

Make a dream come true!

Rotary
District 5280



ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE

MARCH 2018



Trash pollutes the world's coasts. See Michael Turner's column on [page 5](#). Photo courtesy of National Geographic

Rotary
District 5280



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Make a Dream Come True!

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

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DISTRICT CALENDAR

March

- 3 Membership Forum in the South Bay
- 10 Pageant of the Arts
- 10 Thomas Fire Recovery Project
- 17 Color Run for Polio / Win a Trip to Dublin (See [page 14](#))
- 18 L.A. Marathon, with Team Rotary running to help end polio forever
- 21–30 District Humanitarian Trips

April

- 14 Rotary Ethics Forum
- 21 Rotary Day of Service
- 27–29 RYLA

May

- 17–20 District Conference, Indian Wells (See [page 7](#))

June

- 24–27 RI Convention, Toronto (See [page 13](#))

Go-Kart racing for dollars—an imaginative club project! See [page 26](#).

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



GREETINGS DISTRICT 5280 ROTARIANS, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS

By Cozette Vergari, District Governor

MARCH THROUGH JUNE BRINGS AMAZING YEAR-END ACTIVITIES. As we approach year end, the last four months bring an abundance of fantastic service to communities, locally and internationally. Congratulations to all of you for your dedication!!

“BETTER TOGETHER” YEAR-END CELEBRATION AT THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE. We will come together to celebrate all the many accomplishments and successes of the Rotary Clubs of District 5280 at the fantastic Hyatt Regency Resort and Spa in Indian Wells, May 17–20, at our annual District Conference. It will be a **fun-filled, family-friendly weekend.** **Register now and take advantage of the Early**

Bird Discount. [Learn More.](#) We will highlight how Rotarians Are Better Together, working within their own club, with other clubs, and with other Rotary Districts from near and far. **It is how we continue**

to make a difference!

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION.

Celebrate with Rotarians from all over the world in

—continues



UPCOMING EVENTS REQUIRING REGISTRATION

Membership Forum

March 3

Pageant of the Arts

March 10

5k St. Patrick's Day Color Run

For Polio Eradication March 17

LA Marathon Rotarians and Teammates Running For Polio Eradication

March 18

District Humanitarian Trip to Colombia

March 21–26 and/or 26–30

Rotary Day of Service

April 21

RYLA

April 27–29

—continues

Toronto, Canada, June 27–29. Build relationships and share ideas. Register now!! [Learn More.](#)

DISTRICT 5280 PARTNERS WITH THE SHAKESPEARE CENTER OF LA TO BENEFIT VETERANS.

Tom Hanks makes his Los Angeles stage debut as Falstaff in Shakespeare's Henry IV, directed by **Tony-Award winner Daniel Sullivan**. They are donating their artistic talents to benefit veterans. District 5280 has reserved a block of seats for Sunday, June 10. For details and reservations check, your weekly newsletter or the District website.

JOIN IN THE FUN! TWO UPCOMING RACES TO HELP END POLIO!

We push our efforts toward the eradication of polio worldwide. After the tremendous support of Rob's Run To End Polio, which raised \$600,000 with matching funds, **YOU** now can participate in a weekend of running to eradicate polio. During the weekend of March 17–18, we have two fantastic opportunities for fun, fitness, and fellowship. **On Saturday, March 17**, join in all the fun and activities at the 5k St. Patrick's Day Color Run at Griffith Park. **On Sunday, March 18**, a team of 15 is forming for the LA Marathon. The Rotary Club of Los Angeles Foundation is sponsoring the team, so entry fees are covered. As I write this, there are still openings available. Proceeds raised from both events will be donated to the End Polio Now Campaign and will be matched 2 to 1 by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

DISASTER RELIEF / TREE PLANTING REACH OUT COMING SOON. We are working with District 5240, to the north of us, in the areas impacted by the Thomas Fire and subsequent mudslides. We will keep you posted regarding opportunities to participate in the tree-planting efforts.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING INITIATIVE. Yes, slavery is alive and well in our communities, while predators are making millions of dollars through the commercial sexual exploitation of children as well as labor trafficking, literally enslaving vulnerable children and adults alike. Our own children and grandchildren are at risk and can be targets so easily through the Internet. **On June 3, the Rotary Clubs of Woodland Hills and Calabasas are hosting an event to help in the fight against this terrible brutality.** One third of all proceeds will be directed toward the District 5280 Charitable Foundation, restricted for the battle against human trafficking within our District.

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

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





ANNUAL MARINE POLLUTION WOULD COVER MOST OF NEVADA IN ANKLE-DEEP TRASH

By Michael Turner (Woodland Hills), SAG Communications

EIGHT MILLION METRIC TONS OF PLASTIC ENTER THE OCEAN EACH YEAR according to an estimate in a 2015 study by the Ocean Conservancy. That's enough plastic to cover an area 34 times the size of Manhattan or most of Nevada in an ankle-deep layer, according to Roland Geyer, an industrial ecologist from the University of California–Santa Barbara. "We can't just focus on the cleanups. We need to make some strides upland and inland," said Allison Schutes, senior manager of Trash Free Seas and the International Coastal Cleanup at Ocean Conservancy.

According to the UN, approximately 40% of the world's population lives in coastal communities and about 97% of the world's fishermen live in developing countries. A Frontiers of Marine Science study suggests that almost three out of four fish in the Northwestern Atlantic most likely has plastic polymers in their stomachs. This is a major marine pollution issue and it crosses two areas of Rotary's focus: disease prevention and treatment and water and sanitation.

HOW DO WE FIX THIS PROBLEM? Two Australian surfers have developed a brilliant solution. Andrew Turton and Pete Ceglinski created the *Seabin*, a floating rubbish bin that can collect plastic bottles, paper, oil, fuel, and detergent floating in
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Two Australian surfers have developed a floating rubbish bin that can collect plastic bottles, paper, oil, fuel, and detergent floating in the ocean. It's inexpensive, low-maintenance, and doesn't harm marine life.



—continues
the ocean. It was built as an inexpensive and low-maintenance alternative for fighting marine pollution.

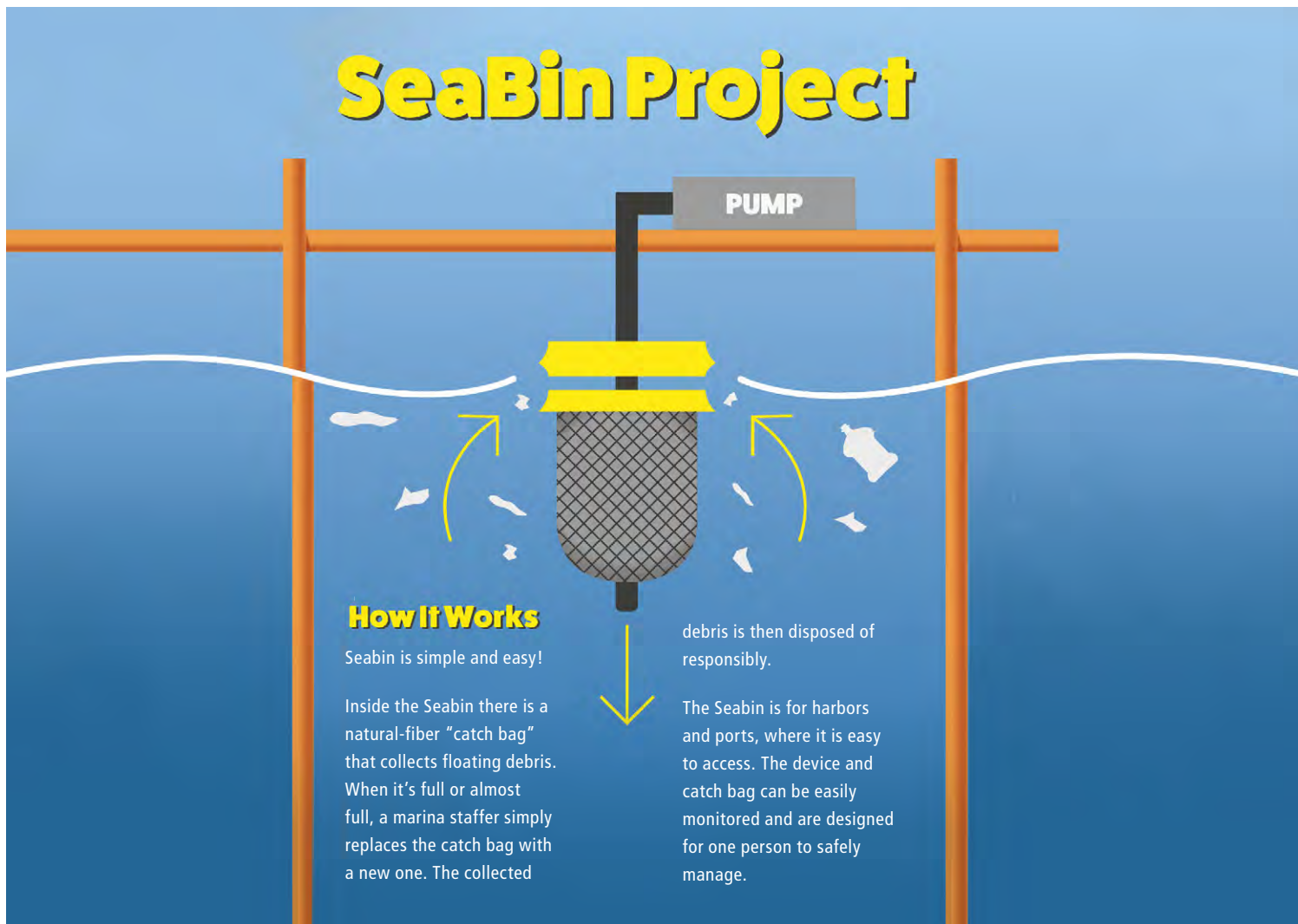
The *Seabin* can be installed on any floating dock or boat and is designed to work 24/7/365.

The water filtration system is much like what you'd find in a fish tank, but it has the potential

to scour and remove ocean trash. The *Seabin* can be installed on any floating dock or boat and is designed to suck up floating debris, effortlessly. The concept is simple: A bucket is connected to a water pump, which sucks in the trash to a removable mesh bag.

In addition, the *Seabin* can be fitted with an oil-water separator system that is designed to remove oil and detergents from the seawater before returning it to the ocean—pollution-free. [Here is a YouTube video](#) showing the *Seabin* in action.

"It essentially works as a similar concept to a pool filter's skimmer box," said Richard Talmage, a *Seabin* spokesman, who was interviewed by Australian 9 News. The *Seabin* was designed to



operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. In four years of testing, the device has never caught any fish or other marine life.

Turton and Ceglinski have spent a

decade perfecting their device and are turning to crowdfunding to finance the production of *Seabins* on a larger scale. "We want to build it in the most sustainable and ecologically responsible

way we can," Ceglinski told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. They hope the *Seabin* will support local economies as well as educate people about recycling of ocean trash. ★

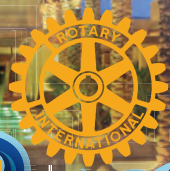
“This will not be your granddaddy’s Rotary conference!”



DISTRICT CONFERENCE 2018

MAY 17 - MAY 20

Better Together



Choreographed by

District Governor Cozette Vergari

Some things are just “Better Together”.
Chips & Salsa... Wine & Cheese... Lucy & Ricky...

Fred & Ginger.

May 17 - 20th, “swing” over to the District Conference for a jazzy, family friendly Rotary Weekend tango at the Hyatt Regency Indian Wells Resort & Spa. An entire weekend of Rotary fellowship and fun activities.

Join us and celebrate Rotary. We are BETTER TOGETHER!



**HYATT
REGENCY®
RESORT**

HYATT REGENCY INDIAN WELLS
RESORT & SPA
44-600 Indian Wells Lane
Indian Wells, CA 92210

BETTER TOGETHER, LIKE CHIPS & SALSA

By Lorine Parks (Downey),
Senior Correspondent

“THIS YEAR’S DISTRICT CONFERENCE WILL REALLY BE UNIQUE,” said Chair Diane DiMarco Davis (Downey). It will be held from May 17–20 at the Hyatt Regency in Indian Wells. “Everyone on the committee is dedicated to ensuring this is not your granddaddy’s Rotary conference!”

What are the best parts of a district conference: fellowship, learning, the sessions, the location?

“The question really is the answer,” commented Diane. “It’s all those things. But this year, the emphasis is on jocular, one of Paul Harris’s favorite terms.”

“You’ll see how this can happen at the ever-popular Friday Hospitality Night or at the Governor’s Ball on Saturday,” Diane said. “We invite clubs to demonstrate how we are better together. Costumes are encouraged! Better Together —continues

Make a Dream Come True!



MARCH 2018

Rotary
District 5280



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LEFT: Future DGs Melody St. John (Hollywood) and Bette Hall (Calabasas) at last year's western-themed conference. CENTER: At the 2017 District Conference Hospitality Night, Presidents-elect Dickie VanBreene (El Segundo) and Mark Burton (Manhattan Beach) co-hosted the Tequila Tasting Booth. RIGHT: Club honors are awarded at the conference. In 2016, Larry Bender (Hawthorne-LAX-Lennox), left, received the "Rotary International Distinguished Service Award." RI gives this award to only a select few members each year. PDG Doug Baker looks on.

—continues
examples are: Pizza & Beer, Chips and Salsa, The Rat Pack, or Queen Elizabeth & Prince Phillip. And if Rotarians do not want to dress up for the Governor's Ball, they are encouraged to 'dress to impress.'"

"To accommodate busy schedules," remarked Diane, "the conference will begin with brunch on Friday and there will be a focus on fellowship and celebration of both club and District accomplishments."

How many usually attend? "About 350 Rotarians, Interactors, Rotoractors, Young Professionals, Rotary Youth, and guests. In addition, our Rotary Exchange Students, and Rotary Global Scholars will attend.

There also will be special events for children (under 12), and they will attend the conference for free."

"We are working very hard to make this a really fun and informative conference that will interest all Rotarians," said Diane. "We will have plenary sessions on the Avenues of Service and there will also be other programs being presented simultaneously. You can attend sessions that appeal to you, either in a conference room or quite literally, in the pool."

The program also will include Young Professionals sessions and a very visual "I Empathize" walk-through display that will be up all weekend to shed more light on the DG's focus on Human Trafficking. There will

be ongoing film presentations focused on peace & conflict. This will give Rotarians many choices that will meet their individual interests.

How does the District Conference compare with an International Convention? "The District Conference is like a mini international conference," said Diane. "We'll be joined by the RI president's representative, who will share thoughts about both our District and RI. The biggest comparison is that our conference will give Rotarians the chance to meet other Rotarians and share what their clubs are doing. I love this aspect of the conference. I often walk away from the District Conference with new ideas and feel rejuvenated."

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"The event will be filled with fun and games . . . literally!" Diane explained. "We will be playing games 'Better Together,' in true Rotary fashion, during free time and between sessions. Like most Rotarians I love the Friday Hospitality Night. There is nothing more fun than sharing good food with your friends. Each club that participates will have a table to decorate with a theme. DG Cozette will be awarding prizes for the Best Food and Best Beverage (alcoholic or not)."

"In my opinion, Hospitality Night is the best way to meet Rotarians and collaborate," Diane commented. "I have no doubt that Hospitality Night 2018 will end up with lots of Rotarians on the dance floor."



"To honor DG Cozette," said Diane, "there will be a lot of dancing. Rotarians are invited to compete in "Rotary Dances Like the Stars," a duet dance competition. Couples can try out on Thursday and Friday and then compete in the finals on Saturday at the Governor's Ball. We

recommend that Rotarians find a dance partner now and start practicing their one minute routine. And, one of the dancers must be a Rotarian."

"Don't you hate it when you attend a conference at a beautiful resort and never have the time to enjoy the place? Not this year. Everything we have planned

will allow full use of the hotel and the beauty of the location. Indian Wells in May will be warm and comfortable. Rotarians who arrive at the conference on Thursday can participate in the golf tournament or take tours of local attractions.

What got you interested in Rotary, an ideal or a person? "Rich Strayer (Downey) was my Rotary sponsor but my father-in-law, Don Davis, was a Rotarian there and past club president, as well. Along with PDG Bill Bowermaster they have been a huge influence in my Rotary life. Bill encouraged me to get involved in Rotary on an international level. Since then I have had the great fortune to become friends with PDG Doug Baker and DGD Melody St. John. Doug encouraged me and my daughter, Elisabeth, to participate on the District Humanitarian trip to Colombia. Melody introduced me to both the Rotary Youth Exchange and Thousand Smiles, a South San Diego County Rotary project providing cleft palate and cleft lip surgery in Mexico."

"These amazing experiences have sparked my love for the international service part of Rotary," said Diane.

"I encourage all Rotarians to attend the District Conference," commented Diane. "New members really need to attend to see firsthand what Rotary really has to offer. There are so many great projects and events that are taking place around our District and the world." ★

MAKE YOUR CONFERENCE RESERVATIONS TODAY!

For more information
and to register for the
conference, [click here](#).

And don't forget
to book your room at
the Hyatt Regency
Indian Wells.
It's important to
stay on the conference
grounds to enjoy
all the events.
[Book today!](#)





IT JUST KEEPS GETTING BETTE(R) AND BETTE(R)

By Lorine Parks (Downey), Senior Correspondent



DGN Bette Hall is flanked by Chris Reyes and Sarah Furie

THIS IS A STORY THAT GOES BEYOND THE BIO AND THE CV, BECAUSE DGN BETTE HALL'S ACHIEVEMENTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN SO WELL DOCUMENTED.

IF ENTHUSIASM WEREN'T ENOUGH, BETTE HALL ALSO BRINGS TO HER FORTHCOMING DISTRICT LEADERSHIP POSITION AN UNDERSTANDING OF HUMAN NATURE CULLED FROM HER LIFE'S WORK IN HUMAN RESOURCES. IN A RECENT INTERVIEW, BETTE LET US SEE THE VIVACIOUS WOMAN BEHIND THE TITLES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

WHAT WERE THE FIRST ROTARY PROJECTS YOU PARTICIPATED IN OR TOOK CHARGE OF?

"Shortly after joining the Calabasas Club it was time for their Annual Senior Thanksgiving Luncheon at the Sagebrush Cantina. The person in charge was overwhelmed at work, so I found myself handling the event's logistics. I remember standing at the Sagebrush Cantina, holding my breath until all the buses arrived, and sighing with relief as the seniors got off those buses! During the 11 years I've led this event, it has continued to grow and delight everyone: seniors, Rotarians, community volunteers, and, of course, my grandsons!"

—continues





Bette Hall, second from left, with fellow Calabasas Rotarians at the 29th Thanksgiving Senior Luncheon in November 2017.



Bette with her grandsons spreading cheer at the Thanksgiving Senior Luncheon.



“A lesson
for us all:
Don’t neglect
our seniors.”
—Bette Hall

—continues
To Bette the
event is a part
of the meaning
of Rotary: “You
see our newer
members having
their ‘Rotary
Moment’ as

the seniors thank them and express
their joy at having somewhere
to go on a holiday in which they
would otherwise have been sitting
home alone. The day dawns early as
Rotarians and other volunteers cut up
pumpkin pies, plate salads and the
meal, and of course, socialize with the
seniors.”

“This is one of the most heartwarming
events that anyone can attend,” said
Bette. “A lesson for us all: Don’t
neglect our seniors. Too often our
focus is on other segments of our
community, and there is such a huge
need on our doorsteps.

“I’m so proud of my grandsons. They
worked so hard to make sure our
guests were taken care of by serving
drinks and spending time talking to
them! Thank you, Andrew and Ethan,
for sharing your smiles and time. And
thank you to all of our Rotarians, other

volunteers and the Sagebrush Cantina!
What a great Thanksgiving!! This
project is a huge success. It brings out
the best in everyone and gives them an
opportunity to give back to our
community.”

DOES BEING OUT IN CALABASAS GIVE YOU A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE THAN IF YOU WERE IN A DOWNTOWN CLUB?

“I don’t
think there is a difference, except that
it’s a smaller community. Our club
works closely with the Calabasas City
Council, and through them, we have
developed a Neighbors In Need (NIN)
program. While Calabasas is often
linked to those who are celebrities and
athletes, it is a city like every other,
with pockets of those in deep,
sometimes desperate need. We work
with the city to administrate the NIN
program.

HAVE YOU ALWAYS LIVED IN CALABASAS?

“I do not live in
Calabasas, but nearby in West Hills.
No, I certainly haven’t always lived
here, having been born and raised in
North London. I have lived in and
around West Hills most of my years in
the U.S. and consider this my home.
There are times when viewing a —

continues

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British television program that I get a pang of homesickness. But then I go back for a visit and realize, 'what was I thinking? Rainy, cold and damp!!!!' I am very fortunate to have my sons and their families close by in Agoura Hills and Simi Valley."

If we all lived by the words of the Four Way Test, . . . , our world would be a very different place.
—Bette Hall

WHAT GOT YOU INTERESTED IN ROTARY? WAS IT AN IDEAL OR A PERSON? "It was a person. I was fresh off the boat and Sherry Keowen took a chance and hired me.

We have remained close friends for almost 40 years, but she was also the one who took me to my first Rotary meeting."

"During my career, I spent a great deal of time traveling across the U.S. as well as overseas, so it was really hard to be part of an organization when I could not attend meetings. Like many others, before I went to my first meeting I had no clue what Rotary was about. The Calabasas Cub was struggling at that



DGN Bette is flanked by PDG Elsa Gillham, left, and Diane Nelson (Woodland Hill) as they view a display of medical equipment donated to Merida, Mexico during the 2017 District Humanitarian trip.

time and in need of members. The people I met, their ideals and ideas kept me coming back. And here I am!"

WHAT PROJECTS HAVE YOU BEEN INVOLVED WITH? I have had the honor to be the SAG Youth Services for the past three years, and what a joy it has been. Our younger members never cease to amaze me with their skills and dedication. I have been a part of the Youth Protection Training team for years. I was very instrumental in creating the policies and procedures manual and training

program in the old 5260 District, some of which have been adopted by this District.

As for favorite projects, there are so many I really enjoy. I love our Thanksgiving Luncheon, the Ethics Forum for Rotaractors, Angel City Celebration, Youth Conference, Chinese New Year's Parade, backpack project for the humanitarian trips, and the list can go on and on!

ANY QUOTES THAT YOU LIVE BY THAT HAVE CARRIED YOU THROUGH? "I think words to live by

are already spelled out in our Four Way Test. If we all lived by them, truly lived by them instead of just reciting them at meetings, our world would be a very different place. In addition, whenever life throws me a curve ball, and it has many times, it is just a case of picking oneself up and going on. Sometimes that British stiff-upper lip definitely comes out: a sense of humor, the ability to laugh at oneself, not take everything, including yourself, too seriously!"

What do you do for fun or a change of pace? "I love to watch my grandsons play sports, sometimes spending entire weekends on baseball fields, catching up and visiting family and friends. In those rare quiet moments I love to read and go to the theater. I also love to travel and have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to visit other countries and attend RI Conventions.

"As for other club memberships, not at this time, unless you count my book club, and I often don't have the time to read the books. Rotary keeps me plenty busy. However, during my career I was heavily involved with human resources associations and served on their executive boards. I also have served on the Salvation Army ARC board for a few years." —continues



—continues

WHAT WILL BE YOUR THEME IN 2020-21? It's little early to be looking at that. We already, as a District, have some incredible projects, which are often the envy of other districts. We also have extremely dedicated Rotarians who help make our District the success it is, along with very wise and always sharing PDGs.

WHAT ARE YOUR SOURCES OF STRENGTH? "My family! I am incredibly lucky to have two amazing sons, who are always ready to cheer me on and offer support no matter what I get into next. I've beautiful, kind, loving daughters-in-law, a granddaughter, grandsons, great-grandsons, and a sister who is always ready for a "shop-fuddle," as our mum used to say. Yes, we all really do enjoy each other's company. I've a very special extended family who all live within driving distance. Well,

that's debatable with the dreaded 101 and 405!"

WHAT STRENGTHS DO YOU BRING TO THE DG JOB? "A long and varied career in human resources has given me the opportunity to develop the skills and abilities that will assist me as DG. I also have held a variety of District and club positions that have given me additional knowledge pertinent to Rotary and, more specifically, our District. Since becoming a Rotarian I have developed a passion for the beliefs of what Rotary stands for along with a deep respect for other Rotarians."

"I liken being part of Rotary to an adventure and a journey that takes you to places you have never been. I want to continue on that journey, learning and doing new things and having more adventures along the way." ★

A long and varied career in human resources has helped Bette develop the skills and abilities that will assist her as DG.



Rotary angels at the 2017 Angel City Celebration. From th left are Nora MacLellan (Westchester), DGD Melody St. John (Hollywood), Bette Hall, and Kelly Bevan Spirer (Hollywood) at the Angel City Celebration.

**THERE'S A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY WAITING FOR YOU
at the 2018 Rotary International Convention**



TORONTO, CANADA | June 23-27, 2018

LAST DAY FOR PREREGISTRATION DISCOUNT: MARCH 31





win a trip to

DUBLIN

ireland

at the Rotary District 5280
St. Patrick's Day 5k Color Run to End Polio
Saturday, March 17, 10-2 at Griffith Park!

Register before March 1 and save! | [Visit our website](#) for details and to register

Run participants will receive a t-shirt, sunglasses, lunch, and a raffle ticket. Raffle prizes thus far are two round-trip tickets to Dublin, Ireland; a \$500 donation to the Rotary Foundation in your name; a 55" flat-screen television; wine baskets; toys; and other fun items. If you can't participate in the run, raffle tickets may be purchased from your club president or by sending an e-mail to 5280picnic@gmail.com.

You don't need to run to enjoy this event. It will be fun-filled day with barbecued hamburgers/hot dogs prepared by the Rotary Club of South Bay Sunrise; live music by The Ploughboys, a fun and talented Irish band; and fun activities/games for kids.

All proceeds will go to END POLIO NOW and will be matched two-to-one by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation!

[Email Wendy Clifford](#) at or call her at 213.369.6065 for raffle tickets or and information.

** This will be a travel voucher for \$2500 and can be used for any travel.*





Part II

GOATS EMPOWER IMPOVERISHED WOMEN IN NEPAL

By Lorine Parks (Downey)
Senior Correspondent

*Part I was featured in the
February issue*

**ROSALIND RUSSELL IS
PRESIDENT-ELECT OF THE E-CLUB
OF THE WEST. HER STORY COMES
DIRECTLY FROM HER BOOK,
"REACH TO PEACE," USED HERE
WITH PERMISSION. THIS IS THE
STORY OF ONE PERSON MAKING
A DIFFERENCE OF SUCH WORLD
MAGNITUDE THAT IT SEEMS
DIVINELY INSPIRED. TO TELL THE
NARRATIVE, HERE IS ROSALIND,
IN HER WORDS.**



Rotarian Rosalind Russell and her "adopted" son, Rabin, 15 years after their first meeting in 1988.

Our long and tedious days ended in the dark at Rabin's village, where we gave out our first goats. As we left, the villagers walked with us, adorning us with "malas," the equivalent of Hawaiian leis. Mind you, none of the villagers had a flower garden, so they had to hunt for flowers and then string them together. A

song was sung, with the drum as the only accompaniment. Later, I learned the words of the song, "We were blessed the day you were born." They did know not know, but it was actually my birthday as they sang to me. Even Rabin did not know, as generally birthdays are not celebrated in Nepal.

I returned home to Laguna Beach, CA grateful for the generosity of donors who trusted me. I knew nothing about such a large undertaking, yet Rabin and I had moved forward naively and bravely.

Later, at home, I realized that goats were not the only need, that —continues



—continues
a school was needed, too. I had witnessed coal-smudged thumb prints, because

“Where there is a woman with a will, there is a way.”

—Rosalind Russell

the women were illiterate. So over the next year and a half we gathered information about building costs. Neither of us knew a thing about building a school,

engineering plans, and the government rules and regulations. It was slow and monotonous, but we didn't stop. We knew the need. Rabin had been a teacher and a broadcaster, and he is passionate about education. And once again I was willing to take on something I had no knowledge of. I would just “do it.” Where there is a woman with a will, there is a way.

I returned to Nepal in 2005 with goats for two more villages in another rural area, while we continued with our plans to build the school. I was approached by men from distant villages who wanted us to come and help their women. Apparently, word was out, about how we distributed goats and offered micro-financing at a low rate. I was surprised that the men approached me and spoke politely in Nepali before speaking to my



Top of the World School, Wojetar village, District of Kavre.

son. Rabin always smiled and translated to afford us all easier conversations.

On that trip Rabin showed me family land he could donate. It was in Wojetar, about two hours from Kathmandu. There we could build a school for 200 children, pre-school to the 5th grade. Land is enormously expensive in Nepal, more than in Laguna Beach, if you can fathom that.

The need for the school? Leaving poverty is the answer. Plus, children are often taken from families to serve the terrorists, and men were absent in the villages because of continuous warfare, leaving all the agricultural work to the old men and the women. Children work in the fields with no expectation of a life beyond severe poverty and continued starvation because of their meager diets.

It is said, educate a boy and we have a man who takes care of his family. When a girl is educated, she educates ALL of her children and helps save her village from vanishing, which is a considerable matter in Third World Countries.

We literally went door to door of the homes of the nearly 1,000 villagers to asking them to —continues



—continues
allow their daughters to attend with
a scholarship. They see no reason to

The children
in Nepal
made
flags with
messages of
peace and
sent them to
children in
America.

educate the
females. There is
a 92% illiteracy
rate among
rural women.
Rotary offers
literacy classes,
which our rural
women clamor
for all the time.
It is the most
desired training
we provide for

them. We also asked Patan South club
for sanitation stations and toilets at our
village school.

There is no electricity. Let me tell you,
a country without electricity is VERY
dark. To avoid being shot by Army patrols
or Maoists, we walked in the dark on the
goat paths with the possibility of falling
a thousand feet. What safety? I couldn't
see my feet, let alone where I was walking.
From time to time Rabin would light a
match. With every step forward I kept
thinking, "I need owl eyes or bat power."

Before the school was completed, we
began another sweet adventure:
promoting peace for the village. It was

my idea to have a peace class taught
daily. We started with peace quotes, such
as Indira Ghandi's, "You cannot shake
hands with a clenched fist."

The children in Nepal made flags with
messages of peace and sent them to
children in America, who in turn sent
flags back to Nepal: "An eye for an eye
only makes the whole world blind"—
Mohandas Gandhi. "First keep the peace
within yourself, then you can also bring
peace to others"—Thomas à Kempis.
Teaching children about each other
keeps them from wishing to harm others
in their adulthood. The purpose of this
project was to get closer to peace in our
world via children.

**As 2017 ended, a greenhouse was
added** in each of 30 villages in Nepal.
RStarFoundation furnished them at a
cost of \$800. The greenhouses offer year-
round organic farming, adding to the
meager income as well as good, healthy
food for their diet. The villagers 'elect' the
woman or family to be the recipient. The
women are widowed or single because
they were never married or dismissed
after having been married. They get the
least care and suffer the most. We try to
help the most marginalized in the society.
We train the women how to sprout the
seeds and start their gardening.



Rosalind and her goats have changed lives and attitudes in Nepal.

Approximately 90% of the homes in
Nepal were destroyed in the major (7.8
and 7.3) earthquakes of April and May
2015. Three days following the 7.9 quake,
our field team, led by Rabin, reached
two of the 48 hardest-hit villages with
beans, rice, tea, and sugar. Additionally,
Rabin brought in temporary housing of
heavy plastic sheeting to ward off the
inclement weather, as only five percent
of the destroyed homes had been rebuilt.

Rosalind was 43-years-old when she
first went to Nepal. She is now 73. She
feels sure she can make another trip to
Nepal, maybe more. "I have no ailment
to stop me. I would go right now, but I
need a gifted ticket." Her son, Rabin, is
not a child any more but 41, and with
others now carry on her work. As she
said, "their meeting in Durbar Square
30 years ago was a Divine meeting, the
sweetest chance meeting in my life." ★





Welcome to the Philippines!

BRINGING SMILES TO THE PHILIPPINES

Ben Aranda (Historic Filipinotown),
SAG International

THE HISTORIC FILIPINOTOWN CLUB, headed by International Chair Past-President Cecile Ramos, has completed its second year of Operation Smile in the Philippines. The successful and life-changing event for about 35 children was made possible by funding from Rotary clubs in the United States and Philippines, together with local Filipino organizations and individuals. Historic Filipinotown helped solicit funds, and four members took time away from family to provide on-site, hands-on assistance with the project. They were President Marc Caratao, Club International Chair Cecile, President-elect and Treasurer Macky Fortu, and Jun Gonong, whose affiliation with the host club and other political figures made the project feasible.

—continues

OPERATION SMILE, PHILIPPINES

Date: November 7–11, 2017

Location:

Gov. Roque B. Ablan Sr., Memorial
Hospital, Laoag Ilocos, Norte

Sponsors:

- Rotary Club of Historic
Filipinotown
- Rotary Club of Lancaster Sunrise
D5300
- Rotary Club of Laoag Metro Ilocos
Norte D3790
- Rotary Club of Manhattan Beach
- Edwin Duterte
- Historic Filipinotown
Neighborhood Council, USA
- Operation Smile Philippines



(Above) Ilocos Norte's Governor Imee Marcos, center, daughter of former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos.

(Below) Welcome reception.

—continues

This was a collaborative effort between the host club, Laoag, led by President-elect Joven Dayno and President Nominee Marilyn Gonong Bismonte, who organized and managed the logistics, and OperSmile PH. A team of approximately 30 volunteers, accredited by Operation Smile, Inc., included plastic

surgeons, anesthesiologists, pediatricians, dentists, nurses, speech pathologist, biomedical technician, patient imaging technician, and program coordinator along with their executive director, Gian Trebol. All medical and dental supplies, medicine, and transport of equipment for pre- and post-surgery were included. Their commitment was exemplary.

Paoay Mayor Jessie Galano, who provided private transportation and welcomed the delegation with an inordinate reception, acknowledged the Rotarians. Also, the mayor made it possible for Ilocos Norte's governor, Imee Marcos, to recognize the Rotary clubs' efforts and dedication in making a difference in their children's lives. ★





*Peter Lattey (Downtown L.A.)
created a "PEACE" sculpture that was
auctioned off for \$1,900, with proceeds
going to the Rotary Peace Centers.*



*Environmental Sustainability, and Peace
10 February 2018 — Vancouver, Canada*

RI PEACE CONFERENCE: CHALLENGES FOR CREATING A PEACEFUL WORLD

By Vicki Radel (Redondo Beach), PDG,
District Peace Chair and Community Peace Ambassador

800+ PASSIONATE ROTARIANS and friends gathered in Vancouver in early February to learn about the challenges and seize the opportunities to create a more peaceful world through environmentally sustainable efforts. Members of the District 5280 Peace Committee attended this Presidential Conference on Environmental Sustainability and Peace.

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS WERE:

- RI President Ian Riseley;
- Environmental expert Dr. David Suzuki, recipient of UNESCO's Kalinga Science Prize and the UN environment Program Medal;
- Dr. Jonathan Patz, lead author for the UN Intergovernmental Panel —continues



—continues

There will be a Rotary Peace Summit in Toronto two days before the RI Convention in June.

on Climate Change, the organization's co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007; and

- Maria Rodale, CEO of the Rodale Institute, a nonprofit working farm that specializes in agricultural research.

Each speaker enthusiastically urged us to improve environmental conditions now as a fundamental component of fostering peace within all communities.

A HIGHLIGHT OF THE CONFERENCE were the sessions on "Positive Peace," which included the attitudes, institutions, and structures that create and sustain peaceful societies and The Global Peace Index, which measures the state of peace based on 23 qualitative and quantitative

indicators. Another workshop explored the Eight Pillars of Positive Peace:

- sound business environment
- high levels for human capital,
- good relations with neighbors
- acceptance of the rights of others,
- low levels of corruption
- free flow of information,
- well-functioning government
- equitable distribution of resources.

District 5280 PDG Paul Netzel, now Trustee Chair RI Foundation, gave an update on the Rotary Peace Centers, which enable 100 Peace Fellows annually to earn degrees in Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution. The Hawthorne Club's Steve Goldsmith facilitated a breakout session on "No Sustainability, No Peace." Other District Rotarians in attendance were: Len Bonilla (El Segundo), Mikiko Nakasone (Little Tokyo), and District 5280-sponsored Peace Fellow Scott Martin.

EACH OF THE SIX PRESIDENTIAL PEACEBUILDING CONFERENCES IN 2018 will link Rotary International's five other areas of focus including:

- Disease Prevention and Treatment
- Water and Sanitation
- Maternal and Child Health
- Basic Education and Literacy
- Economic and Community Development, with Peace.

In addition, there will be a Rotary Peace Summit in Toronto two days before the RI Convention in June. ★



Save The Date
SATURDAY APRIL 14, 2018

ROTARY COMMUNITY PEACE CONFERENCE APRIL 2018

WAGING PEACE: PERSPECTIVES FOR ACTION

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



Program includes:

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

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

When: Saturday, April 14, 2018

Time: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

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

Contact: Makiko Nakasone
Email: LittleTokyoRotaryClub@gmail.com





Membership Nook:
**A BOOMING WAY
 TO GROW ROTARY**

By Kathleen Terry (Manhattan Beach), SAG Membership

IT FEELS LIKE everyone's talking about how to attract young professionals and millennial employees, but the Baby Boomer population matches both Gen X and Gen Y. And even though they're getting older, they're not necessarily retiring soon:

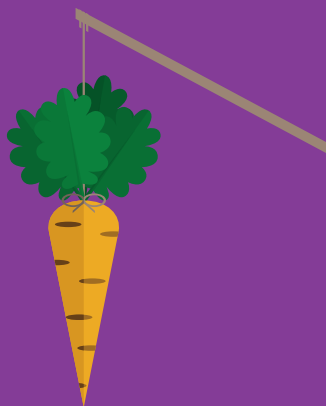
- Only one-quarter plan to retire at age 64 or younger
- Nearly 40% won't retire until they're at least 66
- 10% don't plan to ever retire

—continues



WHAT ARE THE CARROTS THAT MIGHT ATTRACT THESE FIVE GENERATIONS TO ROTARY MEMBERSHIP?

- The Greatest Generation: Prior to 1946 age 71 and older
- The Baby Boom Generation: 1946-64, ages 52-70
- Generation X: 1965-1980, ages 37-51
- Generation Y, also known as the Millennials: 1980-1997, ages 19-36
- Generation Z: those born after 1997, those under age 19



—continues

Baby Boomers are still a substantial part of the workforce. Do you have the right recruitment strategies for this generation?

OLDER AND WISER. Born between 1946 and 1964, boomers are typically well-established in their careers and have a lot of wisdom and experience to bring to the table. They're known for their strong work ethic and tend to be more interested in staying with one company for a long time.

So your approach to recruitment for this generation is going to look very different when compared to the way you approach millennials. With Gen Y, the carrot you dangle is usually the opportunity for career growth. But boomers are much farther along in their career, so they're interested in jobs that recognize what they already have—both in the form of title and salary.

And even though they might not retire soon (or at all), Baby Boomers are closer to that point than the younger groups, so they're more likely to be interested in financial stability and a strong retirement package. They'll also be looking for healthcare benefits that will fit their needs as an older generation.

STAYING FLEXIBLE AND MOBILE. At the same time, don't assume that Baby Boomers can't or won't keep up with changing technology just because they're older. Nearly half of them search for jobs on mobile—not too far behind the 70% of millennials and Gen Xers who do the same. So trust their capabilities and use the same platforms to reach them that you use for the younger generations.

Also like their younger counterparts, 87% of boomers want flexibility at work. Their reasons might be different—some are taking care of elderly parents, while others seek the kind of personal time they would get in retirement but offer them the same types of flexible arrangements as the younger generations.

And don't neglect their workplace development. Baby Boomers have plenty of experience under their belts, but they still need learning and growth opportunities to keep them engaged and up-to-date on the job. Take advantage of the mix of generations you have in **the** workforce—different groups with different experiences have a lot to teach one another. Collaboration and mentoring will bring them together in rewarding ways.

The recruitment strategies you use for Baby Boomers will differ from what you do to attract younger generations, but they don't have to conflict. You can recruit and retain the different groups by paying attention to their priorities and needs.

Rotary's future will be largely determined by our success in diversifying our clubs and learning how to appeal to all generations.

If you want more information on this topic or membership support contact Kathleen Terry, SAG Membership, at terrymanna2@gmail.com, or at 310.545.4046. ★





(Left) Part of the 50 Interactors and Rotaractors who made 100 WAPIS on February 11. (Right) WAPI under construction!

WHAT'S A WAPI?

EVER HEARD OF A WAPI? WAPI stands for Water Pasteurization Indicator, which is a small thermometer consisting of a transparent tube and wax. This thermometer indicates when water has reached pasteurization temperature and is safe to drink. Pasteurization destroys dangerous pathogens that cause diseases in drinking contaminated water.

It's hard for most high school and college students to get up early on Sunday. Nevertheless, 50 Interactors and Rotaractors met at Da Vinci High School in El Segundo early on February 11 to make 100 WAPIS.

The event brought teens and young adults, ages 12–30, together for a joint service project. Interactors

and Rotaractors came from all across the District, representing multiple schools and towns. Both groups have wonderful youth programs and service projects in the District, but rarely team up. After everyone arrived and watched the how-to video, four assembly lines formed and participants got to work. Even though the tasks started to become repetitive and mundane, there were smiling faces all around. Interactors and Rotaractors were able to talk with friends and meet new people.

THE GOAL WAS TO MAKE 200 WAPIS, but with limited supplies and time, only 100 were made. There was talk of doing another service event soon to finish 100 more and continue our partnership. Afterward,

participants talked about how accomplished they felt. They enjoyed working on a project that was hands-on and enjoyed learning a skill. Plus, it always feels good to make something that will directly affect someone else's life for the better.

Peter Lattey from the Downtown Los Angeles Club has a contact with the Suni Migoria Club in Kenya. He will take the finished WAPIs to them, and 100 more families will have access to clean drinking water, thanks to the youth of District 5280.

Learn more about District 5280 Rotaract [here](#), and follow District 5280 Rotaract and Interact on Facebook. ★

A SEA OF INTERACTORS in red shirts and black pants, along with some Rotaractors, advisors, and Rotarians, celebrated the Chinese New Year, Year of the Dog, by walking in the Chinese New Year Parade in LA's Chinatown. It was a wonderful sight to see all these young people, with a few Rotarians scattered into the mix, very proudly walking along carrying the District's, Interact and Rotaract banners and our country's flag.

The flag bearer was very careful to acknowledge flag etiquette by not letting the banner drag along the ground. No mean feat for some of our smaller Interactors when the wind is blowing. Those flags get heavy toward the end of the parade. But no complaints. In fact, I heard one young lady from Beverly High School say, "Let's go round again!" She had so much fun!

CHEERS RANG OUT along the three mile route, with more than 100 Interactors and Rotaractors waving



Chinese New Year's Parade: **ROTA CTORS AND INTERACTORS SHOW THE DISTRICT'S COLORS**

By PGN Bette Hall (Calabasas), SAG Youth Services

enthusiastically to the crowds lining the streets, and at times singing and calling out "Rotary, Interact, Rotaract" and the names of their schools. They included: Hawthorne Lennox High

School, Lennox Academy, Da Vinci Science, South East High School, Beverly High School, Koreatown Community Interact, and Hawthorne Lennox and Marymount Rotaract

Clubs. It was a day the District and our youth clubs were definitely recognized in Chinatown.

—continues



—continues

HOW PROUD IT MADE ME FEEL to be part of this amazing group of young people, walking along with them, seeing their enjoyment. Our future is in very good hands with our Interactors and Rotaractors.

A big thank you to Edwin Maldonado, immediate past District Rotaract representative, who along with his wife and two former Hawthorne Lennox Rotaractors, Rogelio Diaz and Sarah Diaz, brought 43 Interactors. Thank you Edwin and your beautiful wife, Jessica, for all you have done and continue to do. Dom Cotton got together a group from South East High School, and Les Bronte had Interactors from Beverly High School.

Next year let's see double the number of walkers! If you have never been to the Chinese New Year's Parade, put it on your 2019 calendar. The 2018-19 SAG Youth Services Laine Caspi and her daughter Neve took part as well, are looking forward to taking part in this colorful, joyful parade next year!

What an amazing day! Thank you to all who participated! ★



Carson Gardena Dominguez

15th Annual GRAND PRIX

Thursday, April 19, 2018 | 6 PM

Go Kart World | 21830 Recreation Road, Carson CA

Team entry fee: \$325 (up to 6 drivers) | Team pit crew: \$15 per person
*Dinner & beverage is included.

Applications due April 15. Team spots are limited.
Submit your application today.

rotarycgd.org

Contact Christopher Childers
chrsdsgn@gmail.com | 562.607.5725



Imaginative Club Project

GO-KARTING FOR DOLLARS

By Lorine Parks (Downey,) Senior Correspondent

GO KART RACING. A fun and competitive activity, where a team drives a mini-racing car with a skeleton body on a special track. This is how three Rotary clubs raise money for community service projects. The

winning team is awarded the Grand Prix Cup.

"Even if you are not racing or don't know anyone racing," said Sweeney Mae Montinola, president of the

Carson-Gardena-Dominguez Club, "you can still attend, meet new people and cheer for any team and then have beer and pizza with us after the race!"

Expect plenty of friendly —continues





The 14th Annual Grand Prix at Go Kart World, Carson, in 2017.



—continues

but cutthroat competition at Go-Kart World on Thursday, April 19, in Carson. “The Grand Prix event was started 15 years ago by Chris Childers, currently our club’s president-elect,” commented Sweeney. “So I guess you can say he is an old-timer.”

Does practicing help? “Absolutely! The teams are encouraged to get together on their own time to practice on the track. Chris typically arranges

a practice time for teams that are interested.”

HOW DOES THE EVENT MAKE MONEY? Entry fees and sponsorships: \$15 for general admission and the team entry fee is \$425. “We are a smaller club,” said Sweeney, “and even with most hands on deck, there have always been challenges with finding the extra time to raise more money. We really appreciate clubs that sign up to participate. —continues



The coveted Rotary Grand Prix Cup with names of the winners since 2005.



MEET THE MARKETING GENIUS BEHIND THIS ANNUAL GRAND PRIX AND OTHER SUCCESSFUL EVENTS

Sweeney Mae Montinola, president of the Carson-Gardena-Dominguez

Club, is the marketing director for the South Bay Pavilion in Carson. She has a reputation for staging spectacularly successful community events, and her book, *Ten Step Guide to Organizing Events*, tells how she does it.

Her name is a combination of "Sweet" and "Honey." Her parents thought it was cute and added "Mae," because everyone in the Philippines has two names.

Sweeney is also VP of marketing for LAPIFF (Los Angeles Philippine International Film Festival) and was also a VP of communications for WBC (Women's Business Council of Long Beach). She's a board member of Gardena-Carson YMCA and HEAL (Healthy Eating, Active Living).

What got her interested in Rotary? "I was invited to speak at the Carson Gardena Dominguez club. Then I was invited to join them for lunch again, and I got to know the members better and decided to join.

"I've been a member for four years, and I still have so much to learn about Rotary and even about my fellow Rotarians. It's always good to belong to an organization where we are constantly learning and gaining knowledge."

—continues

"We raise money for our Scholarship Luncheon, Operation Gobble, Operation Santa, and Back to School giveaways," she added. "We post it on our website, social media, District newsletter, and other local media, and about 80 people come out to the race.

"The Grand Prix Cup is used to promote this as a team-building experience," commented marketing-mastermind Sweeney. "A team has to have at least four participants but no more than

six. The team must complete 120 laps total, and the rules require members to switch drivers in the midst of the race.

"We've been challenging the Paramount Club for a while because they have taken the trophy home for several years, and we want it back. In 2017, the Odd Fellows won! The event was originally only open to Rotary Clubs, but we now allow other organizations and community-minded businesses to create teams."

"After the races we have a gala dinner. Besides the championship cup, Stub Hub donates VIP tickets to soccer games and the local Doubletree by Hilton provides a complimentary overnight stay. The event starts at 5 p.m. with dinner and prizes drawings."

"We invite club presidents to form a team and compete with other clubs. If you are interested, please contact Christopher Childers at ChrsDsgn@gmail.com or call 562.607.5727. We hope you can make it!" ★





CLUB 62

News from District 5280 Clubs



Beverly Hills launched The Beverly Hills Treble Makers! to Music Mends Minds. Pictured are Michael G. Lushing, John Mirisch, Sharona R. Nazarian, Steven Weinglass, Myra Lurie, James Jahant, Rhoda J. Sharp, AJ Willmer, Debra Judelson, and Justin Raanan, DDS, MMSc.

—continues



—continues



LACedars provided volunteers for their Kitchen Day at Project Angel Food on February 25.



Santa Clarita Valley Rotarians spent Valentine's Day at Pleasantview Industries, a local organization that provides training and support to adults with developmental disabilities.



Club Rotario De Latinos Unidos
Invites you to join us at our
18th Annual Mariachi USA Fundraiser



Saturday, June 23, 2018

"Pre-Party" (food & drinks) promptly from 12 PM – 3:00 PM

Blanco Park
5801 Sawtelle Blvd.
Culver City CA 90230
(Cross Street Jefferson Blvd. / Behind Toys R Us)

"Party Bus" departs @ 3:00 p.m. (Sharp)

\$135.00 per person (21 and over only)

(Pre-Party Food & Drinks (Includes Alcohol), Transportation to and from Hollywood Bowl, and Mariachi Ticket)

Non-Refundable deposit of \$75.00 per Ticket **due by March 15th** to reserve your ticket(s)
and
Ticket balance **due by May 15th**

Questions? Please contact: Brenda Jaramillo—at 310-218-9578 or by email bjaramillo@crlu.org

Please make checks payable to CRLU

(Indicate member who sold you the tickets on your check) and mail to:

Tower Insurance c/o Gerardo Jaramillo 4244 Overland Avenue Culver City, CA 90230



All proceeds support Club Rotario de Latinos Unidos High School Scholarships and various projects throughout the year!

—continues





Santa Clarita Valley will be serving up their famous peach cobbler with ice cream at the Cowboy Festival in Newhall. Absolutely delicious!



Studio City-Sherman Oaks will hold its semi-annual Art Show on May 12–13.

Lester Silverman, Manhattan Beach optometrist and Rotarian, died in a drowning accident, recently while on vacation in Jamaica. ★



OTHER NEWS

from District 5280



2018 Rotary Exchange Students preparing for their year abroad. ★





MAKE A DREAM COME TRUE

Published monthly by Rotary District 5280.
Submit material by the 20th of the month prior to publication to Michael Turner at bearsworth@earthlink.net.

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