of them. A sentence that was repeated a lot through the whole RYLA program was: "Don't think outside of the box. There's no box."



The first RYLA day had started. Some activities came seemed easy and kind of simple to solve. KINDA! The more activities we participated, the more we understood how little we knew

about communications, creativity, compassion, cooperation – leadership!

When bad came to worst, the participants would raise their voices as a manner of resolving the task in an efficient way. Right before our eyes, by the end of the very first day, there came the lesson: leadership involves all of the above mentioned 4 C's.

Day two came. We were split in new groups. More people. Clearly, our skills within a group were much better in a way that people could talk, be heard, new ideas could come up and efficiency was the greatest result when those 4 C's were applied. Lots of fun! Memories that shall never be forgotten.

At night, after all the activities stopped, we appreciated what is the greatest thing in our great universe. When all was completely dark, the counselors threw a powder that glowed in the darkness, like little dots spread out through our bodies. We could only see stars and the vast universe. We were out of the box. There was no box. We started talking, one at a time about our remarkable experiences, our thoughts, our feelings. We were part again of that universe/outer space. We were/are part of a time. The TEAM.

No limits were there. Creative thoughts through very skillful communications were delivered passionately. We were becoming leaders, new leaders. RYLA had accomplished its main goal. However, the biggest lesson learned was how to be better people, full of love, cooperation, compassion, and creative thinkers and problem solvers.

Day three felt like a gloomy day. We were saying goodbye to those who we said hi to as unknown people. But they were now our best friends, our team members.

That's the simplest way to describe RYLA — a transformation without limits nor barriers. Rotary has changed the world in many ways and will always keep changing it by molding future leaders and better human beings. I am full of joy and pleasure to say that I was a part of this transformation. I no longer want to be just on the passive side of change. I want to be an active part of change; be engaged, lead, take control with energy and enthusiasm, communicating effectively, and creatively with those I will work with. That's RYLA. There's no box.



Editor's Note: Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is a leadership development program run by Rotary and is held annually in the spring for junior and senior high school students. João, attended this year's RYLA.

João Victor Gomes Santos,
Rotary Exchange Student
from Brazil



"I'm ordering a transfusion. We'll replace your B-negative blood with B-positive and see if that improves your mood."