



Imagine

Rotary District 5280
Greater Los Angeles
November 2016

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IMAGINE The 2016 District Youth Conference. *See page 10*

IMAGINE / NOVEMBER 2016



Published monthly
by Rotary District 5280.

Submit material by the 20th of
the month prior to publication
to Michael Turner at
bearsworth@earthlink.net.



Greg O'Brien
District Governor
Palos Verdes Peninsula

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

Michael S. Turner, Woodland Hills
Senior Assistant Governor Communications

Christine Barnicki, Palos Verdes Peninsula
IMAGINE Editor/Art Direction/Graphic Design

Lorine Parks, Downey
IMAGINE Senior Correspondent

Gidas Peteris, Beverly Hills
Linton Morgan, Inglewood
Photographers

DISTRICT OFFICE

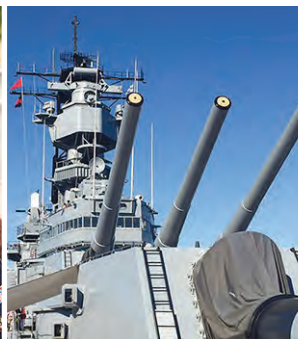
Tori Hettinger, Westchester
District Administrator

8939 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Suite 210
Los Angeles CA 90045 310.670.9792

Office@Rotary5280.org Rotary5280.org



Youth Conference, Pg. 10



Foundation Gala, Pg. 13



Coats for Kids, Pg. 17



Vision to Learn, Pg. 21

DISTRICT CALENDAR

November

- 9 Rotary RV Tour Mixer with YPs
- 16 USC/UCLA Tailgate Lunch
- 30 District Meet & Greet

December

- 3 PREP School for PETS *(Pg. 8)*
- 10 Angel City Giveaway

January

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

February

- 28 District Breakfast

March

- 4 Stop Childhood Sex Trafficking Workshop
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- 11 Pageant of the Arts *(Pg. 21)*

April

- 18 District Breakfast
- 28–30 RYLA

May

- 4–7 District Conference, Lake Arrowhead

June

- 3 District Assembly, Carson Community
Center
- 10–14 Rotary International Convention, Atlanta



IMAGINE: MUSIC TO MY EARS

—by District Governor Greg O'Brien

Past Rotary International President Cliff Dochterman likes to compare the role of District Governor to an orchestra conductor. The committees, events, and club visits all require a measure of direction, but it is the Rotarian musicians

that create the symphony. Though lacking a tux, I often think about this as

**In coming issues, I will use this space
at times to highlight great ideas
for service projects.**

I head out to visit a club. Have I packed my sheet music? Will my chief of staff, Jerry Brown, remember to bring the baton? Will the strings, horns, woodwinds, and percussion all be ready for a preliminary board meeting with the conductor? After more than 50 club visits, I have not been disappointed.

My wife, Carolyn, often accompanies me. We have agreed that the memories of club visits will remain with us for a lifetime. The members have been uniformly warm and gracious to us. Their club leaders have been eager to share some of the highlights of their year. We have been inspired and humbled by the remarkable array of activities taking place in our clubs.

Elsewhere in this issue we turn the spotlight on two clubs' project. "Coats for Kids" is a low-cost, high-result project in which the Woodland

Hills and Glendale Sunrise Clubs collect hundreds of coats, jackets, and sweaters left behind by students in local schools every June. After a free cleaning by area dry cleaners, the items are recycled through local nonprofits to children who are less fortunate. What a great project: So simple, yet so effective.

In coming issues, I will use this space at times to highlight great ideas we have seen for service projects, fellowship, fundraising, and membership attraction. Meanwhile, here are a few:

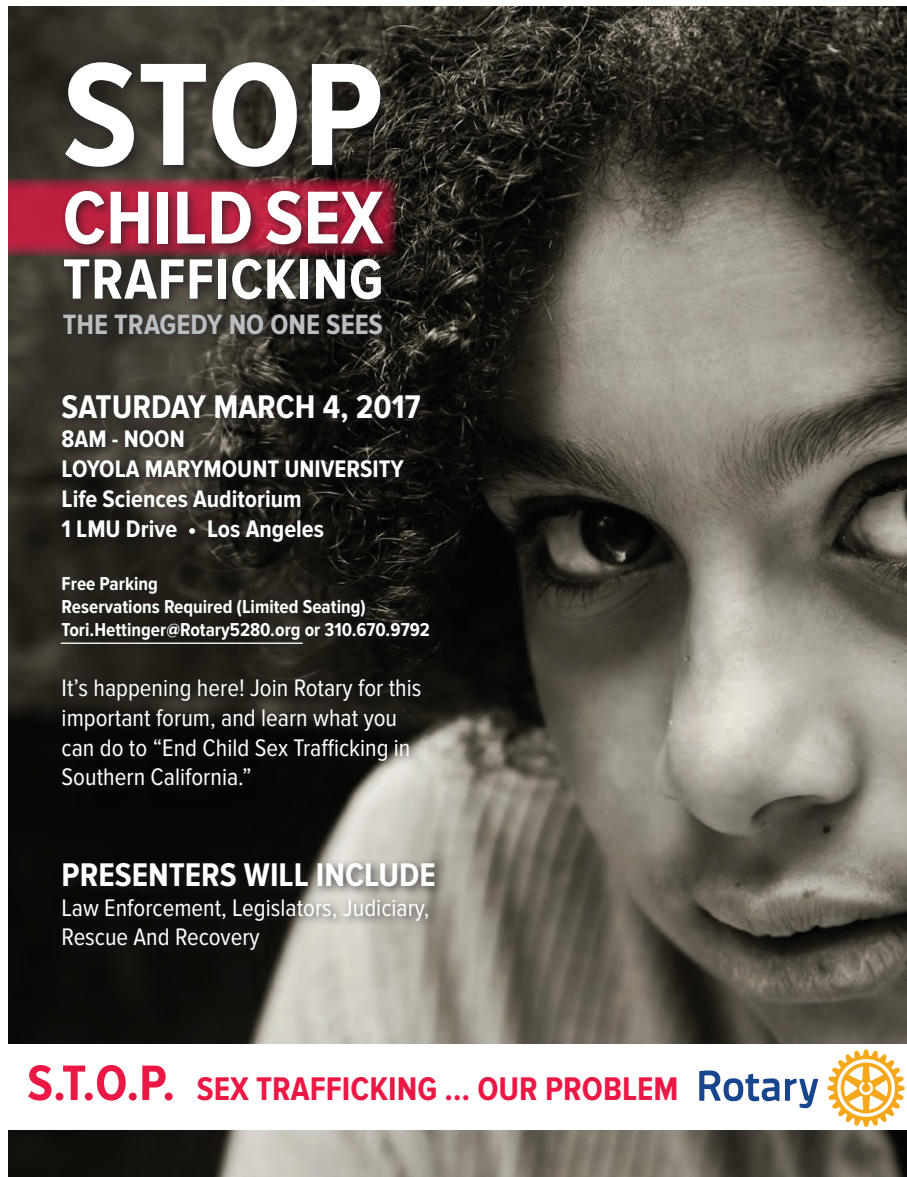
- Santa Clarita Valley annually raises \$10,000 by cooking and selling hugely popular, homemade "Cowboy (peach) Cobbler" to the public as part of the community's Cowboy Festival.
- Glendale Noon sponsors an annual Jewel City Fun and Fitness Day that includes a police-escorted family bike ride, urban hike and children's scavenger hunt, community picnic, rock-climbing wall, and a load of games and other activities. Net profit: \$38,000.
- Granada Hills gives out sportsmanship awards to deserving students based on the recommendations of their coaches.

—continues on next page

—*Imagine: Music to My Ears, continues from previous page*

- Santa Monica sponsors a project called “Rotary Reads to Kids.” Each year during “Rotary Reads Week,” members of the club read to students in grades K–3.
- During the holidays, Torrance Del Amo travels to Tijuana, Mexico, to distribute toys, clothing, and blankets to disabled children. “Dia de Reyes” features colorfully garbed Rotarian “Three Kings” of scripture, who help distribute the gifts to the always excited youngsters.
- The Granada Hills, Santa Monica, Playa Venice Sunrise, and Westchester Clubs have assembled impressive packets of Rotary materials, including much club information for prospective new members. Their later efforts at Rotary training and integration into their clubs are equally impressive.
- Los Angeles Cedars has agreed to maintain the median strip on Highland Avenue, where it will erect a traditional Rotary sign. A few months ago, the club used a District Grant to place a Rotary park bench at the base of the Hollywood sign. No doubt the community is learning what Rotary is.
- Whatever their secret recipe may be, other clubs take note: Lawndale has seven young professionals among its 17 members and Burbank Noon has 11. At both of these clubs the YPs are not members of satellites, but meet with the rest of the club. I have met many of them. What a great burst of energy they are for Rotary.

It's time for intermission. Musicians, take a bow. *Imagine Rotary. Build it and they will come.* ■



STOP

CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING


THE TRAGEDY NO ONE SEES

SATURDAY MARCH 4, 2017
8AM - NOON
LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY
Life Sciences Auditorium
1 LMU Drive • Los Angeles

Free Parking
 Reservations Required (Limited Seating)
Tori.Hettinger@Rotary5280.org or 310.670.9792

It's happening here! Join Rotary for this important forum, and learn what you can do to “End Child Sex Trafficking in Southern California.”

PRESENTERS WILL INCLUDE
 Law Enforcement, Legislators, Judiciary,
 Rescue And Recovery

S.T.O.P. SEX TRAFFICKING ... OUR PROBLEM Rotary 



ACHIEVING AN OLYMPIC-LIKE LIFE

—by Michael Turner (Woodland Hills),
SAG Communications

Becoming an Olympic champion requires dedication, hard work, perseverance, and a can do attitude. We learned this at the October District Breakfast, where we heard from a panel of three Olympic medalists.

At 21, Candace Cable was in an auto accident that resulted in a spinal cord injury. She was confined to a wheelchair which made her angry and bitter. A year after feeling sorry for herself she realized she needed therapy.

As part of improving

her health Candace

began swimming, which
built up her endurance.

At the same time, she

learned about wheelchair racing and started hanging out with other racers.

"For the first time since the accident, I felt a sense of belonging and the racing gave me a real sense of accomplishment," said Candace.

"Sports is a universal language and I began to break down the barriers that kept me from fully participating in life," commented Candace. "Sports saved my life."

Candace was ranked number one nationally in wheelchair racing competition from 1984 to 1990. Internationally, she won 75 marathons,

including six Boston Marathons (1981, '82, '85, '86, '87, and '88) and set world records in every distance throughout her 21-year career. Winning two Olympic medals in three Summer Olympic Games, Candace participated in the only exhibition event for the disabled. Additionally, she has won nine gold medals in five Summer Paralympic Games.

Serving others is an important part of being an Olympic athlete, commented Candace. She has devoted her time and energy to building a lighter wheelchair to enhance an athlete's performance on the track. "These improvements also benefit everyone who uses a wheelchair because they provide better control on city streets, especially when negotiating corners," said Candace.

Haley Anderson ran her first 25K open water race in Canada and it took six hours. "I hated it," said Haley. "But eventually I grew to love the sport." Just like Candace, Haley soon connected with other open water swimmers. "We're a really close-knit family."

Her international career began at the 2009 Junior Pan Pacs, where she won gold in the 800m and 1500m. She went onto qualify for the 2009 World Championships, finishing 28th in the 800m and 9th in the 1500m. In 2010

—continues on next page

—Achieving an Olympic-like Life, continues from previous page



DG Greg O'Brien with, from the left, Olympians Haley Anderson, Janet Evans, and Candace Cable.

Haley began showing her prowess in open water, finishing 4th in the 10K at the Pan Pacific Championships.

Haley then qualified for the 2012 London Olympics in the 10K event winning silver. "It was a WOW moment with 30 family members and friends who came to support me," said Haley. "I worked hard to get to London. It was a wonderful experience and adding to it was spending time with my family, especially my sister Alyssa, who won a gold in swimming at the London Olympics," commented Haley.

At the 2016 Olympics in Rio Haley missed winning a medal by 48.1 seconds, finishing in 5th place. "It was an incredible experience, especially living in the Olympic Village. I connected with people who had similar interests and goals."

Janet Evans won her first Olympic medals, three golds, at the 1988 Seoul Olympics. "Winning them was important, but what created a great feeling of satisfaction was sharing my Olympic experiences with others, especially inspiring children to set their sights on becoming Olympians," said Janet.

Janet is considered to be the greatest female distance swimmer in history. In 1987, when she was 15, Janet burst onto the international swimming scene, breaking world records in the 400m, 800m and the 1500m freestyle. A year later at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, she won three gold medals. Her 400 freestyle victory was a world record.

"What most people don't realize is that only 10% of the athletes who compete at the Olympics win medals," commented Janet. "Being a successful Olympian requires setting and meeting incremental goals. At the same time you must have fun," said Janet.

The lessons we learned from Candace, Haley and Janet at the breakfast can easily be applied to our own lives. Although we might not become Olympic medalists, we can still be champions in whatever we do. And, second, we can serve others through active participation in Rotary activities in our community, locally and internationally.

See [page 16](#) for pictures from the breakfast. ■

ROTARY ROSE PARADE FLOAT TO REFLECT “DOING GOOD IN THE WORLD”

—by Lee Stacy (Burbank Sunrise), Assistant Governor

Each year the Rotary International float reaches the largest audience of any Rotary promotion or advertising. It is funded SOLELY by individual donations. Not one cent comes from any Foundation or other Rotary funds.

According to the Pasadena Tournament of Roses statistics, in the United States 41.48 million households and internationally another 28 million households viewed the parade on television. The 2016 Rose Parade was viewed in 243 countries and territories. This is in addition to more than 700,000 spectators who attended the 2016 Rose Parade. **This is an international public relations project beyond compare.**

The Rotary Rose Parade Float Committee is proud to submit its 38th consecutive entry in the 2017 Pasadena Tournament of Roses on January 2. The 2017 float will promote and celebrate the 100 years of The Rotary

Please help raise funds
for this opportunity to promote Rotary
and the good we do worldwide.

and complete projects which serve people in six areas of focus: promoting peace, fighting disease, providing clean water, saving mothers and children, supporting education, and growing local economies.

International
Foundation. The
Foundation empowers
Rotarians to travel
throughout the
world and create



This year’s design will include a spectacular and colorful dragon carrying luggage and decorated with the symbols of the six areas of focus. The dragon also is proudly wearing a necklace with a medallion marked 100. This design blends the Tournament of Roses theme, “Echoes of Success,” honoring those individuals and organizations that have contributed to the success of others. The Rotary Foundation Centennial Celebration theme, “Doing Good in the World,” will also be reflected on the float. ■

PREP SCHOOL DETAILS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

LAX MARRIOTT

5855 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles

COST: \$50

(includes self-parking
and continental breakfast)

REGISTRATION

Presidents-elect may **register here**
Registration deadline: Nov. 28.

THE PREP CURRICULUM

- **A Rotary Club Central tutorial.** Learn how to send information about your club to RI via an online process.
- **A general session** on leadership, duties and job descriptions for the club board, club meetings, compliance, risk management, district leadership, club projects, grants, and The Rotary Foundation.
- **Get to know District 5280 leaders:** District Governor-elect Cozette Vergari, the executive team of Jerry Brown, Olivia Patterson-Ryans, and Lee Stacey, and assistant governors.

PREP SCHOOL FOR PETS

—by Lorine Parks (Downey), IMAGINE Senior Correspondent

“Without the preparatory training at PREP, much of the material presented at PETS might not be absorbable.” — Cozette Vergari, DG-elect



DG-elect Cozette Vergari

DG-elect Cozette Vergari was

instrumental in developing PREP.

“PETS, though exciting, fun, and inspiring, can be overwhelming to

a president-elect,” said Cozette. “Without preparatory training at PREP, much of the material presented at PETS might not be absorbable. PETS has been called ‘the experience of a lifetime,’ the chance to make lifelong friends with classmates, committee members, and the attending Rotary International leadership. But the opportunity to forge such contacts can be lost if PETS is ‘too much, too soon.’”

PREP is the first of three training sessions for presidents-elect, preceding PETS and the June 3 District Assembly. “This three-step training process is designed,” Cozette commented, “to provide the information and tools a Rotary

club president needs to ensure a successful presidential term.” She and District leaders will participate in all three training sessions.

“No one works harder than Cozette, and she will be an amazing leader,” said Christa Ramsey, president of Westchester Club, where Cozette has been a member since 1995. A former teacher and theater arts professional, Cozette is now an attorney and partner at Vergari & Fu, LLP. ■



Cozette received this award for arranging a successful Paul Harris Dinner for District 5280.



Our graduating high school students need you

INVEST IN DISTRICT 5280'S FUTURE LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Please send your contributions to our newly established Restricted Fund, part of our own Rotary District 5280 Foundation (a tax deductible donation) to:

Future Leaders Scholarship Fund
Rotary District 5280 Charitable Foundation
8939 South Sepulveda Blvd, Suite 210
Los Angeles, CA 90045

Donations in any amount are welcome. Donors of more than \$10,000 will have a student scholarship named in their honor. Proceeds from this fund will be given as matching awards to our own high school graduates, those already recognized by Rotary clubs here in District 5280, with an emphasis on students active in Interact or Rotoract.

Criteria and application forms will be posted on our District website within the month. For information contact: Rahla Frohlich, District 5280 scholarship chair, 818.790.6643 or rlhlindsey@aol.com. ■



COMING TO THE WEST COAST OF THE USA
OCT 29 - NOV 11, 2016

zone2526.org/tour

West Coast Rotarians kicked off the Connecting for Good Tour in Honolulu on October 29. It is the largest goodwill RV tour on the West Coast, and it will travel through six states and 14 cities, ending at the Rotary Zone Institute in Santa Barbara on November 11, where the group will complete a project with four Boys and Girls Club.

In Los Angeles they will stuff more than 300 backpacks to be hand-delivered to an impoverished school in Merida, Mexico.

Along the route, Rotarians and other service organizations will host service projects to showcase the great work that Rotary does. In Los Angeles they will stuff more than 300 backpacks that will be hand-delivered in January 2017 by 135 District Rotarians to an impoverished school in Merida, Mexico. The backpacks will be stuffed on Nov. 9, 6 p.m., at the General Assembly in Santa Monica at 1520 2nd Street.

This joint effort and partnership between two regions is a wonderful opportunity to meet other like-minded Rotarian while doing a hands-on service project showcasing the difference that Rotary makes in the world.

[For information about the tour.](http://zone2526.org/tour) ■



District Youth Conference

INTERACTORS AND ROTARACTORS WERE EXCITED TO LEARN ABOUT ROTARY

—by Bette Hall (Calabasas), SAG Youth Services

This was a different California day, cool and drizzly, but that didn't deter 130 eager Interactors and Rotaractors who turned up bright and early for the Annual District Youth Conference. The boards of both groups joined the District Youth Advisory at Dana Middle School in Hawthorne.

It was a very busy day, starting with a warm-up trivia quiz given by District Interact Rep Sarah Adebabay and her team as they waited for the

conference to begin! It was surprising what this team knew about Rotary, and credit goes to their youth chairs and advisors!

The conference officially opened at 9:30 with an address by District Governor Greg O'Brien, who came with his wife, Carolyn, to share some

—continues on next page

—Interactors, Rotaractors Learn About Rotary, continues from previous page

These sessions grabbed and held the attention of our young audience

INTERACTORS CHOSE THREE OF THESE SIX MORNING SESSIONS:

- Youth Exchange, with Youth Exchange Chai Warren Bobrow
- Facing the Number One Fear: Public Speaking, with Terry Mayfield, Toastmasters
- How to Stand Out From the Crowd, with Young Professional Jenna Nicolas
- Transitioning from High School to College, with Chris Yco
- Social Media, with Young Professionals Chair Jermaine Ee
- Leadership: Running Club Meetings, with Rotaractor Randy Chavez

ALL ATTENDEES HEARD:

- Internet Safety and Protection, presented by the LAPD Internet Crimes Against Children team. An eye-opener for young attendees, who asked many questions and rated the program valuable!
- Our Young Professionals, who spoke about their careers and what lead them into Rotary. Thanks to Bryson Ishii, Neiv Schwartz, Darlene Fukuji, and District Administrator Tori Hettinger for this session.

THE AFTERNOON HAD FOUR SESSIONS TO CHOOSE FROM:

- Running and Managing Projects, with Humanitarian Trip Co-chair Melody St. John
- RYLA, What's the Hype?, with Rotaractor Chris Reyes
- Transitioning from Interact to Rotaract, with Rotaractors Gabriel Biren, and Beverly Perez
- Fundraising (requested last year), with Rotaractor Alma Fernandez



Jermaine Ee, Young Professionals chair, (LA5), speaking at the Youth Conference.

time with our youth. A big thank you to DG Greg for joining us and sharing his time and information with Rotary's future: our youth!

A day of informative, challenging, and uplifting sessions (see sidebar at left) and a break for lunch and some fun followed.

This was a joint effort, with many Rotaractors taking responsibility for running the programs along with the District Youth team of Interact Advisors Chris Yco, Laine Caspi, Sharma Henderson, Rosy Riera, and Rotaract Advisor Elizabeth Manasserian. They came early and stayed late to ensure that the conference was set up and ran smoothly. They also worked alongside the Interact and Rotaract Boards.

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—Interactors, Rotaractors Learn About Rotary, continues from previous page

PDG DJ Sun presented Presidential Citations during the Youth Conference

A huge thank you to PDG DJ Sun, who brought his daughter Michelle, an Interact Board member, and also presented the Interact Presidential Citations from Rotary year 2015–2016. Hardy congratulations to the clubs who received them! They are:

Alliance Cindy & Bill Simon Technology Academy High School	DaVinci Science Hawthorne High School North Hollywood High School
Ambassador School of Global Leadership	Redondo Union High School Torrance High School
Burton Technology Academy High School	Valley Academy of the Arts and Sciences
Calabasas High School	Venice High School
Canoga Park High School	

A BIG REMINDER TO ROTARY CLUBS THAT SPONSOR INTERACT

CLUBS: Please make sure your club is officially recognized this year, because all clubs are eligible for the Presidential Citation. Please review the criteria for the award.

[For more information.](#)



Participants went home excited!

When it was all

over, the teams were exhausted, and participants felt they had learned much and went home excited!

It was a pleasure to read the surveys from the attendees, and almost everyone rated the conference very high, well over 10 out of 10.

A huge thank you to Dana Middle School for allowing us to hold this conference there. The facilities were excellent and very conducive for

this event. We can all say this was a very successful conference because of the hard work of all those involved and the incredible support by Rotarians, Young Professionals, Rotaractors, and Interactors. It was a true team effort!

To all those who came to support our young people, all who helped make this possible, the District Youth team and the indefatigable Melody St. John who was working right alongside all of us, along with all the Rotary clubs that supported their Interactors by encouraging them to go, paying their registration, and giving them rides: A HUGE THANK YOU! ■

500 ROTARIANS AND GUESTS CELEBRATE THE RI FOUNDATION CENTENNIAL ONBOARD THE USS IOWA



Above: Rotary Club of Woodland Hills.
Below: The Iowa's big guns frame the flyover by the Tiger Squadron.



Above: Dale and Paul Gross capture the essence of the famous WWII statue.
Below: Fireboat demonstration.

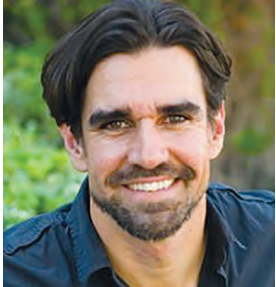


Above: Immediate past DG DJ Sun, left, and guests.
Below: Checking out the Silent Auction items.

Rotary Peace Fellow

PEACE WORK IS A FULL-TIME ENDEAVOR

—by Scott R. Martin, ASLA



Scott Martin

It is exciting and humbling to be welcomed into the Rotary family as a 2017 Rotary Peace Fellow. I first learned about Rotary as a volunteer with Mediators Beyond

Borders when attending multiple club meetings in Kigali, Rwanda to learn about local customs and culture. In 2012, I flew to Portland to attend

my first District Peace Conference and met other Peace Fellows while helping stuff envelopes. I didn't know they were Fellows at the time, but I did know that I felt a strong comradery and a common purpose.

It's a dream to be able to focus on peace work in Thailand with like-minded international cohorts. It is impossible to express the gratitude I have for this opportunity to live a higher purpose, and I will do my best to share the experience with the larger Rotary community every chance I get.

I plan to use this opportunity to continue my current work of healing communities through dialogue, mediation principles, and social entrepreneurship in a deeper, more meaningful way. The Fellowship will help shift my career to make peace work a full-time endeavor. I do not take this distinction lightly and I feel as though my life is now on a different trajectory. Thank you to each and every Rotarian who made this possible. ■

PDG CHUCK REINHART PASSES AWAY



PDG Chuck Reinhart

Past District Governor Chuck Reinhart (1994–95) passed away at age 90. He was the longest-standing Rotarian in the Glendale Noon Club.

Chuck was a Paul Harris Major Donor

and achieved Level 4 and was an Arch C. Klumph Society member. His bequest to Rotary

International allows for the establishment of an endowment fund for the Rotary International Peace Center.

Chuck graduated from Glendale High School in 1943 and the University of Texas in 1946, where he studied engineering. He served as a U.S. Naval officer at the end of World War II and then returned to Los Angeles, where he joined and eventually took over the family business, Reinie's Department Store. He retired in 1984.

Chuck had a passion for trying to make a difference in the lives of others. Rotary was an important organization for him, and he served with great passion. He made a difference by always extending a helping hand or a sympathetic ear.

Besides his work with Rotary, Chuck was an Angel Flight Pilot, a board member of Blessed Sacrament School, and a philanthropist. ■

A sample of Global Rewards discounts currently available

- Shop online and get discounts from [Amazon](#). Rotary receives a 4%–8% rebate on your purchases through the Amazon Associates program.
- Save up to 15% on standard car rentals booked in the United States through [Hertz](#). Some exclusions may apply. Rotary will earn a 2% rebate on your purchase after certain conditions are met.
- When you book with [Marriott](#), Rotary will receive 6% of your hotel purchase back. If you are a Marriott Rewards Member, Rotary will receive 4% back.
- [Restaurant.com](#) is the ultimate resource for diners who want to eat well and save money. Restaurant.com provides deals for every meal, offering savings options such as a \$25 Gift Certificate for \$10 and a \$10 Gift Certificate for \$4 (and others). Rotary receives up to a 7.5% donation on your purchases.
- Shop online at [Walmart](#) and Rotary receives up to a 2% rebate on your purchase.



PROGRAM GIVES BACK TO ROTARY, SEEKS YOUR OPINIONS

There are great Global Rewards discounts available on a variety of products and services selected with your interests in mind. See the sidebar on the left.

Anyone can view the offers and discounts on Rotary Global Rewards, but only Rotary and Rotaract club members who are signed in to their My Rotary accounts can redeem them. You can access and redeem rewards from your computer, smartphone, or tablet.

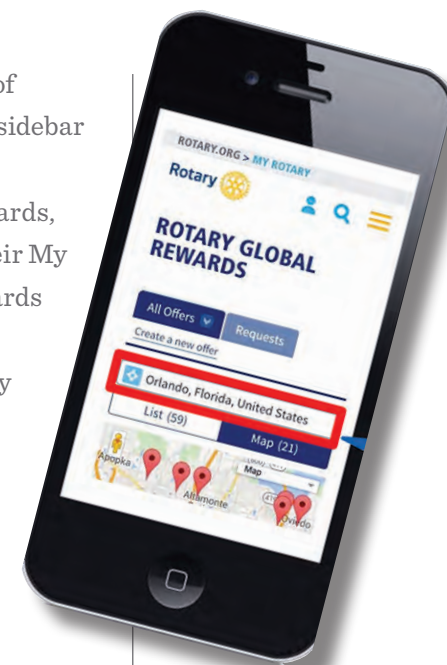
RI receives a percentage of what is purchased through the Rotary Global Rewards program. For more information about the Rotary Global Rewards program [click here](#).

What Do You Think?

Rotary International is gathering input from Rotarians and Rotaract members about the Rotary Global Rewards program. Please take a few moments to share your feedback through this brief, confidential survey. Your valuable insights will help RI understand your opinions on the Rotary Global Rewards program.

You will need to log into MyRotary to access the Rotary Global Rewards prior to filling out the survey.

Please provide your opinions by Nov. 15, 2016. ■



Access and redeem rewards from your smartphone, computer, or tablet.

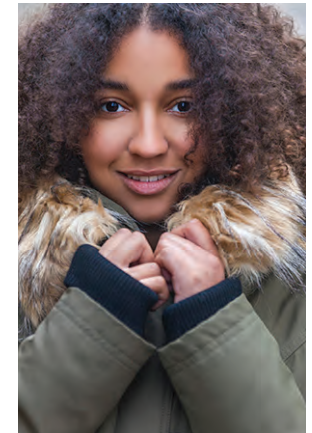
SCENES FROM A DISTRICT BREAKFAST



Seen in scenes from the October 11 District Breakfast. ① Beverly Hills Rotarians; ② Culver City Rotarian Carmela Raack and Manhattan Beach Rotarian Jay Harkenrider; ③ Little Tokyo Club President Mike Okamoto, PDG Elsa Gillham, Little Tokyo Rotarians Makiko Nakasone and Terry Hara; ④ Youth Exchange student Shogo Osoegawa from Chiba, Japan, and Westchester Rotarian Warren Bobrow; ⑤ PDG DJ Sun, Korea Town, and Palos Verdes Peninsula Rotarian Lynn Kim; ⑥ South Gate President Jesus Cruz and Glendale Noon Rotarian Elizabeth Manasserian.

Imaginative Club Projects

COATS FOR KIDS: KEEPING EVERYONE WARM



Although these coats may come in any size or color, zippered, buttoned, belted or swinging free, what is certain is that they will keep kids warm from winter's chills. Collecting Coats for Kids is a Rotary project of two District 5280 clubs that warms the community's hearts.

—by Lorine Parks (Downey), IMAGINE Senior Correspondent

Coats for Kids from Woodland Hills Rotary

“This is a great project, with no cost to our club.

You can't beat that!” So said President Diane Nelson of the Rotary Club of Woodland Hills, where for at least 10 years they have managed this major service project. As it has evolved, more and more of the community has gotten involved.

When Diane was asked to take on the Coats

for Kids project three years ago, “It didn't come with instructions! That's the typical Rotary way!” as Diane puts it. “I decided the best way to collect coats was from schools' Lost and Found. About two weeks prior to the summer break, a few of us called local elementary, middle, and high schools and requested they put their coats aside before they close for summer.” Private schools have especially good lost and found items, she added.

“We contacted about 10 schools, and members arranged to pick up the coats from each one. We collected 600–700 coats. We aren't picky and accepted everything, not just coats. We were able to store the coats and other items at the West Valley Boys and Girls Club during the summer.”

Then, through our club's Youth Avenue of Service, chaired by Elegance Hippolyte, a

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—Coats for Kids, continues from previous page

registered nurse who founded All Saints Home Care and Referral Service, Interact members were also called to help. “In October, volunteers sorted and bagged the clothing and coats,” Diane added. The offer of free lunch at Warner Center Park helped bring out the participants.

This project benefits kids associated with the Los Angeles Children and Family Services, which meant that 565 low income families were provided with coats and other items.

But the Woodland Hills club story gets better. “We contacted three local dry cleaners,” Diane said, “who were happy to clean 200 coats each at no cost. One even suggested that we collect prom dresses for needy teens and he would clean them as well!” So the club, could be a Cinderella fairy godmother sending kids dancing in the spring.

Coats for Kids from Glendale Sunrise Rotary

Glendale Sunrise Rotary Club has also been collecting Coats for Kids starting in 2001, but they tap into a different resources. As an example of how Rotary encourages collaborative efforts, in 2005 Michael Escalante, superintendent of the Glendale Unified School District and a member of the Glendale Sunrise Rotary Club,



Rotary Club of Woodland Hills sorted and bagged coats and other clothing.

kicked off the campaign by encouraging every school to have a drive to gather donations of unneeded coats. The schools put the request in their “Thursday Folders” for kids to take home. They also worked with the Glendale Fire Department to use city fire stations as collection points. They wanted to ensure that kids had coats for the winter because it gets cold in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains. The club will distribute the coats this month.

Glendale Unified School District and the Southern California Cleaners Association

participated in gathering “gently used” clothes from Glendale schools. As a bonus, the cleaning establishments also contributed their left-behind inventory.

Ray Rangwala was on the Board of Directors for the Southern California Cleaners Association when he joined Glendale Sunrise Rotary. He was

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—Coats for Kids, continues from previous page

seated next to PDG Dave Woods of the Woodland Hills Club. “I told him I am a dry cleaner,” Ray said. “He mentioned a Salvation Army Project, where they collected used clothing and distributed

Though we live in Southern California, it’s not always 100 degrees. Some youngsters don’t have money to buy a coat or sweater for those cold days and nights.

them to the needy through the Salvation Army. I volunteered to clean all the clothes next time. Dry cleaners from my association also cleaned and pressed the clothes for free.”

“Lo and behold, we had our own Coats For Kids Project,” added Ray. “Now, the lowest income elementary school in Glendale is designated as the site for free coat pickup. The flyer to pick them up is translated into three languages: English, Spanish, and Armenian. Needy families line up beginning at 6:30 a.m. to choose their free coats. We usually run out of clothes by 10,” said Ray.

“This is our 16th annual project. Over the years, we have cleaned more than a quarter-million pounds of coats without costing our Rotary Club a dime. Ray concluded, “That’s the best project, as NO money is spent.”



Women select warm clothing for their children at the Glendale Sunrise Rotary Club’s annual Coats for Kids event, held at the Salvation Army store in Glendale. —Photo: Los Angeles Times

Dr. Maria Gandra, an assistant superintendent for human resources at the Glendale Unified School District and a member of the Glendale Sunrise Club said, “The district would donate coats every year. As a Rotary member, I now distribute boxes, create fliers, and work with the school district to coordinate the pickup and distribution of the donated coats.” According to Ray, last year more than 1,800 pounds of clothes were cleaned by the Los Angeles County Dry Cleaners Association.

“Even though we live in Southern California, it’s not 100 degrees every day or night,” commented Maria. “Some of our children do not have the money to buy a coat or sweater for those cold days and nights. This program allows them to get a much-needed coat without sacrificing anything.”

In giving the gift of warmth for winter, everyone wins, those who give and those who receive. The paradox of Rotary’s motto plays out in action: Members “profit most who serve the best.” ■

CLUB 63

News for and about District 5280 clubs



Annual VIP Soccer Festival

Forty Da Vinci Science and Hawthorne High School Interactors volunteered to partner with 125 physically/mentally challenged youngsters at a VIP Soccer Festival hosted by Danny Juarez at Dana Soccer fields. This was the 16th Annual VIP event. ■



Halloween at Camp Pendelton.

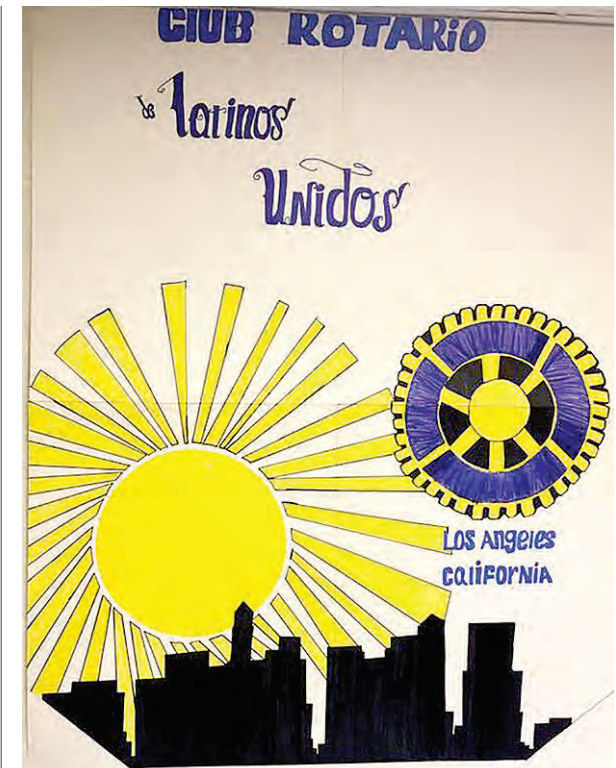
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Clubs Partner to Provide the Vision to Learn

The Paramount Club, with the help of the Bellflower Club, screened 633 students at Los Cerritos Elementary as part of a Rotary Community Service project to bring Vision To Learn's free eye exams and glasses to kids who needed them! ■



Club Rotario de Latinos

Members met at the Santo Nino Community Center, where they are partnering with the center to prepare for the club's annual "Fill the Bag Feel the Joy" holiday event in December. Welcoming Rotarians to the work party was a display of paintings by the Center's kids, created to welcome the club members. ■



MARCH 11, 2017