



Imagine

Rotary District 5280
Greater Los Angeles
September 2016

INSIDE Departments

- 2 District Calendar
- 3 "All Dressed Up for School," *DG Greg O'Brien*
- 5 Being Number One, *SAC Michael Turner*
- 28 Club 63, *news from District 5280 clubs*

Features

- 7 Big Rotary Doings Aboard "The Big Stick"
- 10 Rotary Foundation Centennial Celebration
- 11 Literacy Breakfast: Explore Digital Literacy
- 13 Programs Allow Youth to Visit the World
- 14 Required Youth Protection Training
- 15 Who Are Our Rotaractors and Interactors?
- 18 An Overview of RYLA
- 20 Mexico Needs YOU!
- 21 The 2016–2017 Presidential Citation
- 21 Rotary Global Rewards
- 22 Help District 5280 Make History Again
- 23 Presidents' Dinner Announcement
- 24 IMAGINE: Two Clubs, Two Campuses, Two Continents
- 26 Interest Survey for Performing Arts Group
- 27 Events for Young Professionals



**IMAGINE A Cross-Country Bike
Tour for Charity.** *See page 28*

IMAGINE / SEPTEMBER 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



District Programs Allow Our Youth to Visit the World, [Page 13](#)

DISTRICT CALENDAR

September

- 8 Annual Literacy Breakfast ([Page 11](#))
- 15 Rotary Club of Inglewood YP's Mixer ([Page 27](#))

October

- 6 YP's Mixer with Richard Riordan, former
mayor of Los Angeles ([Page 27](#))
- 11 District Breakfast
- 22 Foundation Celebration, Battleship *USS Iowa*
([Page 7](#) and [Page 10](#))

November

- 9 Rotary RV Tour Mixer w/YPs ([Page 27](#))
- 16 USC/UCLA Tailgate Lunch

December

- 10 Angel City Giveaway

January

- 15–21 Rotary International Assembly, San Diego
- 25–30 District Humanitarian Trip to Merida,
Mexico ([Page 20](#))

February

- 28 District Breakfast

April

- 18 District Breakfast
- 28–30 RYLA

May

- 4–7 District Conference, Lake Arrowhead

June

- 3 District Assembly, Carson Comm. Cntr.
- 10–14 Rotary International Convention, Atlanta



IMAGINE: ALL DRESSED UP FOR SCHOOL

—by District Governor Greg O'Brien

In the years of my youth, September was the traditional back-to-school month. On Labor Day weekend, Mom would take us to buy new jeans, underwear, and shoes from Sears and J.C. Penney. I can still feel the scratchy wool shirt she once bought me for the coming winter, the soft cottons, and smell of new P.E. shoes. Our new classroom teachers always seemed to have a ready supply of free kids' tickets for the Los Angeles County Fair. September also meant new textbooks with shiny pages. If you cracked open the spine and held the book up to your nose, you could inhale the scent of knowledge.

By tenth grade, the question was whether the beau or belle you last saw in June had been lost to a "summer love" during a July vacation at her parents' beach rental, and whether the affectionate "love, Sue" she had written boldly

in your yearbook had any remaining romantic currency. September was the month for student body elections and tryouts for band, drill team, flags, cheerleading, and drama.

**There is no more important element of
our communities than our schools and our
youth organizations.**

It was the month when a decision was made as to whether you were a starter or a substitute on the football team. It was when the student transfers from out of district were suddenly in your class, and the sight of the luscious new blonde in the front row meant you were already getting over Sue. Brian Wilson and the Beach Boys recalled such moments of instant infatuation in a song called "*All Dressed Up for School*."

In 2010, Rotary created a fresh Avenue of Service called New Generations, which became the theme for the month of September. Two years ago, New Generations was renamed Youth Service, now denominated as the monthly theme for May, while September became Basic Education and Literacy Month. Both themes are obviously related.

Regardless of which theme we give it, this issue is all dressed up for school. We did not want to wait until May to recognize a year of plans and aspirations for Youth Service. We look at our past successes and our future innovations. We celebrate departing and incoming students in Rotary Youth Exchange, the award of scholarships to students heading off for college and trade school, new Interactors and Rotaractors taking leadership of our campus

—continues on next page

—*Imagine: “All Dressed Up,” continues from previous page*

clubs and plans for RYLA, and the parental and Rotarian responsibilities of Youth Protection. Our annual Literacy Breakfast at Lawry’s is on September 8. The price is free.

There is no more important element of our communities than our schools and our youth organizations. As you read this issue, we hope you will be inspired to think outside the box, create new and fresh ways to improve and enliven your club’s youth programs, and to engage your membership with the new generation.

Imagine Rotary.

Build it and they will come. ■

EACH ONE BRING ONE



COME, JOIN ROTARY



BEING NUMBER ONE

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

Most people want to be *Number One* or at least achieve some recognition in whatever they are attempting to accomplish. Being first means name recognition and a place in the history books. Swimmer Michael Phelps will be known for some time as being Number One after winning 28 Olympic medals, 23 of them gold. Bob Klein, who was a tight end for the first Los Angeles Rams and speaker at the District's August 9 Breakfast, listed some of the Rams's *Number One* achievements.

- The move to the West Coast allowed the NFL to become a coast-to-coast league
- Locating west of the Mississippi River
- Drafting a Black quarterback
- Placing its logo on a helmet
- Employing a full-time coaching staff
- Deploying three receivers at the same time

Your club has the opportunity to be one of the top clubs in the country by earning a Rotary International President's Citation. On [page 21](#) is a story about the citation and more information is available [here](#).

Achieving *Number One* or being recognized for being at the top of your game is a rewarding feeling. When I was the public relations director at the

**Your club has the
opportunity to be
one of the top clubs
in the country
by earning a
RI President's
Citation.**

Los Angeles Jewish Home for the Aging, we were able to be the first residential care facility for the elderly, among more than 22,000 in the country, to have residents interviewed on *The Rosie O'Donnell Show*.

Let me tell you that achieving this or any goal for that matter takes commitment, hard work, dedication, and, most important, ***perseverance***. It took 18 months to land a spot on her national TV show. When I made the initial pitch to Rosie's producers, there was lukewarm interest, but they wanted more information. I sent it to the producers, and I received a note saying they would review it and get back to me. Then summer hiatus came for the show and I did not hear anything until late fall.

A producer called to tell me there was still an interest in the story but the show had changed its focus to being healthy and could I modify the pitch to mirror this change. I went back to the drawing board and soon found two residents who fit the bill. Martha, who was 82 at the time, lead a daily exercise class and Ruth, who was 90, had helped me publish a cookbook that

—continues on next page

—Being Number One, continues from previous page

contained typical Jewish fare but with less sugar and fat, and, of course, fewer calories. This certainly fit Rosie's healthier bill of fare. So I sent a second pitch and as the spring ended I again received a call from a producer who said it was a great idea, "We'll get back to you."

In late fall, that call came, and the producer now wanted a video of the two women interacting with each other as well as being interviewed. This really sounded promising. However, in those days video equipment was not as common as today so I had to hire a production crew for the taping.

We waited
and waited. . . .
The call finally
came, and we were
absolutely estatic.

First, I sketched an outline for Martha and Ruth, and they rehearsed several times until they felt comfortable with each other. Then the camera crew was brought in, and the finished video was hilarious. I knew that Rosie would like it. At least I hoped. It was mailed to New York and I waited.

The next call came in the early winter of 2000, and the producer wanted to conduct a phone interview with Martha and Ruth. We arranged a time and the interview went off with flying colors. About three weeks later, I received a call from a producer saying that Martha and Ruth were penciled in for late March. Boy, were we excited. There was a caveat: I would receive a call when final arrangements were made. We waited and waited.

The call that we wanted came on a Tuesday in late March, and the producer said we were scheduled for the show on the following Tuesday. They would arrange to fly Martha, Ruth, and me, their chaperone, to New

The cookbook that started a once-in-a lifetime experience.

York for the taping. However, we would get the final notice on Thursday, so again we were on pins and needles.

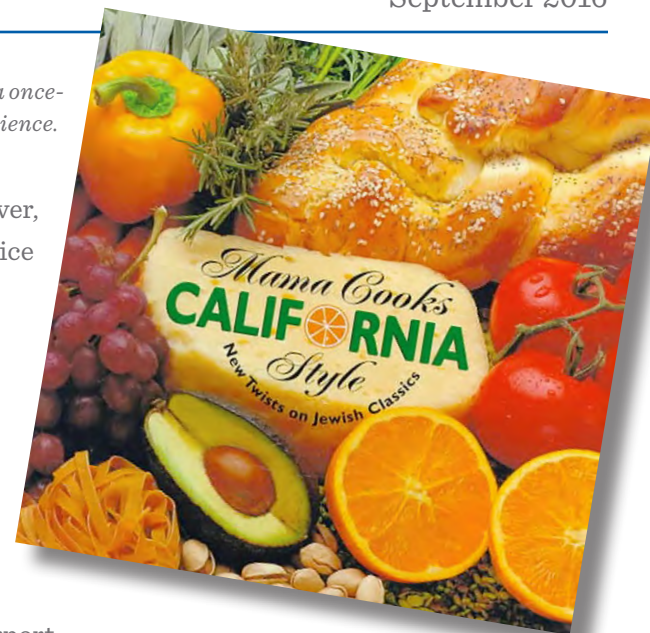
The call finally came and we were absolutely ecstatic. Arrangements were made to fly us to New York on Monday. A board member arranged a limo to take us to the airport.

Rosie loved Martha and Ruth and because the guest band had cancelled at the last minute, their time on-air was extended. They were brought back to close out the show.

By the way, we gave everyone in the studio audience a copy of the cookbook, *Mama Cooks California Style: New Twists on Jewish Classics*. Rosie's show had about four-million viewers and the episode was repeated during the summer.

This story demonstrates clearly that goals can be achieved, but they take time, patience, and endurance. This was a once-in-a-lifetime experience and a major feather in my career cap.

What about your club? Work together with your fellow members and earn a Rotary International President's Citation, and bring the recognition that your club so rightly deserves. ■



BIG ROTARY DOINGS ABOARD "THE BIG STICK"

—by Lorine Parks (Downey),
IMAGINE Senior Correspondent

Nicknamed "The Big Stick" in recognition of Teddy Roosevelt's dictum for U.S. Naval strength, "Walk softly but carry a big stick," the *USS Iowa* represented the peak of naval military power in the era from President Franklin Roosevelt to George H.W. Bush.

The *USS Iowa*, the "Battleship of Presidents," for one night will be "The Battleship of Rotary District 5280," which is holding its annual Foundation Celebration Dinner on October 22 aboard this historic vessel in the Port of Los Angeles. Here's a preview of some sights and thrills guests will enjoy that evening.

- Guests will be greeted by a fireboat water display salute and a Tiger Squadron fly-by, featuring vintage war birds soaring overhead in tight formation.
- Guests can walk on the same teak decks



The USS Iowa officially opened for public tours on July 7, 2012 in the Port of Angeles.

that carried Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Ronald Reagan, and George H.W. Bush. (The battleship is famous for hosting more presidents than any other battleship.) Guests can also follow the guide to the Admiral's Bridge and take a sight from the guns and missile decks.

In addition to President Roosevelt, the *Iowa* carried a staggering number of World War II top

brass: Secretary of State Cordell Hull, Chief of Staff Admiral William D. Leahy, Chief of Staff of the Army General George C. Marshall, Chief of Naval Operations Ernest King, Commanding General of the U.S. Army Air Forces Henry "Hap" Arnold, Harry Hopkins. They and other military commanders were on their way to Mers El Kébir,

—continues on next page

An Award-Winning Battleship

Ships are awarded ribbons and medals, and they are prominently displayed onboard. When a ship earns a ribbon, sailors serving aboard at the time also are awarded that ribbon. The *USS Iowa* earned 14 ribbons during her almost 50 years of service, including nine battle stars for WW II and two for Korean War service. The Battle "E," possibly the most important award a ship can earn, is awarded only once annually and only one award per squadron. Competition for this decoration is fierce, and not many ships can match the *Iowa's* four awards. Here are the *Iowa's* awards.



From left to right, top to bottom: Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation | Navy E Ribbon with three Battle E devices | American Campaign Medal | Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with nine service stars | World War II Victory Medal | Navy Occupation Service Medal | National Defense Service Medal with star | Korean Service Medal with two service stars | Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal | Navy Sea Service Deployment Ribbon | Philippine Presidential Unit Citation | Korean Presidential Unit Citation | Philippine Liberation Medal | United Nations Korea Medal

—Rotary Doings Aboard “The Big Stick” continues from previous page

Algeria, on the first leg of the journey to the Tehran Conference, which was FDR’s November 1943 meeting in Iran with Great Britain’s Winston Churchill and Russia’s Josef Stalin.

The Iowa was the lead ship of its class of the biggest, fastest, and most powerful U.S. battleships ever to sail.

- Guests will see where Roosevelt stayed in the stately captain’s cabin and planned WWII strategy. A bathtub, an amenity installed for Roosevelt, and an elevator to shuttle him between decks were installed for the voyage. The elevator later was removed, but the bathtub remains and the *Iowa* is said to be the only battleship with a bathtub.

Today, simply to stand in a crew’s washroom and reflect on the process of showering is to appreciate the effects of war on the most mundane aspects of life. Showering is a familiar ritual but very different from the shipboard version. And a generation familiar with the problems of obesity will discover that many of them could not fit through the hatches inside a 16-inch turret.



The Iowa spent most of WWII in the Pacific Theatre.

The Iowa was the lead ship of its class of the biggest, fastest, and most powerful U.S. battleships ever to sail. The chief armaments of a battleship were the 16-inch guns, and the *Iowa* has nine breech-loading 16-inch (406 mm)/50-caliber Mark 7 naval guns, which were housed in three-gun turrets: two forward and one aft in a configuration known as “2-A-1.”

The present *Iowa*, third of that name, was conceived in the late 1930s as the first of the 45,000-ton class of battleships. Her keel was laid on June 27, 1940 at the New York Naval Shipyard in Brooklyn, and on August 27, 1942 she was launched, sponsored by Mrs. Henry A. Wallace,

—continues on next page



The USS Iowa: Just the Facts

Namesake	State of Iowa
Ordered	1 July 1939
Builder	New York Naval Yard, Brooklyn
Launched	27 August 1942
Decommissioned	26 October 1990
Struck	17 March 2006
Homeport	Norfolk, Virginia (post '80's refit)
Motto	"Our Liberties We Prize, Our Rights We Will Maintain"
Nickname(s)	"The Big Stick" (1952) "The Grey Ghost" (Korean War)
Displacement	45,000 tons
Length	887 ft 3 in
Beam	108 ft 2 in
Draft	37 ft 2 in
Speed	38 mph
Complement	151 officers, 2637 enlisted
Aircraft Carried	floatplanes, helicopters, UAVs

—Rotary Doings Aboard “The Big Stick” continues from previous page

wife of the U.S. vice president. On February 22, 1943, Washington’s Birthday, the ship was commissioned and sent first on patrol duty in the North Atlantic. The *Iowa* then spent most of World War II in the Pacific Theatre.

It served as a unit of Fleet Admiral William F. “Bull” Halsey’s Third Fleet in support of carrier strikes against the Philippines and the Caroline Islands. On October 23, 1944 it headed for the Battle of Leyte Gulf, the decisive air and sea battle of WW II that crippled the Japanese Combined Fleet, diminishing the power of the Imperial Japanese Navy.

Rotarian dinner guests may be able to visualize the night of December 17, 1944 when, during Typhoon Cobra, a float plane was washed over the *Iowa*’s side. Damage to the ship caused by the storm required the *Iowa* to return to the United States for an overhaul in January 1945 at Hunters Point Shipyard in San Francisco. As one crew member recounts, “It was a very scary night. The *Iowa* rolled to about a 45-degree angle at one point, and we all held our breaths that it wouldn’t happen again. As our luck went, it happened at meal time so you can imagine the condition of the deck in the mess hall.”

President George H.W. Bush recommissioned the *Iowa* in 1984, when he was vice president. On July 4, 1986, after serving with the United Nations Forces in Korea, the *Iowa* became the

The *Iowa* participated in the Battle of Leyte Gulf, the decisive air and sea battle of WW II.

flagship for President Ronald Reagan during Liberty Weekend’s International Naval Review on the Hudson River.

One of the most catastrophic events in U.S.Navy history befell the ship on April 19, 1989. The *Iowa* was conducting a firing exercise approximately 260 nautical miles northeast of Puerto Rico when 47 sailors were killed in an explosion in the Turret 2 Gun Room. The gun turret itself also was heavily damaged. This tragedy remains the largest post-World War II peacetime loss of life in U.S. Navy history.

President Bush joined the crew and their families at a memorial ceremony for the sailors who had died. During his speech, Bush, who had been a Navy pilot in WWII, said, “For those of us serving on carriers in Halsey’s Third Fleet, having the *Iowa* nearby really built our confidence.” ■



ROTARY FOUNDATION CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

—by Rica Viola (San Pedro) and Karen Greenberg (South Bay Sunrise), Foundation Celebration Co-Chairs

We want to do business with you!

What a great opportunity to let your fellow Rotarians know about you!

We've had enormous success in getting ads. So much so that we will also have a Business Listing Directory in our 100th Anniversary Tribute Program Book! Classifications will be grouped into general categories such as:

- Auto: Tire sales, car sales and services, etc.
- Health and wellness: Dentists, psychiatrists, chiropractors, spas, etc.
- Real Estate: Realtors, properties for rent, property management, etc.

All ad submissions should include the completed [Tribute Program Book Sponsor Packages and Advertising Opportunities Form](#). Once a club has acquired ads for a full page, please submit to [Michael Turner](#).

Having your members purchase ad space on your club's page will allow your club to honor the RI Foundation's centennial and minimize your club's cost. [Check the advertising opportunities on the District webpage](#).

Deadline for ad submission is October 3, 2016. If you need help preparing your ads or have any questions, please contact Michael Turner at 818.772.6826 or at michael@bearsworth.com.

May I have your order please?

We will be reaching out to all club presidents who have bought tables/seats to get attendees' preferred dinner entrees. The Foundation Dinner

committee chairs have put in great effort to select only the best. It's a tough job but somebody has to do it!

ENTRÉE SELECTION

- Filet Mignon with Herb Butter • Blackened Salmon • Stuffed Chicken (herb cheese, broccoli and mushrooms) with a Light Lemon Herb Sauce • Stuffed Portobello Mushroom (vegetarian option)

ALL DINNERS INCLUDE:

- Dinner Rolls & Rustic Bread • Organic Greens with Cranberries, Feta Cheese, Caramelized Pecans with Raspberry Vinaigrette • Garlic Chive Mashed Potatoes • Baby Carrots and French Beans

We also will have a scrumptious dessert station and coffee bar to keep up your energy for dancing or just hanging out with 500 of your favorite friends! All clubs should fill out the [meal selection form](#) and submit it no later than October 3, 2016.

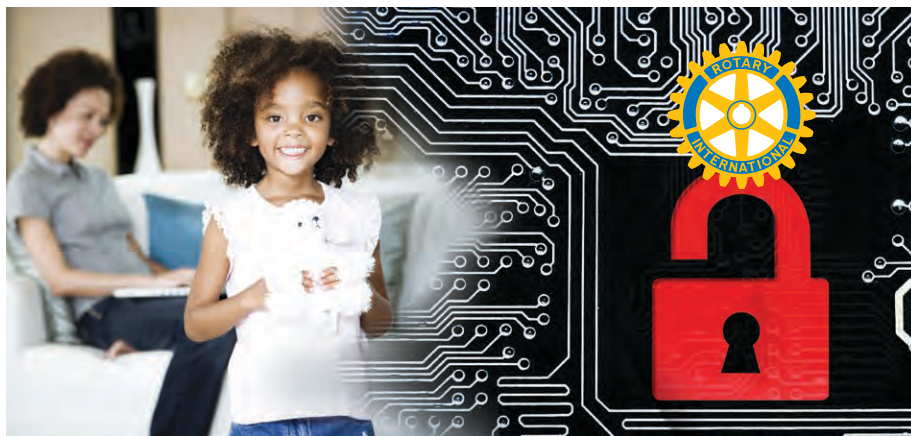
Calling all military veterans!

At the Foundation Celebration there will be a flyby, a fireboat water display, and patriotic and military themes aboard the *USS Iowa*. **We want to recognize all our active and honorary District 5280 Rotarians who have served or are serving in the military by recognizing them in our 100th Anniversary Tribute Program Book.** Veterans: Submit your name, service branch, and club name to [Bob Kelchner](#) of South Bay Sunrise Club by September 15. Also indicate if the member is a WW II veteran. If you have any questions, call Bob at 310.779.5726.

Have more questions?

[Check out the FAQs.](#) ■





BREAKFAST AT LAWRY'S ANNUAL LITERACY BREAKFAST

DIGITAL LITERACY PROTECTING YOUR IDENTITY, PROTECTING YOUR CHILDREN FROM PREDATORS

GUEST SPEAKER - DETECTIVE III GIL ESCONTRIAS

Los Angeles Police Department "Internet Crimes Against Children" (ICAC) section

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH • 7 TO 9AM

A full breakfast provided by Lawry's, The Prime Rib 
100 N. La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles

RSVP no later than September 5th to Hector Torres at hltlx54@hotmail.com

LITERARY BREAKFAST WILL EXPLORE DIGITAL LITERACY

—by Lorine Parks (Downey), IMAGINE Senior Correspondent

In addition to the central location of Lawry's Prime Rib Restaurant, District Rotarians may be enticed by curiosity to breakfast at this world-famous landmark. They will stay to be impressed by the program. Participants will not be disappointed on either count.

You'll know the moment you arrive on September 8 that Lawry's Prime Rib Restaurant, on Restaurant Row at 100 N. La Cienega in Beverly Hills, is an extraordinary place to host Rotary District 5280's Literacy Breakfast. A pair of majestic wooden lions evocative of regal courtyards presides over your 7 a.m. grand entrance into the spacious main dining room.

Inside the large foyer, antique chandeliers and sconces illuminate polished silver pieces and murals of English countryside scenes. With its red leather banquette seating, the atmosphere is warm and relaxed. A domed-light ceiling casts a subtle glow on the dark-wood columns and beveled glass, lending a festive ambiance at any hour.

A full buffet breakfast will be served courtesy of Lawry's third-generation owner, Richard R. Frank. He and his late father, Richard N., who passed away in 2015 at age 92, have been longtime members of LA5.

Following breakfast, Detective III Gilbert M. Escontrias of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) will speak, focusing on "Digital Literacy: Protecting your identity and protecting your children from predators."

—continues on next page

—Literacy Breakfast, continues from previous page

Escontrias has been with the LAPD for more than 29 years. He is assigned to the Los Angeles Regional Internet Crimes Against Children (LAICAC)

“... this stuff doesn’t go away. Parents must be vigilant, social-media aware, and forever on the lookout.”

Task Force, which detects, investigates, arrests, and prosecutes those who are interested in the sexual exploitation of children using the internet or other electronic device as a means of contact.

“Detective Escontrias will share some interesting stories,” said Hector Torres, Literary Breakfast chair. “With social media so easily accessible, it’s very easy for children to get caught up with nefarious individuals.” The LAPD has waged a long-time fight against child abuse and sex trafficking.

LAICAC serves about 300 warrants annually in pursuit of child pornography suspects, and 11 officers review an average of 350 child pornography cases a month. The unit is a byproduct of this age in which almost everything can be shared electronically. Detectives say many teens share nude photos and videos, unwittingly contributing to material distributed as child porn.

Whether child porn is more prevalent now than earlier is an open question. But officials say there are now many more ways to acquire and circulate it in this digital world. And that’s where the unit comes in. They have arrested suspects in tony neighborhoods and roach-infested motels. They have arrested paramedics, teachers, police officers, and city attorneys.

“The biggest issue is that this stuff doesn’t go away,” Escontrias said. “Parents must be vigilant, social-media aware, and forever on the lookout.” ■



(Above) Lawry’s warm and relaxed atmosphere features a domed-light ceiling, dark wood columns, and beveled glass.

(Left) In 2010, from the left: Arcadia Rotary Club President Imy Dulake; Past President Laura Freedman; Lawry’s Restaurants chairman Richard N. Frank, and Lawry’s President and CEO Richard R. Frank.

DISTRICT PROGRAMS ALLOW OUR YOUTH TO VISIT THE WORLD

—by Warren Bobrow, (Westchester) Youth Exchange Chair

“If every 17 year old student went on a Rotary Youth exchange program there would be no more war in the world.”

—Carl Wilhelm Stenhammer, 2006–07 RI President

Each year, District 5280 welcomes students from around the world and sends students to other countries as part of Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE). RYE is one of Rotary’s oldest programs (it dates back to the 1920s) and it does not use funds from the Rotary Foundation. This means that family members of Rotarians are eligible to participate. We exchange with 20 different countries in Europe, Asia, South America, and the south Pacific.

The District participates in three exchange programs:

1) Long-Term Exchange (LTEP). High school students are hosted for a full year. They completely immerse themselves in another culture by becoming members of their volunteer host families (who may or may not be Rotarians), going to school, and celebrating a year of holidays and traditions. Students typically participate during their junior or senior year of high school. The Youth Exchange Committee works with students who either go abroad or come here. Students who come to our area experience everything Southern California has to offer: surfing and ski weekends, visits to amusement parks and historical sites, and attending professional and college sporting events.

—continues on next page





—Youth Visit the World, continues from previous page

Scholarships are available on an as-needed basis. For information about sending or hosting a student, call or email [Warren Bobrow](#), 310.670.4175. And, yes, students who participate graduate with their peers.

2) **Short-Term Exchange (LTEP).** High school students travel to another country during the summer for 3–4 weeks and are hosted by a family with a student of similar age and the same gender. The foreign students then come here for the same 3–4 weeks. The District as well as host clubs plan activities for the students. For more information, contact [Katie Butler](#).

3) **New Generations Service Exchange (NGSE).** This program is designed for Rotaract members. The object is for them to spend meaningful time on an internship, a service project, or in school. We are working with SAG for Vocational Service Olivia Patterson-Ryans on identifying Rotarians who can provide such internships. For more information, contact [Nancy Langdon](#).

RYE provides an amazing experience, enabling our young people to learn about the world and us to show students from other countries that we are not just what they see on the internet. You, your club, and your students will get the experience of a lifetime from any one of these programs. ■

REQUIRED YOUTH-PROTECTION TRAINING

“Rotary International is committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for all participants in Rotary activities. It is the duty of all Rotarians, Rotarians’ spouses, partners, and other volunteers to safeguard to the best of their ability the welfare of and to prevent the physical, sexual, or emotional abuse of children and young people with whom they come into contact.

“As part of our Youth programs, we are chartered by Rotary International to ensure that we protect the young people taking part in our Youth and District programs. Part of this protection is by providing training in what it means, and how, to protect our Youth.”

District 5280 provides on-going Youth Protection Training. There are several ways to participate:

- Sessions at District Assembly
- Having the training as a program at your club meeting
- Individuals taking online training

We are available to come to your clubs to do this training, or Warren Bobrow can provide the link for online training. Youth Exchange programs require this training yearly, and for each new family, including anyone age 18 or older in a household. Other individuals working with youth are required to attend every two years.

Additionally, everyone working with youth is required to complete an online background check. Warren Bobrow is the contact for the background check link. All information is confidential, with only a “yes clearance” or “no denial” being sent to the District’s Youth Protection officer, Warren Bobrow.

To set up the Youth Protection Training and remain in compliance with Rotary International and District 5280’s requirements, please contact either [Warren Bobrow](#) or [Bette Hall](#). ■



The incredible 2016–17 team making up the Rotaract Board of Directors with District Rotaract Representative Edwin Maldonado in the center, Angel City Rotaract.

WHO ARE OUR DISTRICT ROTARACTORS AND INTERACTORS?



—by Bette Hall (Calabasas), SAG Youth Service

Who are they?

- They are members of the 14 very active Rotaract Clubs from around the District, both community- and university-based.
- They are members of the approximately 75 Interact Clubs, again from all across our District, mainly school-based but with some community-based clubs in the mix.
- They are dedicated members of the 2016–17 Rotaract and Interact Boards.
- They are the face of Rotary's youth, working hard to better their own communities, and also international communities.
- They are our support in so many of our District functions, working alongside us to ensure our events go smoothly.
- They are passionate, energized, and goal-oriented in what they do,
- They are the future of Rotary.

Examples of what they do

Our Rotaractors:

- purchase, fill, and distribute backpacks for children in need on our humanitarian trips. Yes, they are planning on doing this again in Merida!
- walk and run for causes such as polio, breast cancer, and more;

—continues on next page

—*Rotaractors and Interactors,*
continues from previous page

- provide support and supplies to orphanages;
- design and run our District Youth Conference;
- plant trees and hold bake sales;
- are counselors for RYLA and to children needing assistance in reading and other areas;
- support our Interactors at their events, also advising and running several Interact Clubs;
- feed the homeless and clean up blighted areas such as beaches and downtown neighborhoods;
- fund scholarships;
- take part in our Ethics Forum; and most of all
- have a great deal of fun along the way!

Our Interactors:

- raised funds that built toilets and provided toys and sport equipment for small villages in Pakistan; raised more than \$2,800 to date for the American Cancer Society through Relay for Life; held a “Hair-Cut-Athon” to benefit cancer patients and research (*DaVinci Science Interact Club*);

Just as
they support us,
we need to
support them
in return.



The Interact Club of Valley Academy Arts & Sciences in Granada Hills

- collected empty prescription bottles for third-world countries for use instead of envelopes or paper bags (*Co-Op Upward Bound Interact Club*);
- cleaned up parks and beaches, feed the hungry, and provide hygiene projects to those on Skid Row (*South East High School Interact*);
- “Pied” teachers in “Pies for Polio” to raise money for polio (bet this one was popular!!); three Interactors used their spring break to

pedal 500 miles to raise \$5,000 for the End Polio fund (*Hawthorne-Lennox Interact Club*); and

- are raising funds for The International Elephant Association for awareness, conservation, education, and research in helping to avoid the extinction of elephants. (*The Interact Club of Valley Academy Arts & Sciences, Granada Hills, pictured above*).

—continues on next page

—Rotaractors and Interactors, continues from previous page



2016–17 District Interact Representative (DIR) Sarah Adebebay with Executive Aide Zerrick Payne and last year's DIR Wallace Liew (center).

We see them in action at all of our District events, doing the setup, running registration and games at picnics, or just plain running to raise money for polio at the 3–2–1 picnic! Just

When we look for examples of “Rotary Serving Humanity,” we need look no further than our youth!

as they support us, we need to support them in return. Visit and be part of their meetings. You will come away feeling so uplifted. Help them attend District Youth events such as the Youth Conference and

RYLA. Expand their knowledge of Rotary. Make sure they know they are part of Rotary and not the Boys and Girls Club or even the Key Club! Oh yes, this actually happened! Be there to support, advise, and help their events be successful!

When we look for examples of “Rotary Serving Humanity,” we need look no further than our youth! For some so young, their hearts, passions, and energies are definitely in their communities, locally and internationally. These young people are the future of Rotary and they do us, as Rotarians, proud at every turn! ■



AN OVERVIEW OF RYLA

—by Christopher Reyes, District Rotaract Executive Aide and RYLA Counselor

As we begin the new Rotary year, we start to prepare for another Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) weekend. This is perhaps one

—continues on next page

—An Overview of RYLA,
continues from previous page

The RYLA weekend
is perhaps one of the
most important
and pivotal moments
in many of the
Interactors' lives.

of the most
important and
pivotal moments
in many of the
Interactors' lives.
These young
people learn about
leadership, their
personalities, and

embracing the hidden potential that resides in
who they are as individuals. Most important, we
give them a chance to go out into the world and
put into practice what they have learned. They go
on to become presidents of their respected clubs,
join the District Interact team, and even become
RYLA counselors.

Each counselor has participated at RYLA, and,
regardless of age, he or she is a leader. This will
be my fifth year as a counselor and I always learn
something new each time I attend. I also enjoy
observing new ways of thinking. I love seeing the
participants transform themselves from being
secluded in their own bubble to making new
friends and embracing the idea of teamwork. It



is emotional for counselors and also is one of our
proudest moments to know that we have touched
their lives.

For some, it is their “Rotary Moment”
and it reinforces why they are a part of such a
great organization. What makes our District’s

RYLA unique is that we teach leadership skills
not just by lecturing but also participating in
various activities. The point is to show these
young minds that you can find a message hidden
in almost anything we do in our daily lives.
They also learn what is known as the 4 Cs:
Communication, Cooperation, Compassion,
Creativity, the standards for approaching every
scenario they encounter. It truly is rewarding to
witness change and observe the blossoming of
the younger generations.

RYLA is the reason I became so involved in
Rotary and why I come back each year to offer
my service. These are the values that we want
to instill for many generations to come because
they are what will keep this organization vibrant.
My hope for the present and the future is that we
continue to support our youth by ensuring they
attend RYLA.

Rotarians are invited to join the fun and
not only observe what our youth can do, but
also help facilitate the activities. This is what
Rotary stands for, being of service to the world
by bringing change and ensuring that humanity
works together, but it all begins with our youth. ■

MEXICO NEEDS YOU!

—by Lorine Parks (Downey)
IMAGINE Senior Correspondent

For hands-on service and a cultural experience, the newest hot ticket is Merida, Mexico, District 5280's International Humanitarian Trip, slated for January 25–30, 2017.

This is Mexico's most culturally and biologically diverse region and the most impoverished.

California Rotarians will partner with Mexico's District 4195, "Distrito 4195 de Rotary International," which consists of the states of Campeche, Chiapas, Oaxaca,

Tabasco, Quintana Roo, and Yucatán. These comprise Mexico's "South," and while they have 20% of the population, they have 75% of the indigenous population.

This is the most culturally and biologically diverse region and the most impoverished. Yucatán is relatively underdeveloped compared to the rest of the country. Lowest indicators are in literacy, life expectancy, and income levels.

"It's back to basics," said Melody St. John



of the Hollywood Club, and the District's co-chair for the trip. She explained that seven work projects have been chosen out of some 20 that were considered. Local clubs and District 4195 will contribute funds as they partner with our district and clubs.

The projects include: clean water (filters), diabetics and dental clinic outreach programs, special-needs school, playground and bathrooms

for a pre-school, musical equipment and art supplies to help sustain an after-school program, and economic development for women in Ticul.

"We are looking for District 5280 clubs' participation," said Melody. "For as little as a \$100 contribution you can buy a water filter for a family." Please contact co-chairs [Paul St. John](#) or [Melody St. John](#) on how your club can get involved. ■

2016–17 PRESIDENTIAL CITATION

Each year the RI president offers a Presidential Citation program to encourage Rotary clubs to achieve specific goals that advance Rotary’s strategic priorities. President Germ’s Presidential Citation brochure describes the

goals clubs must achieve to earn a citation in 2016–17.

Most activities related to the goals will be verified automatically through RI’s data. However, some will be verified only by the information your club enters in Rotary Club Central. No forms will need to be submitted to the district governor.

For the first time ever, clubs will have the entire year to achieve the Presidential Citation.

All goals must be achieved and reflected in RI’s data by 30 June 2017. It is the club president’s responsibility to ensure that the necessary goal-related activities are recorded in Rotary Club Central before the final deadline of 30 June 2017.

Questions? You can find more information, including details about the citation and frequently asked questions [here](#). You can also contact riawards@rotary.org. ■



Rotary’s member benefits program gives Rotary and Rotaract club members access to discounts on a variety of products and services selected with their interests in mind.

ROTARY GLOBAL REWARDS

Here is a guide to how to get started with signing in for Rotary Global Rewards:

1. Go to Rotary.org and make sure you have a “myrotary” account. For those you who do not, at the top of the rotary.org page is a link to myrotary
2. You will then be directed to sign in with your “sign-in email and password. These are the original ones you received.
3. Follow the registration instructions.
4. Next you will get an email to activate your account.
5. You will then set up an account with security questions and password.

6. Next click on remember me continue and voila, there you are!
7. Scroll down and there is a featured link: Rotary Global Rewards. From there it is pretty self-explanatory. We suggest starting with something simple.

Next month, we will conjure up some new ways to explore and use Rotary Global Rewards.

Oh, One More Thing!

If you have a smart phone, go to the app store and download “RotaryClubLocator.” At the bottom of the app you will find the global rewards banner. If you need more assistance contact Arlene Dickey, Global Rewards chair, at 310.210.8577. ■

HELP DISTRICT 5280 MAKE ROTARY HISTORY AGAIN!

—by Shirley Giltzow (Lawndale), District 5280 Polio Plus Chair

During the last Rotary year, our District made Rotary history by being the first in the world to have 100% of its members donate to Polio Plus!



We are so very close to wiping out polio from our world. There have only been 19 polio cases this year, which were reported in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

How easy to say the numbers are few, and funds are no longer needed. This is not true! Donations are still needed to ensure the newborns and very young in these two countries continue to receive immunizations. Monitoring for the next three years is also very important.

Rotary International is asking every Rotarian to contribute \$26.50 this year for Polio Plus, as this is the Centennial Year of our Foundation, and this was the amount of the first contribution to the Foundation in 1917.

Insurgents are still trying to stop the immunization projects. During the past 30 months, 65 workers and security officers were killed in Pakistan trying to get the job done. These workers gave their lives to help us with our goal to eliminate polio. What is the story of just one of these workers?

Dr. Yakoob Khan, an EPI coordinator in Swabi, Pakistan, was assassinated in the line of duty on November 30, 2015. The incident occurred on the Zaida Bypass. After hearing the gunshots, people rushed to the spot, but the assailants had fled. The Khan died on the spot and his cousin, Muhammad Irfan, who was driving the vehicle, sustained serious

injuries. Soon after Dr. Kahn's death, people of his village and doctors of the Bacha Khan Medical Complex placed his body on the Swabi-Jehangira Road to stage a protest and demand arrest of the killers.

Please consider contributing what RI has asked of each one of us, which is \$26.50 this year.

Despite the extreme dangers and threats polio workers face, they continue their mission of polio eradication in Pakistan. If these people risk the possibility of losing their lives to finish the job of eliminating polio in our world, let's all of us in District 5280 take a stand to stay united in donating as individuals to Polio Plus again this Rotary year.

Please consider contributing what Rotary International has asked of each one of us, which is \$26.50 from each Rotarian this year. Let's again have 100% of our Rotarians in District 5280 contribute to Polio Plus. ■



1st Regional Presidents' Dinner

Wednesday, September 14

5:30pm

Sagebrush Cantina | 23527 Calabasas Rd., Calabasas, CA 91302

Cost | \$30/person

RSVP | by September 7 to Sheri Polak at sheripolak@aol.com



**ALL Club Presidents, District Leaders
and Spouses are welcome to attend!**

Tell Me More!

The first of several Presidents' Dinners held across regions in District 5280!

This dinner focuses on the West Valley region, but **ALL** are welcome to attend!

Agenda:

Bring an elevator pitch that describes your Rotary club

Share something fun about your club

Fun, food, and fiesta!

IMAGINE: TWO CAMPUSES, TWO CLUBS, TWO CONTINENTS

—by Inga Liden (Palos Verdes Peninsula)

In 2012–13, District Governor Greg O’Brien was president of the Rotary Club of Palos Verdes Peninsula when he read about plans for a new school in Songdo, Korea. The school was to be operated by the K-12 Chadwick School in Palos Verdes. Chadwick had no Interact Club. Greg imagined an opportunity to sponsor two clubs: “Two clubs, two campuses, two continents.” It would be a first for Rotary.

Chadwick International School is part of the futuristic wonder city of Songdo. It is about an hour by car from Seoul. Establishing an Interact Club at the new school became a special project for our members four years ago when Greg, then our club president, learned that Chadwick School, an 81-year-old independent K-12 day school on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, would establish an affiliate campus in Songdo.



Students, administrators, and Rotarians during recent visit of PVPRC members to the Chadwick-Songdo campus

Witnessing the fruits of Greg’s imagination and our members’ efforts was the RI Convention highlight for our visiting club delegation. It had been an unusual undertaking for our club. Greg was told, in fact, that it had never happened in Rotary. That alone made it worth doing. As we journeyed by van to Songdo, I thought back to all that had happened. . . .

Greg had sketched out a plan and showed it to the club. He then contacted Chadwick Headmaster Ted Hill, who eagerly received the idea. Next, a Rotary Club in Korea was needed to sponsor the Interact Club in Songdo. With the help of our immediate past district governor, DJ Sun, who was at that time SAG for International

—continues on next page

—*IMAGINE Two,*
continues from previous page



The new Chadwick International represents one of the most technologically advanced education facilities in the world.

Service, Greg was able to contact Past Rotary International President D.K. Lee. PRIP Lee was enthusiastic. With his introduction of our club to the Rotary Club of Shinon Hyuen, the rest would be simple.

In May, 2013, a chartering gala was held at the beautiful Rolling Hills estate of our fellow club member, Korean-born Hang Up Moon. Our club was joined by PRIP Lee, members of the Rotary Club of Koreatown, past district governors from 5280, local Chadwick staff, parents, and students. Our task was complete. Both Interact clubs had been chartered. . . .

My memories were interrupted by the arrival of our van at the magnificent Chadwick International School in Songdo. We were greeted by Executive Director (formerly Headmaster) Ted, Head of School (principal) Shelly Wille, a group of enthusiastic students, and members of the Songdo Rotary Club.

During our campus tour, four seniors who had graduated only a day earlier shared with us their experiences as charter Interact leaders. It was inspiring to listen to them! They spoke with great confidence and knowledge about the real-life challenges of establishing the club, volunteering to teach English to young children, and compassion gained and the discovery of career opportunities through Interact projects.

“...knowledge is limited, whereas imagination embraces the entire world, stimulating progress, giving birth to evolution.” —Albert Einstein

The new graduates were ready for the next generation of Interact students to now take responsibility for leading the club. The younger students were ready but a tad shy, and they looked up to the graduates. We knew, however, that soon they would walk tall in the graduates’ footsteps. It was wonderful to see how school

administrators Ted and Shelly connected with students and to witness how deeply involved they are with each one on many levels, fostering not only educational and vocational passions but also humanitarian pursuits, collaboration, and creative development.

The school’s teleconference room was fitted with a half-circular table in front of an enormous wall-mounted screen. Our hosts described meetings where the participants on each continent could see and hear each other as if they were on the other side of the table. In real time, Chadwick Interactors have become “two clubs, two campuses, two continents.”

Who would have imagined four years ago that all this was not only possible but would become reality?

Greg imagined something new and worthwhile. In the words of Past R.I. President Ray Klingerman, we were “building bridges, spanning continents.” How might you imagine Rotary? ■

-
- View a 10-minute video taken during the visit of PVPRC members and District 5280 leaders to Chadwick International: [IMG_0280.MOV](#)
 - Learn more about [Chadwick School](#) and [Chadwick International](#).



Rotary District 5280 Performing Arts Group Survey of Interest

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

FULL NAME

CLUB

PHONE #

EMAIL

OPEN CALL FOR ROTARY SINGERS, MUSICIANS, AND DANCERS!

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



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



The Young Professionals Network has grown tremendously, reaching now three times as many YPs as in recent years.

Young Professionals Chair Jermaine Ee (LA5) has created a short and sweet e-newsletter curated especially for YP Rotarians. If you're not already on Jermaine's distribution list and wish to receive his communication, contact him at 626.244.6747 or via email at rotary@eejermaine.com.

Events for Young Professionals

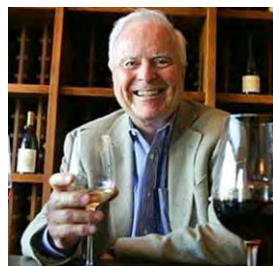


Hope you were able to attend the YP's **Happy Hour at Citizen**

Thursday, August 25, 6 pm

184 N Canon Dr, Beverly Hills

We missed you if you weren't there, but look forward to seeing you at the upcoming calendared YP events.



Public School 818

Special guest: former LA Mayor Richard Riordan

Thursday, October 6, 5:30-7:30 pm

15300 Ventura Blvd #102G, Sherman Oaks

Watch for your invitation to RSVP for this event



Rotary West Coast RV Tour

School supplies drive/pack + Mixer

Wednesday, November 9, 6 pm

General Assembly Santa Monica

1520 2nd St, Santa Monica

Watch for your invitation to RSVP for this event



Rotary Club of Inglewood YP Mixer

Partnered with the Inglewood Airport Area Chamber of Commerce

Thursday, September 15, 5-7 pm

Holiday Inn LAX, 9901 S. La Cienega, Los Angeles

CLUB 63

News for and about District 5280 clubs

ON THE COVER

Rotarian Raises Almost \$22,000 by Biking Across America!



Playa Venice Rotarian Rob DeCou (pictured left) met the challenge of bicycling across the United States in memory of his friend Christina Ahmann

Nevill, who passed away in 2013 of brain cancer. He completed his 3,000 mile trip in 11 days 21 hours and 3 minutes! Rob's ride brought in a total of \$21,870.

He had the support of a number of groups and individuals, including his nine-year-old niece who traveled with the team and encouraged Rob. He also received a video from his club chanting "go Rob go!"

Rob categorized the effort as, "spiritually uplifting experience and community building for everyone. It was more positive than I could have ever imagined: It was an incredible journey!" ■



The Santa Monica Rotary Club Foundation awarded a \$15,000 grant to the Santa Monica Boys and Girls Club to renovate facilities creating a teen center for local youth and a place to call their own



Lawndale and El Segundo Rotary Clubs stuffed 220 backpacks for area student.

—continues on next page

—Club 63, continues from previous page

Big West Rotaract Institute

—by Jermaine Ee (LA5)
Young Professionals Chair



I had a wonderful time at the Big West Rotaract Institute this year. I was in the PETS track: President Elect Training Seminar. The weekend was full of friendship, networking,

leadership, training, and, of course, fun. It's always fun to be around like-minded people who want to make the world a better place.

I talked with presidents, presidents-elect, district Rotaract representatives, and other leaders who shared their Rotaract story and tips and tricks they use to be well-prepared future leaders. I left with a better understanding of how to be a leader, not a manager, how to plan projects effectively with Plan Bs, and to expect the unexpected. I also left with contact information for people who can help our projects succeed through mentorships. And, of course, I left with hope and goals to be better leaders in our club and community. ■



Glendale Noon Rotary was proud to host some of Glendale's most talented high school students in a two-day series that included music and public speaking. Enjoy more on this [YouTube video](#).



Playa Venice Sunrise Club is Honored

The *Hometown News* serving Westchester, Playa del Rey, Playa Vista, and Marina del Rey, recently announced the winners in its 5th Annual “Best of . . .” Survey. The Rotary Club of Playa Venice Sunrise was honored in four categories: “Best Nonprofit,” “Best Group Working to Better the Community,” “Best Place to Volunteer,” and “Best Charity/Nonprofit Event.”

Playa Venice was the only Rotary Club in our area recognized this year, said Club President Peter Smyth. “We are humbled by the diversity of this recognition and are greatly appreciative of acknowledgement from the community we serve!” ■

—continues on next page

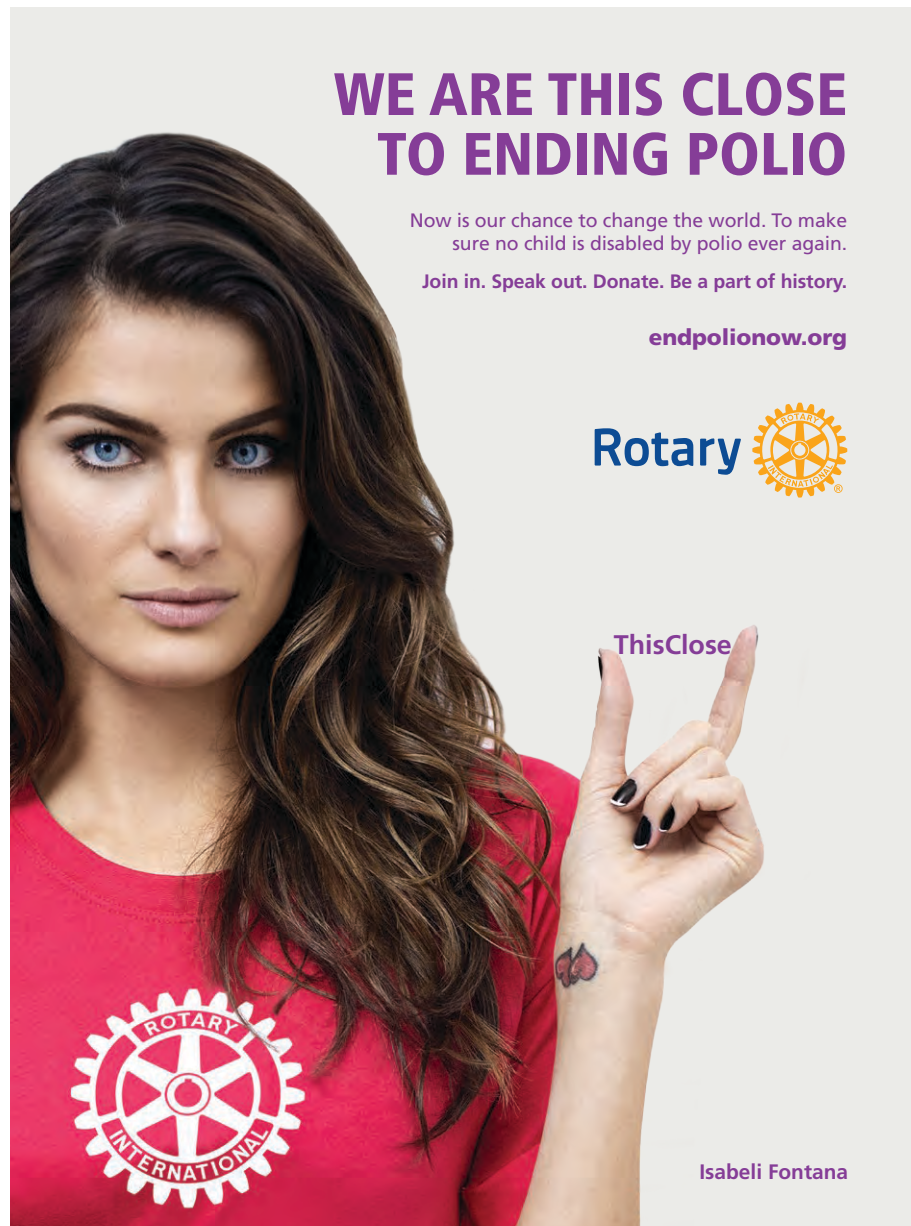
—Club 63, continues from previous page



Humanitarian Trip to Kenya

For the past three years the Downtown Los Angeles Club, with the support of other District 5280 Rotarians, has completed almost 20 water and sanitation (WASH) projects in schools in Migori, Kenya. Rotarians have saved lives and increased educational opportunities for children. You can see what they have accomplished on [YouTube](#).

The club is organizing a trip to Kenya for 20 people from January 8–19, 2017 so Rotarians will see what has been accomplished and to accept the thanks from children whose lives that have changed. In addition, there will be a visit to the Masai Mara National Reserve. The cost per person is \$2,900 plus airfare. For more information email [Peter Lattey](#) or phone him at 310.968.3252. ■




WE ARE THIS CLOSE TO ENDING POLIO

Now is our chance to change the world. To make sure no child is disabled by polio ever again.

Join in. Speak out. Donate. Be a part of history.

[endpolionow.org](#)

Rotary 

ThisClose

Isabeli Fontana