



Rotary District 5280  
Greater Los Angeles  
March 2017

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**IMAGINE Rotary Youth in the Chinese New Year Parade** See pg. 20

## IMAGINE / MARCH 2017



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*Pictured: District Governor Greg  
and Carolyn O'Brien*

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*Read about Cycling to Serve and other special-interest Rotary fellowship groups. [Pg. 3.](#)*

# DISTRICT CALENDAR

## March

- 11 Pageant of the Arts
- 18 3-2-1- Go to End Polio Run ([Pg. 17](#))
- 25 PRLS (Potential Rotary Leadership Skills) San Fernando Valley

## April

- 8 Rotaract Ethics Forum
- 15 PRLS (Potential Rotary Leadership Skills) Torrance
- 18 District Breakfast

- 21-23 RYLA
- 22 Rotary Day of Service

## May

- 4-7 District Conf., Lake Arrowhead ([Pg. 21](#))

## June

- 3 District Assembly, Carson Community Center
- 10-14 RI Convention, Atlanta ([Pg. 5](#))



# FELLOWSHIP AND NETWORKING

—by District Governor Greg O'Brien

**Have you ever heard** of “[Cycling to Serve](#)?” Rotary’s cycling fellowship, one of more than 90 Rotary world fellowship groups, has approximately 2,800 members. Each year, Rotarian cyclists gather for a Rotary World Cycling Championship. This year’s tour will be hosted May 25–28 by the Rotary Club of Perg, Austria.

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**Socializing and doing business with fellow Rotarians are some of the great benefits of our organization.**

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Perhaps your sport is canoeing, fishing, flying, golfing, motorcycling, running and fitness, shooting, skiing, tennis, or yachting, among others. Or maybe you would like to join up with Rotarians who enjoy pleasure cruising, antique automobiles, camping, exchanging homes, group travel, caravanning recreational vehicles, or organizing gourmet dinners. There are Rotary professional groups, including editors and publishers, physicians, travel agents, literacy providers, and musicians. Other Rotary groups include interests and hobbies such as bird watching, playing bridge, gardening, stamp collecting, quilting, dog owning, and various cultural interests. Whatever your passion, there is likely a Rotary fellowship group awaiting your application. Just [click here](#) to explore the possibilities.

On a more local level, this topic leads to the closely related Avenue of Club Service. Rotary clubs sometimes overlook the opportunity to provide a variety of social activities for their members. For example, does your club have a subset of Rotarians who golf, play cards, or take nature walks together? How about a Rotary book club, movie club, or gourmet cooking club? The point is that in addition to service, it is important for clubs to provide opportunities for members to socialize.

Finally, do your members do business with one another? There is nothing wrong and everything right about business networking with fellow Rotarians. In my club, I patronize one fellow member’s dry cleaning establishment, another member’s photography studio, while a third member is my financial planner. When asked for recommendations as to various local services, I am happy to give the names of Rotarian realtors, attorneys, accountants, florists, doctors, and dentists.

If you are not socializing and doing business with your fellow Rotarians, you are missing one of the great benefits of our organization. Drawing attention to and expanding opportunities for fellowship and networking would make a great subject for your next club assembly.

Meanwhile: *Imagine Rotary. Build it and they will come.* ■





# MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR PEOPLE WHO NEED IT

—by Michael Turner (Woodland Hills), SAG Communications

**“Rotary has the power** to make a difference for people who need it,” said Rotary International President-elect Ian Risely, who spoke at Southern California/Nevada’s PETS on February 11. *Making a difference* is Ian’s theme for his Rotary year. So, what can your club do to *make a difference*?

In Rotary we know we can do more together than alone. “We are bound by community goals,” commented Ian. We need to always remember that clubs are the life blood of Rotary.

The environment is a major concern for Ian. “Environmental degradation and global climate change are

serious threats to everyone,” Ian said. “They are having a disproportionate impact on those who are most vulnerable, those to whom Rotary has the greatest responsibility. Yet environmental issues rarely register on the Rotary agenda,” he said. “I would like to see Rotary plant 1.2 million trees, one for each Rotarian.

During our District’s Humanitarian Trip to Merida, Mexico, participants planted trees in several locations. “It is my hope that the result

of that effort will be far greater than the environmental benefit that those 1.2 million new trees will bring,” Ian said. “I believe the greater result will be a Rotary that recognizes our responsibility not only to the people on our planet, but to the planet itself.”

**One of Rotary strengths** is that we have 35,000 clubs. “What we must do is compute the value of what those clubs offer to the world,” said Ian. Ian wants to calculate the total dollar value Rotary spends on its charitable activities. This includes donations, but more important, the total number of volunteer hours that are expended yearly. During his term, Ian wants to learn the real value that Rotary provides. “It will probably be billions of dollars,” said Ian.

Ian also wants to revive the Group Study Exchange program, which was discontinued about five years ago. “We need to emphasize cultural sharing, Rotary Friendship Exchanges and Group Cultural Exchanges,” said Ian. These programs would be funded by Rotary International. “I truly believe that these endeavors will make a difference with world peace, which is a major focus of Rotary,” commented Ian.

Rotarians’ responsibility is to make Rotary shine by building stronger clubs and achieving worldwide recognition. Ian also believes it is imperative

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**As your club plans for the next Rotary year think of community, vocational, international, and youth projects that will make a significance difference in your community or around the globe**

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—*Making a Difference, continues from previous page*



RI President-elect Ian Risley

that clubs find ways to attract and engage younger members. “Today only five percent of reported members are under 40, and a majority of members are over 60,” added Ian. “Consider what Rotary stands to look like 10 or 20 years from now if we don’t get very serious, very soon, about bringing in younger members.”

As your club plans for the next Rotary year

think of community, vocational, international, and youth projects that will make a significance difference in your community or around the globe—painting a nonprofit organization or collecting items for a food pantry, holding mock interviews or sharing your career experiences at high schools, establishing a Rotaract or Interact Club or organizing activities at the Boys and Girls Club, and funding a mobile mammogram truck in India or drilling water wells in Nigeria.

*What will your club do to make a difference?* ■



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

**ATLANTA 2017**

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Georgia, USA 10-14 June

REGISTER NOW



## Merida Humanitarian Trip

# MEMORIES FOR A LIFETIME

—by Lorine Parks (Downey), IMAGINE Senior Correspondent

**For a hands-on work experience** plus a remarkable cultural immersion, the hot ticket to start this new year was District 5280's Humanitarian Trip to Merida, Mexico.

From January 25–30, 130 Rotarians met and partnered with Mexico's "Distrito 4195 de Rotary International." This Humanitarian Trip journeyed to an area that consists of Campeche, Chiapas, Oaxaca, Tabasco, Quintana Roo, and Yucatán. (See map on next page.) These states comprise Mexico's "South," and while they have 20% of the population, they have 75% of the indigenous population.

What exactly makes it a humanitarian trip? Planning began 18 months earlier by studying and prioritizing the region's needs and identifying those that realistically could be completed. For this expedition, Rotarians dispersed and implemented, with their own hard

**Forty-two clubs from both sides of the border participated in this humanitarian effort.**



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District 5280 Governor Greg O'Brien and District 4195 Governor Xochitil Arbesu.

—“Memories for a Lifetime”, continues from previous page

work and hands, \$130,000 worth of equipment, supplies (paint and nails), and tools. The money to fund these activities was raised from clubs in both countries and with District grant money. A total of 42 clubs from both sides of the border participated.

**This is Mexico’s** most culturally and biologically diverse region. The Yucatán is relatively underdeveloped compared to the rest of the country. Lowest indicators on the quality-of-life scale are in literacy, life expectancy, and income levels. An estimated 80% of Mexico’s indigenous people live in extreme poverty, and children have an estimated 41% malnutrition rate.

Improving economic and social conditions of indigenous Mexicans is one way to combat

“My Rotary moment came at Emmanuel Preschool, where our hands-on efforts made its programs literally shine.”  
—Leon Nixon (San Pedro)

the racial discrimination they face. “It’s back to basics,” said Melody St. John (Hollywood), who, with her husband, Paul (LA5), co-chaired the District’s efforts for the international venture.



*This Humanitarian Trip serviced to a large area of Mexico that consists of the states of Campeche, Chiapas, Oaxaca, Tabasco, Quintana Roo, and Yucatán. The city of Merida is in the north of the later state.*

“This was District 5280’s 13th Humanitarian trip since 2003 when Marc Leeka (LA5) organized the first trip to El Salvador, where we delivered wheelchairs. I think we are the only District that does it this way.

“Humanitarian efforts have grown over the years, but the focus remains constant in doing good in the world and leaving things for the better after we leave,” Melody added.

Travel specialists Arturo and Sandra Velasquez, owners of Invelj Travel in Canoga Park, were valuable resources while planning the trip.

“Great credit also goes to Marjorie Heller (LA5) and Joe Vasquez (Bellflower) for their assistance and vision,” added DG Greg O’Brien. Marjorie helped with the grants, assisted by District Governor Nominee Joe Vasquez, who is SAG for Major District Events.

“Twelve work projects were chosen,” Melody went on, “out of some 30 that were considered. We delivered them over three days in various locations in and around Merida. Working with District 4195’s governor, Xochitil Arbesu (the youngest DG in the world!) and her amazing team made this year’s —continues on next page



—“Memories for a Lifetime”, continues from previous page



(Left) In Ticul, DG Greg O'Brien cut the ribbon at the opening of the new sewing facility, where women will make dresses and embroidery items. (Right) Attending the ribbon cutting were indigenous women dressed in native costume and PDG Else Gilliam, far right.

trip a wonderful experience. While there, we had press conferences and appeared in numerous newspapers and on TV to promote Rotary and the good we were doing.”

#### AT EMMANUEL DAY CARE, Rotarians

finished bathrooms, painted, and cleaned up a play area, where rocks and debris once were.

Club President Leon Nixon (San Pedro) said, “Three words best sum up my favorite parts of this effort: Hands-On

Children eat their  
ONLY meals at  
the preschool.

Projects. Getting my hands dirty, my clothes dirty, and my body dirty. *No, exhilarated!* My Rotary moment came at Emmanuel, where we really got to work, making their after-school and preschool programs literally shine. I was moved when I learned that the children eat their ONLY meals at the preschool. Many parents’ priorities do not include feeding and bathing.

“We gave them friendship bracelets and stuffed dolls,” Leon continued. “The dolls were provided by Dollies Making a Difference and brought by Santa Monica’s President Connie McGuire. These people wear such colorful

clothes and have such smiles on their faces in spite of the appalling poverty.

“The preschool is literally an oasis in the middle of a neighborhood where children are encouraged not to walk alone,” Leon goes on. “This was my first humanitarian trip, and the realization that we (Rotarians!) were working to transform lives by providing basic things we all take for granted, like eating, bathing, going to the restroom in a clean facility with a toilet seat, and running water, was a cultural shock. I continue to be deeply moved by the thought that one or more

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—“Memories for a Lifetime”, continues from previous page



(Top) Rotarians brought toys for the children at Emmanuel Preschool. (Bottom) These toys were enthusiastically received by the students.

of those children will remember the kindness they experienced because of Rotarians, and one or more of those children will grow to positively touch the lives of others while remembering the kindness they experienced. How can you not feel warm inside?

“OK,” commented Leon. “Three more words that sum up this experience: Rotary Serving Humanity. The emotional moment (my Rotary moment) I experienced at Emmanuel was the highlight of my trip. In addition, some participants did skydiving, raising more than \$30,000 for Polio Plus.” (See sky-diving story on [page 12](#)). The Rotarians also planted about 500 trees, which were provided by Muaro, an environmental museum in Xcumpich, Yucatán.

This was the first Humanitarian trip for Gerardo Jaramillo (Latinos Unidos). His Rotary moment also came at Emmanuel Pre-School. “After working with fellow Rotarians all morning to paint and clean the area around the children’s playground, we had a chance to spend time with the children and the parents, who were making their lunch. They made Caldo de Pollo, a traditional chicken soup in Mexico, and that’s when I started to get flash backs of my childhood. You see, I grew up in a similar barrio in Mexico

City before I came to the United States. I was able to pay it forward by helping others who are less fortunate. When passing our toys to the children, some asked if they could have one for their brothers or sisters. They wanted to share, and what they shared with us were their smiles.”

### AN AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM IN PROGRESSO

received boxing equipment, computers, and supplies. Rotarians also painted and cleaned up the facility. “It is a large after-school program for more than 300 at-risk,

“A highlight was seeing DG Greg dance the Hokey Pokey with the students.”

—Melody St. John (Hollywood)

middle-school students,” Melody explained. “This program provides students instruction in singing, dancing, art, karate, basketball, and volleyball. It also offers instruction in playing the sax, drums, and guitars. Students displayed their art, then sang, danced, and showed us precision marching. A highlight was seeing DG Greg dance the Hokey Pokey with the students.”

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—“Memories for a Lifetime”, continues from previous page

### MUCH-NEEDED EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES WERE DONATED

to UADY, a university-sponsored outreach medical-services program. It was here that DG Greg observed, “District Rotarians really rolled up their sleeves and painted; planted trees; assembled water filters; and checked in, weighed, and tested candidates for diabetes.”

The Merida Club’s program, “Living with Diabetes,” has operated here for 23 years. This area has the world’s highest percentage of diabetes. Our District delivered medical supplies and equipment.

Generous gifts of equipment and supplies.

### BAKING EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING OVENS AND REFRIGERATORS,

were purchased for two special-needs schools in Tizamin and Valladolid, so the students can learn a trade. Melody noted that, “Students sell their cookies to raise money for the school and their families.” She added that, “We were hosted by both of the local Rotary clubs that contribute to these programs.”

Our delegation ate, sang, and danced with

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(Top) Native women are pictured with some of the 100 donated water filters, which ensure clean drinking water. (Bottom) Baking equipment was purchased for chefs-in-training at special-needs schools.



—“Memories for a Lifetime”, continues from previous page



Rotarians planted about 500 trees provided by Muaro, an environmental museum in Xcumpich, Yucatán.

children and parents and made personal friendships with our Rotarian hosts. “My Rotary moment was watching a proud 12-year-old with intellectual disabilities ice a cupcake and offer it to me,” commented DG Greg.

#### **WE DELIVERED 100 WATER FILTERS**

**TO FAMILIES** and distributed backpacks to students in Izamal. Clean drinking water here is a problem. Interesting fact: Since pre-historic times, there have been no rivers or lakes on the surface of Yucatán, though it covers 14,868 square miles. The people of this state rely on underground waterways and natural wells.

#### **WE PROVIDED SEWING MACHINES**

**TO THE WOMEN** in Ticul to help them develop micro businesses that might help lift communities out of poverty.

**MONEY WAS DONATED** for emergency room equipment and training in Veracruz.

In partnership with the American Red Cross, **ROTARIANS HELPED FUND A HYPERBARIC CHAMBER IN COZUMEL**, a world-renowned center for scuba diving and

marine research. Such chambers are for divers suffering from decompression sickness and arterial gas embolism. Dive tourism plays a major part in Cozumel’s economy.

“I could not have been more humbled and proud of Rotary . . . My memories of the trip will last a lifetime.”

—DG Greg O’Brien

**After-trip tours and activities** included an expedition to the Mayan archeology at Uxmal and Chichen Itza, exploring pyramids and ball courts. Beaches at Tulum offered inviting white sand and warm blue waters.

“We saw much poverty and great need,” said DG Greg, “but found the recipients to be friendly and grateful for everything we did. Despite current political tensions between our countries, we were treated to a band playing our national anthem and the sight of our flag carried during an equestrian show. I could not have been more humbled and proud of Rotary and the generous hospitality and sincere appreciation of our Rotarian hosts. My memories of the trip will last a lifetime.” ■



# SKY DIVING FOR POLIO PLUS RAISES MORE THAN \$35,000

—by Lorine Parks (Downey),  
IMAGINE Senior Correspondent

**Without a doubt**, sky diving is the Xtreme way to raise money for Polio Plus. Melody St. John, president of the Hollywood Club, and other District Rotarians jumped to raise more than \$35,000 for Polio Plus while on the humanitarian trip in January to Merida, Mexico.

“Xochitl Arbesu, DG of District 4195, initiated the challenge,” commented Melody. “I challenged our members to put up money to see me jump out of a plane. I did not agree at first, but lo and behold they raised more than \$1,000 that night.”

Over a friendly breakfast the next morning, Xochitl repeated the challenge to Melody and other table companions, such as Leon Nixon (San Pedro), who enthusiastically signed up.

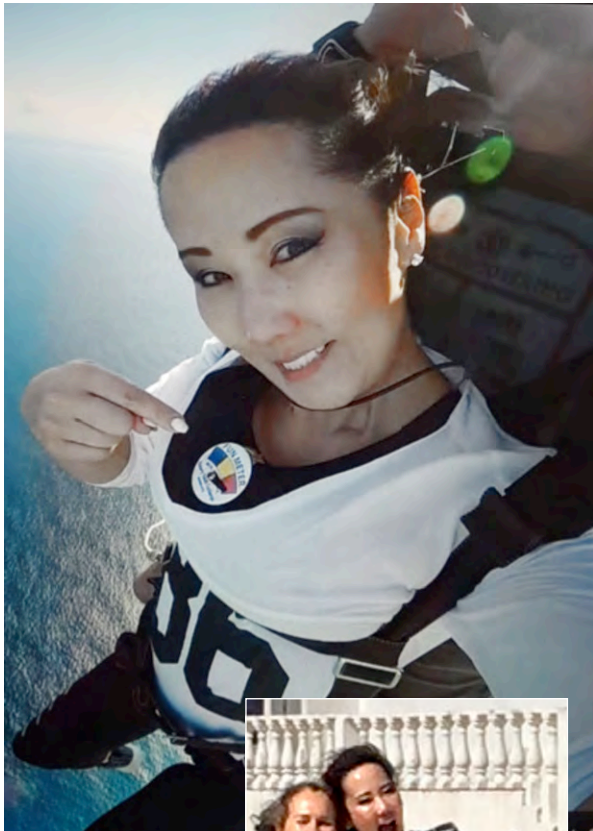
Before they had a chance to back



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“10,000 feet above sea level, traveling at about 100 mph before jumping out of a perfectly well-functioning airplane, but, yes, I felt calm,” said Leon Nixon, president of the San Pedro Club.

—“Sky Diving for Polio Plus”, continues from previous page



(Above) Jaimee Sul's Fun Meter was on HIGH. (Right) Roz Vasquez, left, and Jaimee after their jump.



down, Xochitil made the reservations at a place she was familiar with in Playa del Carmen.

Rotarians were invited to donate during breakfast and dinner. Having heard about jumps in Michigan and Toronto, where the funds were matched by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, there was some discussion about whether the donors also get credit toward their next Paul Harris.

As Jaimee Sul (Inglewood) told it, “A few of us rascals, including Rita and PDG David Moyers, Doug Baker, Jerry Brown, Melody, Joe and Roz Vasquez, and me were at the hotel lobby bar. Melody turned to me and said ‘Now that I accepted this challenge, YOU have to do it!’

“Roz wanted to do it just for the fun of it. That’s when I opened up my big mouth and said, ‘I ain’t doing it unless somebody puts some money down for me to jump. In fact, I won’t do it for a penny less than \$5,000! I was thinking, of course, nobody would take me seriously. Within 45 seconds or less, the rascals at the table each donated on the spot and raised more than \$5,000. So I had no choice but to take the challenge. Doug was very concerned and didn’t want me to risk my life in the process, but oddly enough, he was the first to put the money down,” commented

Jaimee.

**“We jumped out of a Cessna airplane,”** said Leon. “A single-engine, private plane. We jumped two at a time while others waited on the ground, watched, and supported us. Doug and our entire crazy crew were on the beautiful white sand beach getting burned in the hot sun of Playa del Carmen as we jumped.”

“It took about 30 minutes for the plane, which barely fit five people including the pilot, to reach 10,000 feet,” added Jaimee. “Although cramped, the view was out of this world! It seemed like eternity to reach the diving altitude, and then we had to squat and turn ourselves around like ducks to get buckled up with our tandem divers. When the tiny door opened and with the force of the air blowing at me, I was so excited, and I literally had no time to think or hesitate! The free fall lasted only 45 seconds but it felt like forever. I had no control over my face and couldn’t keep my mouth shut.

“Doug took lots of pictures,” Jaimee continued. “They spotted us from afar, and he did his best to video my landing, but he managed to film only the strings of the parachute—not me!”

“The jump was amazing,” said Leon. “During  
—continues on next page



—“Sky Diving for Polio Plus”, continues from previous page

the free fall, we were falling at about 120 mph. Once the parachute opened, things got calm, quiet, and peaceful. It was an incredible feeling of serenity, combined with amazement and wonder.

“What a fun way to raise money for Polio Plus! Would I do it again? ABSOLUTELY! But . . . only if other Rotarians join me,” challenged Leon.

“In a heartbeat!!” said Jaimee.

“All said and done,” says Melody. “I think with the matching Gates monies and 50% from RI President John Germ, we will have raised a little over \$35,000.” ■



Melody St. John landed with a big “Thumbs Up!”

## CLIFF DOCHTERMAN, AN ORAL HISTORY

Conducted by the Oral History Center,  
Bancroft Library, UC Berkeley

Help preserve Rotary’s rich history. [Discover](#) how you, your club, your district, and your zone can become sponsors of this project and how you can acquire access to this written documentary.



**Past Rotary International President Cliff Dochterman** has touched the lives of so many. He is the man who, 35 years ago, envisioned a world without polio and then led the campaign to immunize all the children in the world. From Boy Scouts, academia, communities around the world, and members of Rotary International, there isn’t enough room here to say it all about Dr. Cliff Dochterman. His history, memories, wit, stories, and experiences are being memorialized in an oral history interview conducted by the Oral History Center of the Bancroft Library of UC Berkeley.

**Donations of any amount are appreciated.** Suggested donations: Individuals: \$50–\$100 | Clubs: \$100–\$500 | Districts: \$1000–\$5000 Make checks payable to Rotary District 5160—Cliff Dochterman. Mail to Lynn Jepsen, 1945 Hackett Dr., Woodland CA 95776. We will memorialize your donation. Please send a sponsorship message to [laura@rotary5160.org](mailto:laura@rotary5160.org). Here’s an example: “Cliff Dochterman has inspired us, made us laugh, and given so much of himself to benefit others. We are proud to sponsor this project.”

**Questions?** Contact District 5160 PDG Laura Day, 925.963.3547, [laura@rotary5160.org](mailto:laura@rotary5160.org). ■



# CLOSING THE GAP TO ELIMINATING POLIO

—by Shirley Giltzow (Lawndale), District Polio Chair

**Rotary has accomplished so much** during its 31-year history of efforts to eliminate polio forever! Rotary International has shared the following information for all Rotarians.

India has not reported a polio case since 2011, thanks largely in part to massive vaccination and surveillance campaigns that led to the country being officially certified polio-free in 2014. Subnational Immunizations Days continue in order to keep India polio-free. For the first time, Rotary International staff members worked alongside health workers and volunteers in the field to help with polio eradication efforts. The World Health Organization, along with Rotary International, continues to provide immunizations to keep India polio free.

With only 35 cases last year in three countries, we are so very close to the finish line. We still need to give immunizations to these countries, including India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Nigeria. THE GREAT NEWS IS THERE HAS ONLY BEEN ONE CASE OF POLIO THIS YEAR AS OF FEBRUARY 10. But, we still need to raise funds to continue the immunization plan.

**Rotary International has asked every Rotarian** to donate \$26.50 this year, the same amount that was donated 100 years ago that started the Rotary Foundation. Can we count on your club? All clubs having 100%

Only one case of polio has been reported this year as of February 10!



of their members donating \$26.50 will be recognized at the District Conference.

For information, [contact me, Shirley Giltzow](#). I will be glad to help with membership numbers and completing the multiple donor form.

*Together, we can and will eliminate Polio forever!!* ■



*Operation Smile repairs cleft palates, offering the hope of normal lives to children and their families.*

## ROTARY CREATES SMILES IN THE PHILIPPINES

—by Bette Hall (Calabasas), SAG Youth

The planning began several months ago when the Calabasas Club partnered with the Historic Filippinotown Club to fund an Operation Smile project in the Philippines. In addition, the Woodland Hills and Bellflower Clubs donated to this life-changing cause.

Operation Smile  
changes lives  
and gives hope.

On January 31, 2017, two Calabasas members, Past President and International Chair Lulu Kamatoy and President-elect Lucy Martin, embarked on a trip to the Philippines that will forever be etched in their minds: Operation Smile.

These two intrepid travelers entered the operating rooms of a hospital in Rizal, where teams of doctors and nurses prepared to operate on children with cleft palates. They were somewhat nervous but so awed by what they saw. They remained in the room during the surgeries and on each of the mission's four days.

The memories of this trip will stay with them for the rest of their lives! They were amazed at the dedication of the doctors and nurses who donated their time and skills to save children from a life of pain, suffering

and ostracization. The children's parents talked of the hardship they endured during their journey to the hospital. Lulu and Lucy had their "Rotary Moment" as they stood day after day in the operating room marveling at what they were seeing!

**On their return,** Lulu told the Calabasas Club how one mother described their journey of more than 26 hours by boat and bus to get to the hospital from their tribe in the hills. The mother told Lulu that there are other children in the village with cleft palates, but their parents were too scared to take the trip or to have the surgery. She hoped when she returned with her child that others would overcome their fears and realize their children might have a chance to really live life to the fullest.

Local Filipino Clubs assisted during the surgeries, and now they have seen firsthand what Operation Smile does by changing lives and giving hope to one family at a time. These clubs will now want to become part of the solution and donate funds to assist in additional surgeries. It is the sincere hope that we can be part of another project to change these children's lives next year!

*Rotary does bring smiles worldwide! ■*



**\* During our COLOR RUN**

cornstarch dyed in several colors will be thrown on runners to create a tie-dyed look on their Color Run T-shirts. Sunglasses to protect eyes, disposable plastic car seat covers to protect cars, and optional medical masks will be available. [Learn more](#) about a color run and see photos.

**Win a CRUISE TO MEXICO!**

Participants will receive a drawing ticket for a chance to win a cruise for two to Mexico, a flat screen TV, or dozens of other great prizes.

*Winners must be present.*

**We'll be collecting NEW**

or GENTLY used shoes for [SOLES4SOULS](#). You will receive one drawing ticket for every pair of shoes you bring.

***Rotarians, Families & Friends are invited to District 5280's***

# **(Color\*) Run to END POLIO NOW**

**A 5k Fun Run with optional one-mile turnaround  
followed by a Peace Festival/Picnic**

**Saturday, March 18, 2017, 10a.m.–2p.m.  
Crystal Springs Picnic Area in Griffith Park**

We will be joined by [The Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home Peace Run](#), a global torch relay.

There'll be ethnic and hip-hop dancers, opportunities to win great prizes and to donate your used footwear to [Soles4Soles](#), and other surprises!

**[Register here](#)**

**For information, to become a sponsor for \$250, or donate a door prize contact:**

[Wendy Clifford](#) (213.369.6065) or [Ruth Kurihara-Kelsey](#) (310.480.2609)



## Celebrate Earth Day

# HELP CLEAN UP THE L.A. RIVER

—by Kelly Spirer (Hollywood),  
Rotary Day of Service Chair

**Join Rotarians from District 5280** on Earth Day, Saturday, April 22, from 9 a.m. to noon as we team up with Friends of the L.A. River (FOLAR) for the 28th annual Great LA River Clean Up: La Gran Limpieza. We'll meet at the Middle River/Griffith Park area at the Los Feliz site. [Click here for a map](#) of the location.

Please have your club [sign up here](#), and check the Los Feliz box under 4/22/17. You will be asked for the number of attendees, and include the name of your Rotary Club under “Group or Organization Name.”

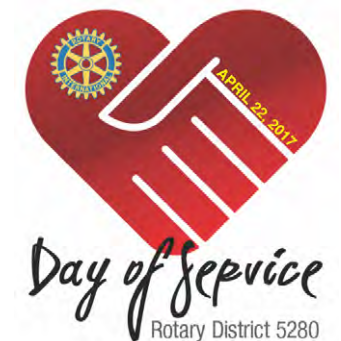
### Important reminders:

- Rotarians will be provided all the necessary tools for the cleanup, including gloves (if you're picky like me, bring your own), bags, pickers, and event T-shirts with our District logo. All you have to bring is sunscreen and a hat.
- For those with other commitments that day,



you may help with the cleanup on non-Rotary weekends: Saturday, April 15 (upper river/Valley) and Saturday, April 29 (lower river Torrance-Del Amo). Come to one, two, or even all three cleanups!

**Information**, including flyers and reminders, will go out to club presidents and community service chairs. Contact [Kelly Spirer](#). There was also [a story](#) in the February District Newsletter that you might want to read again. ■





### Resources for applicants

- The [Rotary Peace Centers Program Guide](#) has information on eligibility requirements and finding qualified candidates.
- The [application video](#) explains the steps for completing the application.
- The [Rotary Peace Centers Facebook page](#): Follow and like us, and spread the news about this program.

## ROTARY PEACE SCHOLARSHIPS

The [2018 Rotary Peace Fellowship](#) application is now available! The [new online application](#) will streamline the submission process. Candidates have until March 31 to submit applications to our District.

Applicants will be interviewed in April or early May for submission to RI by the end

of June. Forward a copy of your application to Peace Scholar Chair PDG Vicki Radel at [DrVictoriaRadel@cs.com](mailto:DrVictoriaRadel@cs.com) and to DRFC DJ Sun at [djsunrotary@gmail.com](mailto:djsunrotary@gmail.com). ■



# DISTRICT YOUTH MARCH IN THE CHINESE NEW YEAR PARADE

—by Bette Hall, Senior Assistant Governor, Youth Services

**February 4, 2017 was a truly beautiful**, if a rare, day in Southern California. I made my way to Chinatown via the Red Line and once there walked to the corner of Ord and Hill Streets to wait for District Interactors to join me for the Chinese New Year Parade. More than 200 of them came by bus, train, and car wearing their red shirts and black pants. In addition, some Rotaractors led the Interact Clubs as advisors!

They came from many schools and communities, and they began by helping the organizers unload American flags, carefully unfurling each one, then listening politely to the organizers, who explained their role in the parade.

When the time came to get into position for the parade, all lined up in the place of honor, following the Chinese Historical Society banner and the dancers. At 1 p.m. the parade began to the cheers of the large crowd as Rotaractors and Interactors carried the American flags and the Interact and Rotaract banners.

As we neared the master of ceremonies, the announcer rose and read off the names of



participating clubs and also recognized Rotary, praising our Humanitarian efforts. It truly was a day to be extra proud of being a Rotarian and especially of our Rotarians to be! In a time where there is so much turmoil and strife, it was such a joy to be with our youth.

While we are talking about our Interact and Rotaract members, don't forget to invite them

to be part of the 3-2-1 fun run at Griffith Park on March 18. ([See page 17.](#)) There are special rates for them. In addition, remind them of the Youth Breakfast on April 18, where there will be an incredible speaker who will inspire them!

Many thanks to club presidents, youth advisors, and chairs for the time they give to encourage and support our youth. ■



**MAY 4-7, 2017 | LAKE ARROWHEAD**

# **2017 ROTARY DISTRICT CONFERENCE**

**REGISTRATION & HOTEL RESERVATIONS NOW OPEN!**

**PRICES INCREASE APRIL 6— SIGN UP BEFORE IT SELLS OUT!**



## Imaginative Club Project:

# WRANGLERS' PEACH COBBLER

—by Lorine Parks (Downey), IMAGINE Senior Correspondent

### It's time for Rotary Cowboy Peach Cobbler!

Come to the William S. Hart Park in Old Town Newhall on April 22 and 23 for a trip back to the Old West.

As Lou Esbin, past president of the Santa Clarita Club, said, “Our master Cowboy Peach Cobbler cooks artfully manage 30 cast-iron Dutch ovens placed in coal-fired baking kettles, and the peach cobbler simmers to their

The peach cobbler is always a crowd-pleaser at the annual Santa Clarita Cowboy Festival.

world-renowned goodness. Last year we sold more than 3,000 eighth-ounce servings during the two-day Cowboy Festival.

“For our friends in greater Los Angeles,” added Lou, this year’s

invitation reads, ‘take the iron horse from Union Station or saddle up to drive up the 5 Freeway to the 14 Freeway to Newhall, and step back in time! Meet your friends under the Rotary Clock and enjoy the festival.’”

Over two decades ago, city leaders wanted to embrace Santa Clarita’s Western history. In 1994, the first Santa Clarita Cowboy Festival was held to honor the authentic Old West with music, cowboy poetry, cowboy wear/gear, food, and storytelling in Western art, music, film, and television. Today, 10,000 Western enthusiasts attend the annual festival.

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(Above) Rotarian Cobbler Wranglers at work. (Inset) A kettle of the famous Cowboy Peach Cobbler simmers.



—“Wranglers’ Peach Cobbler”, continues from previous page

Profits fund local nonprofits and community service projects.

For 21 years, a group from Visalia ran a

Peach Cobbler Concession that was the favorite of the Cowboy Festival. Last year, just before the festival, they announced their retirement.

“The city approached me,” Lou said, “knowing that the Santa Clarita Rotary, which already had been doing the July Fourth Pancake Breakfast for 50 years, would take over the Cowboy Peach Cobbler.

“With about three week’s official notice, we organized a concession committee to handle volunteer logistics, scheduling, equipment, and purchasing of ingredients. We partnered with the City of Santa Clarita to purchase the equipment in which to prepare the cobbler. Sixty volunteers sprang into action, dividing themselves between the prep kitchen, cooking tables, and serving. Cowboy Coffee also was served. We met health and fire code inspections with flying colors.

“The money raised in our first year,” Lou commented, “was used to pay



From the left: Santa Clarita Valley Rotary President (2015–2016) Lou Esbin, Congressman Steve Knight, Assemblyman and Rotarian Dave Reeves, and Rotarian Dante Acosta at Cowboy Peach Cobbler in 2016.

back the City of Santa Clarita. This year, proceeds from sales will fund the Newhall Rotary Community Foundation, our own 501(c)(3) nonprofit endowment that funds many local nonprofits as well as community service projects.

“The Santa Clarita Club is an Every Rotarian Every Year Club, and last year we became a 100% Paul Harris Club.” ■

## CLUB 62

News for and about District 5280 clubs

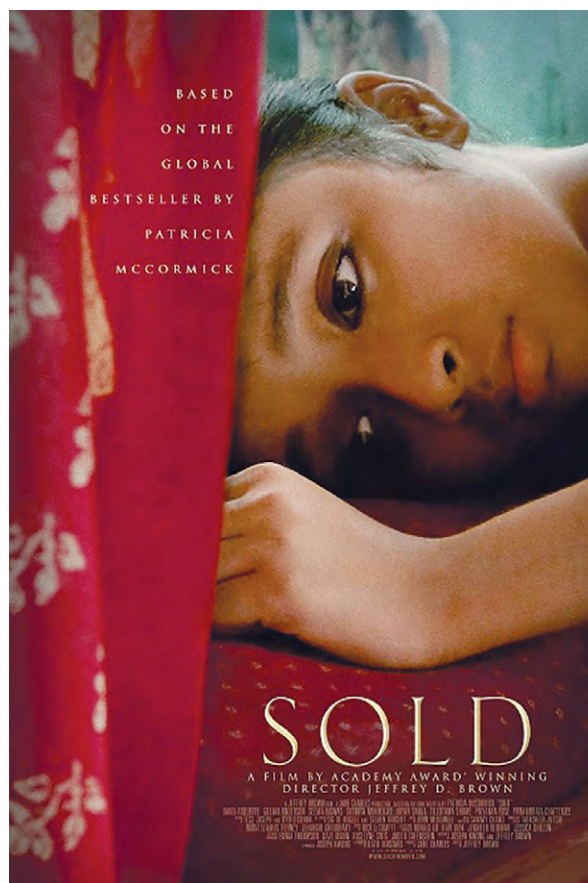
### Child Trafficking: The Story of SOLD

The **Santa Monica Club** will present the film *SOLD* on March 24, April 1, and April 24. *SOLD* is a narrative adaptation of the globally acclaimed novel by Patricia McCormick. Based on true stories, *SOLD* is the story of Lakshmi, who journeys from a pastoral, rural village in Nepal to a gritty brothel/prison called Happiness House in Kolkata, India.

*SOLD* illustrates the brutality of child trafficking, which affects millions of children around the globe. Globally, the average age of a trafficked girl is 13-years. *SOLD* was executive produced by Academy Award-winner Emma Thompson and is a testament to the power and resilience of the human spirit. Watch a two-minute trailer [here](#).

#### Screening information:

- March 24: Tony Abatemarco's film class at Emeritus College, 9–10:50 a.m.
- April 1: Santa Monica Main Library, 2–5 p.m.
- April 24: wCal State Univ. LA's the Arc Light Theater in Santa Monica. Time TBA.



Movie poster for *SOLD*.

For more information about *SOLD* or its screenings, contact [Rosemary Regalbuto](#) or call her at 310.948.3303.

### Raising Funds With a Painting Party

The **Woodland Hills Club** earned money with a fund-raising party at Pinot Palette. Intrepid members showed off their artistic skills as they followed the directions of a staff member. Pictured below at the event are Sandra and Arturo Valesquez.



—continues on next page



—“Club 62”, continues from previous page



## Stop Hunger Now Meal Packaging Event

### Partnership to Stop World Hunger

The [Palos Verdes Peninsula Club](#) partnered with the Salvation Army’s College for Officer Training (CFOT) to support the Stop Hunger Now campaign. On Saturday, January 28, volunteers from both organizations gathered on the CFOT campus to package a record-setting 10,230 meals in 55 minutes. Major Brian Saunders, a Rotarian and the training principal at the college, recruited cadets, officers, staff, and their families to join Rotarians in this Rotary Club and District grant-funded meal-packaging program.

### Funds for the Quilt Guild

The [Santa Clarita Valley Club](#), through the Newhall Rotary Community Foundation, donated \$2,000 to the Santa Clarita Valley Quilt Guild. They are sewing 78 quilts for the veterans of Habitat for Heroes, also supported by the club.

### District Humanitarian Trip in the News

A story on KHTS radio featured [Santa Clarita Club](#)’s president, Louis J. Esbin, and his experiences during the District’s Humanitarian Trip to Yucatán. [Here is a link](#) to the story.



And  Soledad  
Enrichment  
Action

**Presents:**

# 1st Annual

# SPRING

## Wellness Jubilee

**Saturday, March 18, 2017**  
**Lueder’s Park Community Center**  
**1500 E Rosecrans Avenue, Compton, CA 90221**  
**Time: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

✓ Blankets

✓ Towels

✓ Medical screening

✓ Socks

✓ Personal hygiene items

✓ Entertainment









—continues on next page

—“Club 62”, continues from previous page

**"Gamble Your Way to Neverland"**

**Saturday, March 18, 2017**

**Fundraising for Special Needs Prom May 2017**

**Cost Per Person**  
**\$25 Pre-Sale / \$30 At the Door**  
*(Ticket includes \$100 in Casino Chips and 1 free drink)*

**Banning's Landing**  
 100 E Water Street  
 Wilmington, Ca 90744

**6 P.M. - 11 P.M.**

**Contact:**  
**Brenda Jaramillo - CRLU 310-218-9578 or [bjaramillo@crlu.org](mailto:bjaramillo@crlu.org)**

**Wilmington Rotary Club Rotario De Latinos Unidos San Pedro Rotary**  
**Compton Rotary Hawthorne/LAX/Lennox Rotary Wilmington Lions Club**

**Neverland District 5280**

**Food & Drinks**

**Music & Dancing**

**Raffles**



# SOUTH BAY BEER & WINE FESTIVAL

**Sunday, May 21, 2017 - 1 to 5 p.m.**

**Ernie Howlett Park - 25851 Hawthorne Blvd., Rolling Hills Estates**

*Presented by El Segundo, Palos Verdes Peninsula and South Bay Sunrise Rotary*

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