

# Rotary



Be a gift to the world

Rotary District 5280  
Greater Los Angeles  
Newsletter-Magazine  
Volume 20 | March 2016



*Humanitarian Trip Panama 2016*

pages 11, 12 and 13



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District Office  
8939 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Suite 201  
Los Angeles, CA 90045

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310-670-9792  
Office@Rotary5280.org  
www.Rotary5280.org



**Be a gift to the world**



## From Governor DJ...

First of all I want to congratulate President Elects for their completion of PETS that occurred February 19th – 21st. I also want to congratulate the District Governor Elect, Greg O'Brien, and his leadership team. Please keep in mind that continuity of leadership is a critical factor for the success of the organization. The next four months is sufficient time to provide a smooth transition from this year's leadership to the next.

March is literacy month. One of the six areas of focus for Rotary Foundation is literacy and basic education. Think of the things that you would find difficult or impossible to do if you could not read. Applying for a job, driving a car, voting in an election, reading and making text messages and even reading your child a bedtime story would all be impossible or dangerous.

Even with high literacy rates there is still a sizeable population that remains illiterate. Reading, writing and character literacy are essential to independent and economic freedom. Far too many people are being left behind. Literacy is a basic skill. It helps us fight poverty, increase productivity and gain the skills necessary to help others. It is a benefit we pass on—one person at a time.

Rotarians have initialed and participated in various programs to increase literacy. These include mentoring program, story reading, dictionary give away and in partnership with Vision to Learn distribute eyeglasses to needy students. I urge you to get involved and make others aware of the need.

### Upcoming Events:

- March 12th – 3-2-1 Go to end Polio at Griffith Park
- April 5th – District Breakfast meeting
- April 9th – Ethics Forum
- April 16th – Rotary Day of Service
- April 28th – May 1st – District Conference at San Diego Mission Bay Hilton Resort
- April 29th – May 1st – RYLA
- May 28th – June 1st – Rotary International Convention in Seoul, Korea



There are a lot of events ahead of us. Every event addresses one or more Avenues of Service. This provides an opportunity for students to demonstrate their talents, and for Rotarians to get together and share their common core values.

I appreciate your support and participation.

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





## Servant Leadership

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

“Do you listen to your members? Do you survey them on a regular basis?” These were two questions asked by Brad Howard, RI Director for Zones 25 and 26 at the District 5280’s president elects’ meeting at PETS. The best way to empower members and to increase their interest and involvement is to continually ask them for feedback. What do they enjoy about the club? What would they like to see changed? The process does not have to be formal or cumbersome. It can be as simple as a show of hands or asking members to write down their interests on a slip of paper handed to them when they sign in for the meeting.

Howard said, that when he asks presidents about their priorities for the next year, the answers range from running the club to having fun to changing the world to changing the club’s culture. “These are good answers,” said Howard, but the priority should be, “making members love Rotary.” Rotarians should have an emotional commitment to stay with their club. The president’s focus should be on developing relationships among his or her members so that they will see Rotary as being very important to them.

“If members feel a strong connection to Rotary, they will bring others to join their club,” said Howard. “If a club is growing year after year, this means members are talking up their club to their friends, coworkers, and family, and attracting new members.”

Howard said that the best president are servant leaders, who serve the people he or she leads, meaning that members are an end in themselves rather than a means to an organization’s purpose. Servant leaders are meant to be more attentive to the needs of others and not on the organization’s nuts and bolts.

Servant leadership was developed by Robert K. Greenleaf in 1970. These leaders priority is meeting

the needs of those they lead, developing the Rotarian’s potential, coaching them, encouraging their self-expression, facilitating personal growth in all who serves with them, and most important, listens well to build a sense of community and commitment to Rotary.



First, servant leaders should be selfless. The selfless leader is willing to take risks in order to see his or her members and club grow and thrive. Second, servant leaders are defined as a individual who influences other Rotarians. We need to remember that influence is a continuous process. Last, these leaders lead by example.

As president elects prepare for their Rotary year, they should take the time to reflect on how they can transition to being a servant leader. Their top priority during their term is to serve the needs of the Rotarians in their respective clubs.



Brad Howard, RI Director  
for Zone 25 & 26





**DISTRICT 5280 DAY OF SERVICE 2016  
THE GREAT LA RIVER CLEAN UP**

by Kelly Bevan Spirer, Day of Service Chair  
Rotary Club of Hollywood  
[kbspirer@me.com](mailto:kbspirer@me.com)



Join Rotarians from other District 5280 clubs as we work with Friends of the L.A. River (FOLAR) on the 27th annual Great LA River Clean Up: La Gran Limpieza. The clean up encompasses a wide geographical range, as too do our clubs, which is why this partnership seems like such a perfect fit.

The clean up begins on our District's scheduled Day of Service Saturday, April 16 from 9am to noon in the Upper River area in the Valley. Since there are multiple sites available, we would like to gather our Rotarians together at the Sepulveda Basin Sports Complex located at 6201 Balboa Blvd, Van Nuys, CA 91406. One person from each club should be designated to sign up through the group sign up and send me the names for our district list. The link to sign up is [www.folar.org/cleanup](http://www.folar.org/cleanup).

Rotarians will be provided with all the necessary tools for the clean up including gloves, bags, pickers, and event T-shirts that include our Rotary District logo. All you have to bring is perhaps sunscreen and a hat.

For those of you who have other commitments that day, we will continue to work with FOLAR the following two Saturdays on the middle river (Los Feliz/Silverlake) and then the lower river (Torrance/Del Amo). Come to 1, 2 or even all 3 cleanups!

Trash in the river impacts our whole district, and although each year the clean up doubles the amount of volunteers at their sites, so too does the trash. Last year 6000 volunteers filled up multiple shipping container--size dumpsters. With our help, they are expecting at least 10,000 volunteers this year and a cleaner river.

Also, this is a great way of doing something good for our communities, our environment and our clubs. We will be working side by side with non--Rotarians -- you know what that means -- a great opportunity! **Maybe you will meet your next club member there!**

There will be cross promotion between Rotary and Friends of the Los Angeles River -- and we hope participating clubs will join us in getting the word out via their websites and social media.

Finally, if your club already has a Day of Service event planned for April 16, would you please send me the information so that it can be publicized as part of what Rotary district 5280 is doing to be of service to our communities.

Information has gone out to club presidents and community service chairs, however if you are one of those that didn't receive the information via email, please let me know. I may be reached at [kbspirer@me.com](mailto:kbspirer@me.com).



# **ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICTS 5280 AND 5320 ETHICS FORUM**

## **ROTARACT TEAM PRESENTATION COMPETITION**



**April 9, 2016**

**8:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.**



First Place Cash Prize  
Second Place Cash Prize  
Third Place Cash Prize

Individual Recognitions

For further information please contact 5280 Chair John Green at [johnngreen374@gmail.com](mailto:johnngreen374@gmail.com) or 5320 Chair Patricia Brainerd at [johnpat2k@gmail.com](mailto:johnpat2k@gmail.com)



# STRAIGHT OUTTA ROTARY

One Conference...Two DJs

Full of Selfless Rotary Moments

COMING SOON

***Starring DJ Sun & D5280's Most Interesting Man***

*Produced by Rotary District 5280*

*Executive Producer Jaimee Sul*

*Co-Produced by Westchester Rotary Club Young Professionals*

**Rotary**  
District 5280



**DISTRICT CONFERENCE 2016**

**APRIL 28TH ~ MAY 1ST**

**SAN DIEGO MISSION BAY HILTON**

**THURSDAY | *Pub Crawl***

**FRIDAY | *Epic Hospitality***

**SATURDAY | *Stop Hunger Now  
& Jaw Dropping Performance  
at the Governor's Ball***

***You Simply Cannot Miss This!***

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:

[www.Rotary5280Conference2016.com](http://www.Rotary5280Conference2016.com)





Photos by Gidas Peteris, Rotary Club of Beverly Hills & Linton Morgan, Rotary Club of Inglewood





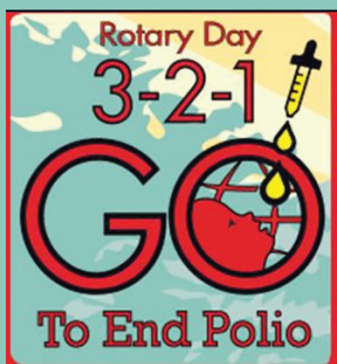
Please support our **Rotary 5280 Event** in one or more of the ways listed below!

## March 12, 2016 @Griffith Park

### ➤ Join the Run



Share this event



- 10K Run **9:00 am**
- 5K Run **10:00 am**
- 1 Mile Fun Walk or Run **10:30 am**

### ➤ Donate \$1 Dollar fundraiser

- [www.321GoToEndPolio.com](http://www.321GoToEndPolio.com)

### ➤ Corporate Sponsor Tables at the event to showcase your company

- [www.321GoToEndPolio.com](http://www.321GoToEndPolio.com)

### ➤ Corporate Key Sponsor Spots available

- [www.321GoToEndPolio.com](http://www.321GoToEndPolio.com)

## *District Calendar*

### **March 2016**

5 Rotary Pageant of the Arts

12 3-2-1- Go

26 New Member Orientation

28 - May 1 District Conference (San Diego)

29 - May1 RYLA

### **April 2016**

5 District Breakfast

9 Rotaract Ethics Forum

16 Rotary Day of Service

### **May 2016**

4 -10 RI Convention (Seoul Korea)

18 District Assembly



ROTARY DISTRICT 5280

## Youth-Led DISTRICT BREAKFAST

TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2016

**Interact**  
Rotary Sponsored Club



**Rotaract**  
Rotary Club Partner



**rotary**  
**youth**  
**exchange**

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER: RAMU DAMODARAN

*Chief of the United Nations Academic Impact initiative*



Ramu Damodaran, Deputy Director for Partnerships and Public Engagement in the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) and Chief of the United Nations "Academic Impact" initiative, will be the featured speaker at the District Breakfast on April 5.

Mr. Damodaran has led the initiative since its inception in 2010. He also designed its youth offshoot—ASPIRE (Action by Students to Promote Innovation and Reform through Education), bringing together the creative cooperative energies of student communities in the global United Nations cause. He is also Secretary of the United Nations General Assembly Committee on Information and President of the United Nations Staff Recreation Council.

Mr. Damodaran's earlier assignments with the UN included working in the Departments of Peacekeeping and Special Political Questions and the Executive Office of the United Nations Secretary-General. A national of India, he was a member of its Foreign Service and was promoted to the rank of Ambassador in 1997. He served as the Executive Assistant to the Prime Minister of India from 1991 to 1994. He has worked extensively in theatre as well as television, radio and print journalism and production, including serving as a news anchor and disc jockey. Mr. Damodaran is a recipient of the Asian Broadcasting Union award for the best radio documentary.

### EVENT DETAILS

#### TIME

7:00AM | Registration  
7:30AM | Breakfast

#### LOCATION

Westin LAX Hotel  
5400 W. Century Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90045

#### COST

Before March 25 | \$38  
After March 25 | \$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

**Checks payable to: Rotary District 5280**

*Please remember- A reservation made is a reservation paid*





## ROTARY DISTRICT HUMANITARIAN TRIP- PANAMA 2016

By Lorine Parks, Senior Correspondent, Rotary Club of Downey

"The whole trip was fantastic, and the strongest memory for me is the people in the Indigenous Village." So said Eva Han, of the Rotary Club of Woodland Hills, one of many Rotarians who went on the District's humanitarian visit to Panama in January. They were all were deeply impressed by what they saw.

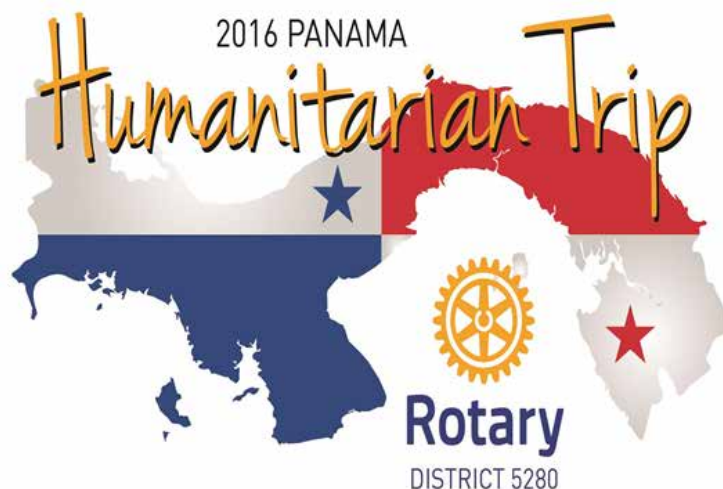


**VILLAGE CHILDREN PREPARING TO ENTERTAIN**

"Arriving at the Village the men were welcoming us playing flutes and the girls were dancing and then all the girls and ladies greeted us all by taking our hands," Eva continues. "I brought my granddaughter, Alexandra (18), on this trip and one of the young girls was at once connecting with her and followed her around the whole time until we left."

"The small kids were running around naked and played with each other; interestingly I couldn't see any toys. Both children and adults were barefoot and it was so very hot. The Indigenous people were so friendly and lived on what nature could give them. They made beautiful handicraft they were selling to tourists. They also danced for, and with us and served us lunch consisting of fresh fruit and fish.

Karen Greenberg of the Rotary Club of South Bay Sunrise went to the Operation Smile headquarters in



Panama and had a special moment, actually seeing the original Poster Child. "Even with pictures I had seen didn't evoke the emotion I felt when I met the kids who were being helped by the program. The staff was processing new patients, little kids with cleft palates, and examining kids in various levels of follow up after their operations."

"My Rotary moment," Karen continues, "was meeting one of the children who is a model for the program. They had a poster of her when she was a baby and then after her treatments, maybe at the age of six. I'm guessing she is now around 10 years old and was there, along with other children." "The fact that they can help 250 kids a





year, is really wonderful," Karen commented. "These are kids who may not have survived or would not have had any chance at a normal life. Hopefully, with the new facility we Rotarians will help to fund, more children will be helped."

Karen will be putting the experience to good use: "This year my husband, David Henseler, who is also a member of the club, and I were the only ones who went. I will urge our members to participate more in the District trips and continue to support international causes, as I will be the International Chair next year for our club."



KAREN WITH ENTERTAINERS

For John Mina of the Historic Filipinotown Club, the most memorable person was the District Governor Elect of District 4240, which encompasses Panama, for his warm presence and friendly demeanor. "He made you feel welcome and excited about the service projects and the City of Panama and the president of Operation Smile Panama. A native of NY, he moved to Panama because of love. He married a Panamanian. His passion in helping, leading and running Operation Smile Panama was evident in his manner of speech, his body language, and knowledge of why such agency needs to exist and needs our help."

Eva also checked out the Panama Norte Schools and brought the backpacks that the Rotaract had made. "A great job, to put them together and the kids were very happy to receive them. We looked into a room with computers donated by Rotary Clubs in our district. One Rotarian from Panama told me how important the computers are for the children so they can seek information by themselves. The children were dressed in beautiful Panama dresses and hair decoration and performed their cultural dances and music. Many young parents with babies and small children were also there. For me people are always most interesting, and especially children."

Karen and John both took the historic tour of Panama City, where John felt the architectural landscape of the historic city is rich with influences from the French, Spanish, and British.

In Karen's words, "the area reminded me of New Orleans. We visited a church that had been destroyed by fire, twice, in the 1700s. The guide pointed to the arch of the church. Although it had fallen in 2003 and was rebuilt in 2007 for display purposes, legend had it that because the original arch withstood the "test of time," it contributed to the U.S. decision to build the canal in Panama and not Nicaragua. It showed that there was little to no seismic activity in Panama versus the seismically active Nicaragua. This is the cool historical stuff that they don't teach you in school."

As John summed it up, when asked what he would tell his club, "I'll ask them to think about taking the next District Humanitarian Trip, to experience firsthand how Rotary affects the lives of others globally. Plus, you get to know fellow Rotarians better and enjoy the beauty of the city and country you're visiting."









Club	Assistant Governor		Club	Assistant Governor	
Bellflower	Hector	Torres	Los Angeles Downtown	Dave	Tomblin
Beverly Hills	Guity	Javid	Lynwood	Hector	Torres
Burbank	Lee	Stacy	Malibu	Richard	Miller
Burbank Sunrise	Lee	Stacy	Manhattan Beach	John	Ramey
Calabasas	Mike	Thomas	North Hollywood	Richard	Miller
Carson-Gardena-Dominguez	Margie	Hernandez	Northeast Los Angeles	Ben	Aranda
Compton	Dave	Davis	Pacific Palisades	Cindy	Williams
Crenshaw-Watts	Hector	Torres	Palos Verdes Peninsula	Karen	Greenberg
Crescenta-Canada	Ben	Aranda	Palos Verdes Sunset	Dave	Tomblin
Culver City	Guity	Javid	Paramount	Dave	Davis
Del Amo	Karen	Greenberg	Playa Venice Sunrise	Robert	Ryans
Downey	Dave	Davis	Rancho Park	Robert	Ryans
El Segundo	John	Ramey	Redondo Beach	Karen	Greenberg
Glendale	Lee	Stacy	Rio Hondo-Vernon	Hector	Torres
Glendale Sunrise	Makiko	Nakasone	San Pedro	Margie	Hernandez
Granada Hills	Matt	Denny	Santa Clarita Sunrise	Matt	Denny
Greater San Fernando Valley	Matt	Denny	Santa Clarita Valley	Mike	Thomas
Greater Van Nuys	Mike	Thomas	Santa Monica	Guity	Javid
Hawthorne/LAX/Lennox	Robert	Ryans	South Bay Sunrise	Cindy	Williams
Hermosa Beach	Cindy	Williams	South Gate	Dave	Davis
Historic Filipinotown	Ben	Aranda	Southwest Los Angeles	Dave	Tomblin
Hollywood	Makiko	Nakasone	Studio City/Sherman Oaks	Mike	Thomas
Inglewood	John	Ramey	Sunland-Tujunga	Lee	Stacy
Koreatown	Makiko	Nakasone	Tarzana-Encino	Richard	Miller
LA Cedars	Wilson	Benitez	Thai Town	Makiko	Nakasone
LA Colombo-Americano	Margie	Hernandez	Torrance	Karen	Greenberg
Latinos Unidos	Margie	Hernandez	West San Fernando Valley	Matt	Denny
Lawndale	Cindy	Williams	Westchester	Robert	Ryans
Little Tokyo	Ben	Aranda	Westwood Village	Guity	Javid
Lomita-Torrance Airport	Wilson	Benitez	Wilmington	Wilson	Benitez
Los Angeles 5	Dave	Tomblin	Wilshire	John	Ramey
			Woodland Hills	Richard	Miller



New Members	Sponsors	New Members	Sponsors
<b>Rotary Club of Crenshaw Watts</b>		<b>Rotary Club of LA5</b>	
Brian DeCoud		Jermaine Ee, website development	Ken Chong
Apryl Hill		Kevin Lynch, IT Solutions	Ken Chong
Janet Howell		Herb McGurk, Residential Real Estate	Todd Johnson
Nkeechi Howell		Helen Easterling Williams, Dean Graduate	Rick Gibson
Pastor Kelvin Sauls		Justin Lacey, Financial Advisor UBS	Alan Bernstein
		Jonathan Steele, Real Estate	Alan Bernstein
<b>Rotary Club of Downtown Los Angeles</b>		Maurice Rahimi, Associate Professor USC Sol	Jon Gibby
Joe Chauvapun, vascular surgeon/medical	Aaron Weiner	Jessica Lall, Executive Director South Park BID	Jim Simmonds
Marie Enright, Ph.D., USC professor of Spanish	Mina Soroosh, Ph.D.		
		<b>Rotary Club of Lawndale</b>	
<b>Rotary E-Club of the Greater San Fernando</b>		Raquel Castro, Real estate Senior	Marcela Paez
Sharif Ahmed, Financial Advisor, Trilogy	Todd Gurvis	Sandy Rodriguez, Independent Literature	Lucy Tseng
<b>Rotary Club of Granada Hills</b>		<b>Rotary Club of Little Tokyo</b>	
Raoul Corzo, Financial Advisor with NY Life	Kerry Nelson	Hiro Yokota, Banker	George Tanaka
		Weili Materna, Nurseing	Makiko Nakasone
<b>Rotary Club of Hermosa Beach</b>		Joyce Chinn, Retired Educator	Mike Okamoto
Jamie Lee, Finance	Jennifer Floto		
		<b>Rotary Club of Playa Venice Sunrise</b>	
<b>Rotary Club of Hollywood</b>		Juliet Oman, Real Estate Sales	Gwen Vuchsas
Kathi Martin, retired		Chris Bacca, Executive Director, nonprofit	Bobbie Casalino-Lewis
		Orly Wiedoeft, high school principal	Jerry Jen
<b>Rotary Club of Koreatown</b>			
Sunny Choi, president of Sun Travel	Luke Yi	<b>Rotary Club of Wilmington</b>	
Grace Min, president of Pyo Gallery	Myung Deering	Albert Ramirez, job developer	Margaret Hernandez
Soh Yun Kang CPA	Won Yi		
		<b>Rotary Club of Woodland Hills</b>	
		Ron Supancic, attorney/mediator	Elegance Hippolyte

## Rotary Club of Westchester - New Member



Viktorija Joga, chiropractor with her sponsor Cindy Williams.

## Joe Vasquez Appointed DG Nominee



Joe Vasquez with his wife, Rozangela. Joe was appointed DG Nominee. His term will be 2018 -2019.

## The Pope Giving a Dose of the Polio Vaccine



## We Mourn the Passing of Connie Baker



Left Photo: The District mourns the passing of Connie Baker, the wife of Past DG Doug Baker. Right: RI's theme logo for 2016 - 2017.

