



Imagine

Rotary District 5280
Greater Los Angeles
July 2016

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IMAGINE New Vistas for Children
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*Pictured: District Governor Greg
and Carolyn O'Brien*

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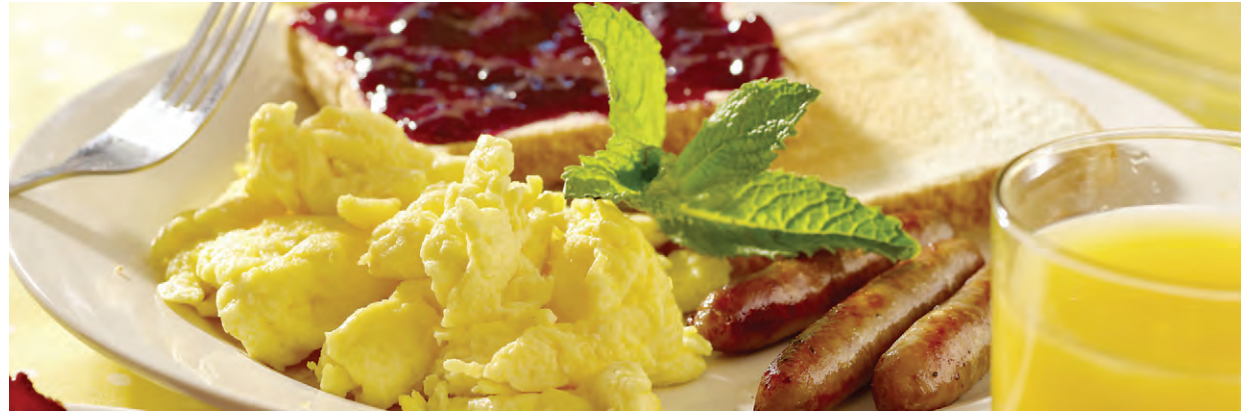
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District Breakfast, August 9

DISTRICT CALENDAR

July

- 1 A New Rotary Year Begins
- 17 Past District Governor Reception

August

- 9 District Breakfast ([Page 6](#))
- 27 District Picnic: Hot August Night ([Page 7](#))

October

- 11 District Breakfast
- 22 Foundation Celebration, Battleship *Iowa*

November

- 15 USC/UCLA Tailgate Lunch

December

- 10 Angel City Giveaway

January

- 15-21 Rotary International Assembly, San Diego
- 25-30 District Humanitarian Trip to Merida,
Mexico

February

- 28 District Breakfast

April

- 18 District Breakfast
- 28-30 RYLA

May

- 4-7 District Conference, Lake Arrowhead
- 20 District Assembly

June

- 10-14 Rotary International Convention, Atlanta



IMAGINE ROTARY

—by District Governor Greg O'Brien
from his remarks at the May 14 District Assembly

In 1919, a young artist sat at his desk in Kansas City, Missouri, where he had been practicing drawing animals. One day, he fancifully drew a picture of a mouse. Then he imagined the mouse standing upright on two legs. He then dressed his upright mouse in a pair of red shorts with suspenders, a pair of oversize tan shoes, and white gloves. The artist imagined a pet for his mouse, and he drew a picture of a dog with a long skinny tail. Then he imagined a girlfriend to keep the mouse company, so he drew a female mouse in a polka dot dress and a big bow on her head and oversize red high heel shoes.

The artist, of course, was Walt Disney. From this one man's imagination came a motion picture company. Then he imagined theme parks, and, well, you know the story. Disneyland and Walt Disney World employ an entire department of engineers, artists, and designers who are called the Disney Imagineers.

Walt was born in Chicago in 1901, where he lived the first 10 years of his life. When he was age four, another resident of his city, a 37-year-old man named Paul, imagined a social

**Both Walt and Paul had no idea how . . .
much happiness they would bring
to millions touched by their
boundless creativity and perseverance.**

club for young male professionals. Like Walt Disney, there was no simple end to the places his imagination would take him and his Rotarian friends. Walt and his company imagined a Magic Kingdom. He said later, "Disneyland will never be completed, as long as there is imagination left in the world." Paul's friends imagined conquering polio, and we are so close. Both Walt and Paul had no idea how many lives eventually they would affect around the world, how much happiness

they would bring to millions touched by their boundless creativity and perseverance.

There is no Rotary club in this district with only four members. Yet that is what Paul Harris and his friends started with in Chicago. Their club grew because it invented itself from the ground up.

In Rotary, we talk about growing membership as though it is some complicated and daunting task that few are lucky enough to achieve and sustain. Membership is not a task at all. It is the result that happens when clubs continue to reinvent themselves with new activities, creative programs, and attention to the satisfaction levels of their own current members. When current members are happy, they bring guests to Rotary. When they are not happy, or are embarrassed to share their club with a friend because they think

—continues on next page



—Imagine Rotary, continues from previous page

the meeting may be poorly organized or boring, they don't bring guests.

Today I will be talking to your incoming club presidents about thinking outside the box, being creative, and assessing the strengths and weaknesses of their clubs. I will be challenging them to imagine a better, livelier, more exciting club in which to enrich the lives of our members and our communities. They and I have talked about this before. When you return to your clubs you are invited to join the discussion.

Out of our imaginations, we have the power to do what Walt did with a mouse wearing red pants and suspenders, and what Paul did by inviting three friends to have lunch. Simple things created and executed well by people who understand the power of imagination remain at the heart of all progress.

Let us Imagine Rotary together. Start today. Keep it going. Disney believed “if you dream it you can build it.” In *A Field of Dreams*, Kevin Costner was told, “Build it and they will come.” I promise you that this is true. Imagine Rotary and then start building.

I look forward with great excitement to working with all of you this year. ■

DG'S CLUB VISITATION SCHEDULE

Bellflower	Jul 14	Malibu	Sep 21
Beverly Hills	Jul 18	Manhattan Beach	Jul 18
Burbank	Aug 30	North Hollywood	Aug 8
Burbank Sunrise	Aug 30	Northeast LA	Nov 1
Calabasas	Oct 25	Pacific Palisades	Jul 21
Carson-Gardena-Dominguez	Aug 31	Palos Verdes Peninsula	Nov 18
Compton	Sep 7	Palos Verdes Sunset	Nov 15
Crenshaw-Watts	Oct 4	Paramount	Nov 1
Crescenta-Canada	Sep 20	Playa Venice Sunrise	Jul 27
Culver City	Nov 2	Rancho Park	Sep 28
Downey	Oct 18	Redondo Beach	Aug 17
Downtown LA	Aug 4	Rio Hondo-Vernon	Aug 18
E-Club, Greater S.F. Valley	Aug 28	San Pedro	Jul 14
El Segundo	Jul 21	Santa Clarita Sunrise	Aug 3
Glendale	Sep 22	Santa Clarita Valley	Aug 3
Glendale Sunrise	Jul 15	Santa Monica	Aug 12
Granada Hills	Oct 6	South Bay Sunrise	Jul 20
Greater Van Nuys	Sep 1	South Gate	Jul 20
Hawthorne-LAX-Lennox	Aug 10	Southwest LA	Jul 25
Hermosa Beach	Sep 27	Studio City-Sherman Oaks	Aug 23
Historic Filipinotown	Sep 29	Sunland-Tujunga	Oct 25
Hollywood	Sep 6	Tarzana-Encino	Aug 23
Inglewood	Oct 4	Thai Town	Aug 15
Koreatown	Jul 12	Torrance Del Amo	Oct 11
LA Cedars	Sep 24	West San Fernando Valley	Aug 16
LA Colombo-Americano	Sep 22	Westchester	Jul 13
LA5	Jul 15	Westwood Village	Aug 4
Latinos Unidos	Jul 13	Wilmington	Jul 25
Lawndale	Aug 25	Wilshire	Oct 19
Little Tokyo	Sep 20	Woodland Hills	Oct 5
Lomita-Torrance Airport	Aug 10		
Lynwood	Aug 11		

Dates as of July 1, 2016. All dates subject to change.





REACHING OUT TO MILLENNIALS TO EXPERIENCE ROTARY

—by Michael Turner, Woodland Hills, Senior Assistant Governor Communications

With only 11% of Rotary members under age 40, the future of many clubs may depend on their success in inviting millennials to experience Rotary. Worldwide, there are about two billion millennials—variously defined, but identified by the U.S. Census Bureau as people born between 1982 and 2000.

For Rotary, the millennial era could mean an influx of young, energetic members.

Having grown up in a time of rapid change, head-spinning technological advances, and expanding access to the world, millennials are uniquely equipped to keep pace with global trends and meet community needs. They are also generous and willing to volunteer. According to the Case Foundation's 2015 Millennial Impact Research Report, 84% of survey respondents made a charitable donation the previous year, and 70% spent time volunteering. So how can you make your club more appealing to millennials?

Millennials cite three factors that are important to members of their generation.

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES. In the Impact Research Report, 77% of respondents said they would be more likely to volunteer if their talents and expertise could be used for a purposeful cause.

AFFORDABILITY. Many millennials find that many clubs are simply too expensive. They are at an age where they are just beginning their careers, which means they don't make much money. They also are starting families and buying homes. Millennials' disposable income is minimal.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT. Involving millennials' families in club activities is crucial for them. They like to share their experiences with others.

The Pew Research Center has found that millennials tend to share certain traits. A 2014 report characterized them as “unattached to organized politics and religion, linked by social media, burdened by debt, distrustful of people, in no rush to marry, and optimistic about the future.” Millennials are also the most ethnically diverse age group and the first generation of digital natives. And, yes, more than half of them have shared a selfie.

Next month my column will explore avenues for reaching out to millennials and inviting them to experience Rotary. ■

ROTARY DISTRICT 5280 DISTRICT BREAKFAST TUESDAY, AUGUST 9 7 - 9 A.M.

FEATURING FORMER LA RAMS TIGHT END BOB KLEIN



After attending St. Monica High School, Bob Klein played college football at the University of Southern California where he was the starting tight end for the Trojans' 1967 national championship team. Following his senior season, he was drafted in the first round of the 1969 NFL draft by his hometown Los Angeles Rams. His teammate, OJ Simpson, was the first pick in the NFL draft that year. Bob played for the LA Rams from 1969 -1976 and then played for the San Diego Chargers from 1977-1979. In a 1985 vote of the fans, Bob Klein was named as the tight end on the Los Angeles Rams 40th Anniversary Team.

Today Bob Klein is President and CEO of Saint John's Health Center Foundation, which supports a top-tier area hospital. Since 1992 he has been a member of the Rotary Club of Santa Monica.



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\$40.00/person until August 1st

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Mail to 8939 S. Sepulveda Blvd., #210, Los Angeles, CA 90045

Note: A reservation made is a reservation paid



COOL OFF WITH ROTARY ON A HOT AUGUST NIGHT

—by Wendy Clifford, Wilshire

Music

Food and beverages

Cardboard boat race

Rotary fun!

What do you do when you hope to have another great daytime District Picnic at Seaside Lagoon after Labor Day, but the city won't put water in the lagoon? What

if you ask to schedule your picnic before Labor Day when the lagoon is full, and the city tells you daytime group reservations aren't allowed before Labor Day? Well, you have a evening beach party!

Please join us on Saturday, August 27, from 5 to 9 at Seaside Lagoon in Redondo Beach for a fun-filled evening with lots of surprises!

The event is free to Rotarians, Rotaractors, Interactors, and their families.

Swimming and other water activities are only allowed at the lagoon *before* the end of the card-



Rotary District 5280 presents

HOT AUGUST NIGHT!

A Saturday Evening District Picnic
August 27, 2016
5:00 to 9:00 pm
Seaside Lagoon, Redondo Beach

Great Food!
Music by DJ Dan Medina!
Karaoke!
Fun for the entire family!

Details will be sent to all club presidents and will be posted on the district website. For more information e-mail Wendy Clifford at 5280picnic@gmail.com

Event artwork by Wendy Clifford, Wilshire

board boat race, for which PDG Chuck Anderson (Redondo Beach) will serve again as commodore. After the cardboard boat race, the lagoon will close and the party will begin!

Our theme is Neil Diamond's *Hot August Night*. DJ Dan Medina (Carson-Gardena-Dominguez) will provide music for listening and dancing. There will be a sing-along and karaoke contest. *Start practicing your moves now!*

To make this event the huge hit it has been for eight years, club presidents will be asked for ideas, volunteer support, and donations of money, food, or beverages. Tom Quintana (Hawthorne-LAX-Lennox) will co-ordinate a chili-cooking competition. Wine and beer will be sold.

Contact Wendy Clifford if you want to help, have questions, or need more information. Email: 5280picnic@gmail.com; 323.938.0318 (h) or 213.369.6065 (c). ■



Dean Reuter will manage the District's new leadership development program.

Dean was president of the Rotary Club of Del Amo (2008–09) and was named Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce 2011 Distinguished Citizen of the Year. As a member of the Torrance-South Bay YMCA Board of Mangers, Dean has been able to develop his managerial skills.

How will his experience in the profession of architecture help him in this new job?

“Management of numerous situations at the same time comes in handy!” he says.

When asked how he became interested in Rotary, Dean offered the same kind of answer that so many dedicated Rotarians give: “I was interested in doing more for the community . . . a little ‘give back’ or maybe even ‘pay forward’ . . . and found out that Community is the World!”

NEW DISTRICT PROGRAM TO OFFER COURSES IN LEADERSHIP SKILLS AND TECHNIQUES

—by Lorine Parks, Downey, Senior Correspondent

“**What’s the best part** of your job as an architect?” District 5280’s Dean Reuter (Del Amo), was asked.

His answer? “The beginning, where I meet people, and the challenge of getting the project.”

Dean (*read about him on the left*) is getting his next beginning in the newly created district post of SAG for information and education. He has a

Courses will include public speaking, leadership tools for success, leading a meeting, and communications.

lot of former DGs to assist him—Rick Mendoza (Redondo Beach), Lew Bertrand (Palos Verdes Sunset), and Jay Saltzman (Woodland Hills)—which shows the priority the district is giving to this new endeavor.

Dean’s mission is to train Rotarians for district leadership positions. Working with him are team members who are experienced district

Rotarians: Danny Fredericks (Torrance), Marc Ameli (Rancho Park), Toni Ciancimino (Playa Venice), Rahla Frohlich (Granada Hills), and Sheri Polak (Woodland Hills).

Primarily Dean and his team will implement a Practical Relevant Leadership Skills (PRLS) program. They will set up training sessions, where current and future Rotary leaders can learn to become more effective leaders. Classes will include public speaking, leadership tools for success, leading a meeting, and communications.

As Dean explained, “We will increase the educational opportunities of Rotarians, including starting PRLS, with a basic course and potentially a master’s program.”

At the club level, in an attempt to get rid of Rotary misnomers and misconceptions, a Rotary 20 Questions fun competition will be designed to teach Rotary basics and history. “It will include a system of rewards,” says Dean. ■



Rotary District 5280 Performing Arts Group Survey of Interest

1. Do you play an instrument? _____
Which one/ones? _____
2. Do you sing? (circle one)
Soprano Alto Tenor Bass
Don't know
3. Do you direct or conduct a band, orchestra,
and/or choir? _____
4. Are you a professional musician? _____
If so, how long? _____
5. Which category? Please circle all that apply.
Jazz Classical
Blues Folk
Pop Other (explain)

FULL NAME

CLUB

PHONE #

EMAIL

OPEN CALL FOR ROTARY SINGERS, MUSICIANS, AND DANCERS!

Rotary District 5280 is looking for professional and/or extremely talented instrumentalists, vocalists, soloists, and dancers to perform throughout the Rotary year at various district functions. We will also form a choir, band, and a chamber orchestra.



If you are interested in participating, please request an audition application by completing the survey on the left and emailing it to either **Benedikt Fischer-Brydern** at info@consordino.com or **Olivia Patterson Ryans** at olivia5280@att.net.





DISTRICT ROTARIANS ENJOY RI CONVENTION IN KOREA

—by Lorine Parks, Downey, IMAGINE Senior Correspondent

Returning from the Rotary International Convention in Seoul, South Korea, District 5280 Rotarians echoed the enthusiasm of Margie Hernandez (Wilmington): “Every Rotarian needs to attend an International Convention,” she said. “I enjoyed the convention so much that I have already signed up for next year in Atlanta.”

Unanimous, too, was the sense of the grandeur and scope of Rotary as demonstrated by the opening ceremony. “Seeing all the participating

“The country is lush . . . and the streets are clean with no trash, debris, or graffiti.”
 —Margie Hernandez (Wilmington)

countries represented was amazing,” said Lynn Kim (Palos Verdes Peninsula). “To be among 50,000 Rotarians in one place was moving. It brought a big sense of unity.”

“My favorite part of the convention is always the opening plenary,” said Sylvia Hill (Crenshaw-Watts). “The march of Rotary countries’ flags is always impressive, because there are new flags added each year.

“As I looked around the convention center,” Sylvia added, “I saw Rotarians from so many countries. I was filled pride knowing that so many members all over the world see Rotary as the organization that can provide service to millions of people while forging new friendships and having fun.”

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(Above) “Ravi,” K.R. Ravindran, Rotary Club of Colombo, Sri Lanka, and outgoing RI President 2015–16, greeted everyone at the luncheon for incoming club presidents.



(Right) Sylvia Hill (Crenshaw-Watts) and daughter, Marynda, at tea ceremony, UNESCO Model Village.

RI Convention in Korea, continues from previous page

Conventiongoers benefited from more than 100 breakout sessions conducted as seminars, workshops, or roundtable discussions. Subjects included improving leadership skills, ideas for strengthening clubs, and fundraising. Breakout sessions were also an opportunity to network on a smaller scale and to meet potential project partners from around the Rotary world, an experience best described as “awesome.”

When asked if she met Koreans in Seoul other than at the convention, and did the people in Seoul know there was a Rotary convention in progress, Margie recounted this story: “I stayed pretty close to the hotel and the convention area. However, when I was lost on the subway a Korean woman and her friends befriended me, made sure I got off at the right stop, and got to the right exit to return to my hotel. At the hotel, the staff was very friendly

“I did so much shopping, I had to purchase another bag to take everything home.”
— Margie Hernandez (Wilmington)

and professional. They were very aware we were Rotarians.” In Goyang, north of Seoul, Rotarians

witnessed colorful Korean customs at the Korea International Exhibition Center (KINTEX). “We met locals in a little Irish Pub (would you believe it?!) in one of the hotels,” Sylvia said. “There was a brother-sister duo who sang very contemporary dance music, but no one was dancing. So Rotarians, with me leading the group, decided to liven up the place. Within minutes everyone was up and dancing—until 2 a.m.!

“Also very moving to me,” Sylvia added, “was the United Nations cemetery. Countries that sent troops to participate in the Korean War were represented by elaborate monuments with moving words of gratitude to

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(Above) Korean folk dancing group, on the Convention lawn.

(Right) PDG DJ Sun and members of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Club, Lynn Kim and District 5280 Governor Greg O'Brien.



RI Convention in Korea, continues from previous page

those who were killed in the line of duty in a war that is often overshadowed by the Vietnam War.

“This was very moving since my husband had been deployed to the Korean conflict. I had no idea how many countries participated and how many men died defending the freedom of South Koreans.”

“The highlight of my trip,” said Sylvia, “was the visit to the demilitarized zone, the DMZ. The walk down the “Third tunnel” (Tunnel of Aggression) is a reminder of North Korea’s determination to deny freedom to a spirited people who still put their lives on the line for freedom. It was rather alarming to know that the South Koreans discovered four tunnels created by North Korea as a means to invade South Korea, and there may be many more that have not yet been discovered.

“Gas masks line the walls of the tunnels,” Sylvia continued, “warning us that an attack could be eminent at any time, and we must be prepared in case the unthinkable happens. We were reminded that freedom is not free. There is always a price that must be paid.

“The ‘after’ trip,” Margie reported, “was organized by our immediate PDG DJ Sun. He took us to many historical sites such as the National Museum of Korea, the War Memorial of Korea, the U.N. Cemetery, two palaces, and the Bulguksa Temple. Everything was beautiful, colorful, and amazing.

“DJ is an excellent example of the kind of dedication that is in the Koreans’ hearts and souls to respect and serve others,” Sylvia commented. “He made this trip so special that we will remember it and the country and the people forever.”

For Lynn, the highlight of her trip was being abroad with fellow Rotarians. “It’s my home country, so helping with translating and guiding

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Marynda Hill from Young Professionals Crenshaw-Watts, daughter of Sylvia Hill (Crenshaw-Watts).

RI Convention in Korea, continues from previous page

friends was great,” Lynn said. “We took an excursion to Songdo to visit Chadwick International School. Being that its affiliate school is in our backyard in Palos Verdes, it was great to make the connection and meet the Interact group at Chadwick.”

Asked how she sees Korea among the world of nations, “Korea is known for its super-advanced technology,” she answered, “and health and wellness. LG, as in the name of the South Korean multinational appliance-

“Korea is known for its super-advanced technology, health, and wellness.”

—Lynn Kim
(PV Peninsula)

manufacturing corporation, means Life is Good. I see the country as an integral part of the U.N. Ban-Ki Moo, a Korean statesman and politician, is the U.N. secretary-general, representing Korea’s valued position in the world. South Korea is aligned with the U.S., and South Korea seeks peace among all countries.”

Sylvia best expressed the almost ineffable sense of Rotarian unity that everyone feels at international conventions. “I know the sacrifices I made to take this trip, and I thought about all the people who love Rotary so much that they probably made more sacrifices than I did. Those Rotarians are the ones who were willing to give their all to and for Rotary. This was an amazing thought since we have almost conquered polio and these are the Rotarians who have made this happen and the very same Rotarians who will conquer our next major worldwide project. I felt awe-struck to be in the presence of people who will help make all our projects, large and small, a reality. That’s the beauty,” Sylvia said, “of coming to the Rotary International Convention.” ■



Vision to Learn, Inglewood

IMAGINE NEW VISTAS FOR CHILDREN

—by Nora Maclellan, Westchester

Teaming up to provide free eyeglasses to Inglewood children with vision impairment were Rotary District 5280 volunteers, the Los Angeles Clippers Foundation, and [Vision to Learn](#), a national nonprofit that offers free eye exams and eyewear to students in low-income communities.

“When you put glasses on children, they glow,” said Austin Beutner, Vision to Learn founder and chair. “They see the world in a different way for the first time and it’s a pretty special feeling.”

—continues on next page

New Vistas, continues from previous page

The project launched in January when, with the help of school nurses and Rotarians, the visual acuity of all 12,000 students in the Inglewood Unified School District began to be tested. Those who did not pass had a typical eye exam that an optometrist would perform.

By the first week in June when the project concluded, 1,420 students had received prescription eyewear. “When the glasses arrived, a clinician put the glasses on each child and made sure they fit properly.”

“Having glasses is one thing, but getting children to wear them is really what we’re all about. They get to pick their own sense of fashion,” Beutner said. Students receiving glasses were able to choose their frames, and among the color options were L.A. Dodgers blue and Clippers red and blue.

Clippers make eyewear cool. Helping distribute glasses to students at Inglewood High School were clippers teammates Paul Pierce and Chris Paul.

“When 15 or 20 percent of kids in the class are getting glasses at the same time, there’s some safety in numbers,” Buetner said. “When they heard Chris Paul and Paul Pierce tell them it’s okay to wear glasses if you need them, the kids



Providing glasses to children in need improves the quality of their education, while also providing collateral benefits such as improved quality of life.
 —2013 UCLA Analysis of Vision to Learn

feel pretty good about wearing them, which is great.”

“We are honored to support this pioneering opportunity to provide high-quality vision care for thousands of students in Inglewood,” said L.A. Clippers President Gillian Zucker. “By providing glasses to students in need, the L.A. Clippers

Foundation hopes to create a better future for the entire Inglewood community.”

According to a study conducted by the Mattel Children’s Hospital UCLA, children who live with uncorrected vision are less likely to engage in classroom activities or complete assignments. Teachers could believe those students have behavioral issues. After receiving glasses, those students’ behaviors change for the better.

“I have seen first-hand that students with impaired vision can struggle in the classroom. By getting kids eye exams and glasses, we’re able to change these outcomes,” said Dr. Vincent Matthews, state administrator for the Inglewood Unified School District.

To learn how your club can participate in Vision to Learn, contact Nora Maclellan at DougNora@aol.com. ■



The cover photo was submitted by the Torrance Rotary, which participated in a “Vision to Learn” project at Torrance Elementary School, where 40 students received free eyeglasses.

CLUB 63

News for and about District 5280 clubs

Rotary Rewards: Save Money While Donating to RI

—by Arlene Dickey, San Pedro

If you're like me you joined Rotary to do good. I primarily enjoy education projects, because I am concerned for the future of our children and grandchildren. As a six-year member of Rotary, I am weary of constantly being asked for money.

Well! There is good news. RI has the ROTARY GLOBAL REWARDS program. Initiated last year, the program offers discounts from many companies such as Target and Apple Inc. The majority of the rewards are designated "GIVE BACK TO ROTARY." RI headquarters has been busy working on improving this program to include more retail and service partners.

At the August District Breakfast, I will explain how the program works, the changes that have been made, and how we can turn the buying power of 1.2 million Rotarians into significant savings for members and dollars for RI. All you need is a smart phone, a Rotary or Roteract membership, and a MY ROTARY account at rotary.org. Enter "Rotary Global Rewards" in the site's search engine. ■



Crenshaw-Watts Club's Literacy Project in Jamaica

—by L. Jan Howell, Crenshaw-Watts

The Crenshaw-Watts Club has been doing an international club literacy project in Jamaica for five years. When we formed our Interact Club with the Simon Tech Academy in Watts they became instant partners in prepping items for shipment to Jamaica.

Students locally and in Jamaica wanted very much to meet each other. Through the financial support from of several benefactors and the efforts of the Crenshaw-Watts, Ocho Rios, and

Sunrise Westlake Rotary clubs, and the Simon Tech Interact Club, this dream became a reality when five students and their teacher/advisor visited Jamaica.

Our new dream is to create a true exchange by bringing to Los Angeles some of the high school students visited in Jamaica. If Rotarians and their clubs are interested in participating, please contact President Jan Howell of Crenshaw Watts at 323.823.6343. ■

—Club 63 continues on next page

—Club 63, continues from previous page

Fun Facts: Our Exchange Students' Train Tour of the U.S.

—by Melody St. John, Hollywood

My husband, Paul (LA5), and I initiated a tour-by-train excursion of the U.S. for our first exchange student, Frederico Zuntini, from Argentina. That was 19 years ago, and this wonderful adventure continues today for exchange students who have studied during the past year in our district. Here are some fun facts about this experience.

- 40 students this year from 18 countries
- Five chaperones accompanied the students, including Paul, me, Joe Harding (El Segundo) and Parker Young (Beverly Hills), who assisted
- Two returning exchange students also toured with us: Mouna Takeddine (now a Rotarian) from Belgium and Tom Grube from Germany
- Traveling by AMTRAK for 32 with stops in:

Los Angeles	Niagara Falls
San Francisco	New York
Portland (home stays with Rotarians)	Boston
Seattle	Washington DC
Glacier Park	New Orleans (host families in St. Charles Parish Rotary Club) ■
Minneapolis/St Paul	
Chicago	



While the District's 2015–16 Youth Exchange students traveled the U.S. by train, they stopped in Evanston, Illinois, where they visited the Rotary International offices. Trip organizer/chaperone Melody St. John arranged for this photograph to be taken with 2016–17 Rotary International President John Germ and 2015–16 President Ravi Ravindran.

—Club 63 continues on next page

—Club 63, continues from previous page



Groceries for the Valley Food Bank

—by Tama Taylor Holve, CTC, CTIE, Studio City-Sherman Oaks

To benefit the Valley Food Bank, members of the Studio City-Sherman Oaks Club held their annual food drive on June 5 at Gelson’s in Valley Village, where shoppers showed a true spirit of generosity by donating 1,608 pounds of food! That’s almost 600 pounds more than was collected last year. More than half of our club members were on hand to collect, pack, and deliver the wonderful gifts given by the beautiful people we encountered. The club thanks Gelson’s’s William Issa and his team. ■

Imaginative Ideas for Your Club

—by D.G. Greg O’Brien

Fun auction idea. Next time your club has an auction, whether silent or live, try auctioning off “Club President for a Day.” The winner need not be a Rotarian. He or she could be a spouse or family member. The winner gets to plan and run the club meeting, impose fines not to exceed \$5/member, tell jokes, etc. Create your own “perks,” such as a reserved parking space or “thank you” gift at the end of the meeting. *Imagine Rotary!*

Fun program idea. Who says that the speaker always has to come to the club? Try taking your club to a speaker now and then. Arrange to have a box lunch and docent tour at a local museum, Boys & Girls Club, or City Hall. You will find that popular speakers are more available if they are able to avoid the drive and spend a total of 20–30 minutes with your club. Evening clubs may give this a try as well. Simply “go dark” that evening and arrange a noon-time “visit the speaker” day. ■

