

Make a dream come true!

Rotary
District 5280



ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 2017



CBS Studios was the venue on August 19 for this year's first Presidents' Brunch. Pictured are some of the 60+ Rotarians who attended. DG Cozette Vergari is center front.

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

September

- 9 PRLS (Potential Rotary Leaders Seminar)
- 12 Literacy Breakfast [\(Pg. 10\)](#)
- 16 PRLS (Potential Rotary Leaders Seminar)
- 30 Peace Conversation Facilitator, Part 1

October

- 14 Peace Through the Lens of Technology
- 24 World Polio Day! [\(Pg. 11\)](#)
- 28 Service Trip to Camp Pendleton
- 28 Million Dollar Dinner (Foundation Fundraiser)
[\(Pg. 12 and pg. 19\)](#)

November

- 4 Peace Conversation Facilitator, Part 2
- 7 District Breakfast

December

- 2 Angel City Celebration

Photo: This is Sara. Read about her wonderful grandpa, Wynne Ritch, and the imaginative project of his Greater Van Nuys Rotary Club on [page 20](#).



“Make your reservations ASAP for our Million Dollar Dinner on October 28 at the JW Marriott LA Live!”



DISTRICT 5280 IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE, COLLECTIVELY AND COLLABORATIVELY

By Cozette Vergari, District Governor

GREETINGS DISTRICT 5280 ROTARIANS, family, and friends.

Our summer is coming to an end, which typically means our club activities start really gearing up as people settle in from their vacation. Our Interactors and Rotaractors are going back to school, looking for guidance and assistance from their sponsoring clubs. I am sure lots has already happened in your clubs within the first two months of this 2017–18 Rotary Year, already making a difference in peoples' lives. Also as a district, filled with talented and generous Rotarians, collectively and collaboratively, District 5280 is making a difference.

Congratulations to all clubs who met the August 1 deadline for District Grant Applications. We received

42 Grant Applications, to which \$110,000 from 5280 District Designated Funds is going back into our local communities from donations we made three years ago in support of The Rotary Foundation. Those funds will be donated to your club projects, with project budgets totaling \$360,150, making a difference within our region.

I AM VERY EXCITED TO GIVE YOU A QUICK UPDATE on Rob's Run To End Polio Now. Not only did Rotarian Rob make the approximately 135-mile run/walk from Death Valley to the portal of Mt. Whitney, starting in the early morning of August 5 and reaching the portal the evening of August 7, when he reached the "finish" line, he decided, "what's another 11 miles," and went all the way
—continues





Rotoactors Gabriel Biren, left, and Chris Reyes complete their (hopefully) seaworthy vessel for the Boat Race for the recently held District Picnic.

*“Remember to
make a dream come true
in your own individual way.”*

—Cozette Vergari

—continues

to the top of Mt. Whitney! That means he went from 232 feet below sea level to 14,494 above sea level. Over 150 Rotarians in five locations throughout the District shared his journey across the finish line and to the summit. Thank you to Rob and the Rotarians who made this event a great success.

We will reveal our polio fundraising results at our annual Rotary Foundation Celebration: Centennial II Million Dollar Dinner at the JW Marriott LA Live on October 28. Fritz Coleman will be our master of ceremonies. We will be hearing from Dr. Peter Salk, son of Dr. Jonas Salk, who developed the first safe and effective polio vaccine. We will enjoy a live big band, great dining, and fun! Seats are available through your club and/or the district. Make your reservations ASAP. Drawing tickets have been distributed to your clubs. Purchase your book of tickets for a chance to win \$3,000.

LOOKING BACK OVER THE SUMMER, we had a great End Polio Now District Breakfast with a full house, kicking off our Rotary year. The first Presidents’ Brunch at CBS Studios was attended by over 60, who enjoyed a great time in a fantastic venue. And, of course our end of summer District Picnic, with fabulous food and the famous cardboard boat race, was a fabulous way to have fun!!

Check out the district calendar for September for the activities and opportunities coming up in District 5280, including the two PRLS leadership-training workshops as well as the Peace Conversation Facilitator workshops. Don’t miss the Literacy Breakfast at Lawry’s on September 12. Details can be found on the District website and your electronic weekly and monthly District newsletters.

On behalf of RI President Riseley: *The best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago. The second best time is now.* ★





CRITICAL THINKING: CRITICAL FOR PEACE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

By Michael Turner (Woodland Hills)
SAG Communications

ACCORDING TO ROTARY INTERNATIONAL, conflict and violence displace millions of people each year. Half of those killed in conflict are children, and 90 percent are civilians.

Rotary refuses to accept conflict as a way of life. Rotary projects provide training that fosters understanding and provides communities with the skills to resolve conflicts.

There are three areas of concern in terms of peace and conflict resolution:

- **Improving quality of life**
- **Raising awareness of bullying**
- **Protecting domestic violence survivors and their families**

Through service projects, peace fellowships, and scholarships, Rotarians and others overcome issues with peace and conflict resolution by taking action to address the underlying causes of conflict by engaging in dialogue, mediation, education, and hands-on experiences. Critical thinking is an important part of the process.

WHAT IS CRITICAL THINKING? The mental activity over which we exercise some control in assessing a problem, researching potential solutions, and selecting the best alternative to resolve the situation to the mutual benefit of —*continues*

Learning critical thinking skills
requires education and
hands-on experience



—continues

all parties. Critical thinking is a complex combination of skills and among them are:

- **Rationality.** We are thinking critically when we rely on reason rather than emotion and follow reliable and credible evidence wherever it leads. In addition, we are concerned with finding the best explanation and solution to resolve the problem.
- **Self-awareness.** We are thinking critically when we weigh the influences of motives and biases and recognize our own assumptions, prejudices, or point of view.
- **Honesty.** We are thinking critically when we recognize and ignore emotional impulses, selfish motives, nefarious purposes, or other modes of self-deception.
- **Discipline.** We are thinking critically when we are precise, meticulous, comprehensive, and exhaustive and resist manipulation, irrational appeals, and snap judgments.
- **Open-mindedness.** We are thinking critically when we evaluate all reasonable inferences, consider a variety of possible viewpoints or perspectives, remain open to alternative interpretations, and accept a new explanation and paradigm.

Learning these skills is not an overnight process. It requires education and hands-on experiences so that they can be applied in the manner that will achieve the desired outcome. One approach to critical thinking is to use the **Socratic Method**, which is a form of cooperative argumentative dialogue between individuals based on asking and answering questions to stimulate thinking and meaningful dialog, and to draw out new ideas while avoiding any assumptions.

HERE ARE SOME STRATEGIES to use in learning or refining your critical thinking skills:

- Suspend judgment in order to check the validity of a proposition or action
- Take into consideration multiple perspectives
- Examine implications and consequences of a belief or action
- Use reasoning and evidence to resolve disagreements
- Re-evaluate a point of view in light of new information ★



DONATIONS FOR VICTIMS OF HURRICANE HARVEY

THE ROTARY DISTRICT 5280 CHARITABLE FOUNDATION is a conduit through which individuals or Rotary Clubs can make contributions to victims of Hurricane Harvey. District Governor Cozette Vergari has been working with zone coordinators and district governors in areas affected by the disaster. Funds will be directed to the respective Rotary Districts as guided by the Rotary International Zone Coordinators. [Here is a link](#) for making a donation to this effort. ★





Club presidents Dickie Van Breene & Mark Burton

“Our first date was my best date ever. We’ll be celebrating our 15th wedding anniversary later this month.”

—Mark Burton



A DISTRICT FIRST FOR A HUSBAND AND WIFE

By Lorine Parks (Downey), Senior Correspondent

“OUR MANHATTAN BEACH ROTARY CLUB is a very robust, active club,” said President Mark Burton. “With 110 members, we have 80% attendance at our weekly meetings. Our members are the most righteous group of people I have ever met. Rotary fellowship is very strong in our club.”

Mark is married to Dickie Van Breene, who is president of an equally strong neighboring club, El Segundo. “It’s the first time a husband and wife have served as presidents concurrently in the District,” commented Mark. Do their clubs have much in common?

“El Segundo is a fun-loving club,” said Dickie. “Our members have a lot of energy and a passion for helping those who are less fortunate. Our club is an integral part of the city.”

Do they find much to talk about in preparing for their meetings? “It’s been fun to discuss things with Mark and share ideas,” said Dickie. “We enjoy each other’s company, and we both want to help each other succeed as president.”

The also take counsel and advice from members in their respective clubs. “We both enjoy our clubs. We have a couple of Rotarians who have spouses in other clubs as well. It’s fun to get to know the members,” commented Dickie.

Mark and Dickie sound suspiciously like honeymooners. Any comment? “My brother and his wife introduced us,” said Mark. “Our first date was my best date ever. We’ll be celebrating our 15th wedding anniversary later this month.”

—continues





At the District Conference in May at Lake Arrowhead, incoming club presidents Dickie Van Breene and Mark Burton hosted their joint clubs' Tequila Tasting Table.

—continues

"Our first date was a blind date," added Dickie, "and I felt as if I had known Mark my whole life."

"The advantages of being involved with two clubs is that we both get to experience their different cultures and learn from them. We kind of double our fun! With Manhattan Beach meeting on Monday morning and El Segundo meeting on Thursday at noon, we share our agendas and ideas for our meetings. Also, all the training we attended when we were presidents-elect was something we did together. It made it a lot more fun," said Dickie.

What plans do they have for their two different clubs? "For my year as president," commented Mark, "my theme is 'Service To Children In Need.' There are a lot of children in need and families in need than you would think."

Their clubs are adding more programs and projects, such as adopting 10 at-risk children for the P.S. I Love You Foundation's Day at The Beach. Additionally, 20 Manhattan Beach Rotarians participated as mentors during the Day at the Beach. Five scholarships will be given to children with disabilities so they can attend the Friendship Foundation's Got Camp.

"I'd like to increase the number of service projects," said Dickie. "We raise a lot of money, but our members also love to participate in hands-on service projects."

How would they describe each other's presidential qualities? "Dickie and I are on the same track, with both of us having had careers in public service," said Mark. "Dickie is a former principal and has great people and problem-solving skills. I am the former mayor of Manhattan Beach and former senior assistant city attorney with the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office. I have spent a total of 35 of years in public service. 'Service Above Self' has been our life's work and Rotary is a continuation of that work."

As a city attorney, Mark said, "my loyalty was always clear. It wasn't to a person or a department. It was always to the residents and what was best for the city and

—continues

“The advantages of being involved with two clubs is that we both get to experience their different cultures and learn from them.”

—Dickie Van Breene

—continues

their neighborhoods. Your charge is to give the legal advice in the best interest of the city. If you do the job the right way, you have a righteous career.”

How did Mark and Dickie become interested in Rotary? “I joined when I was principal at Richmond Street Elementary School in El Segundo,” said Dickie. “Rotary was always so supportive and generous with the El Segundo School District. I wanted to give back to Rotary and the community because I was so appreciative and thankful.”

“For Rotary, I’d always conducted the Gently Used Book Drive. The district would collect the books, and then we’d give them to an elementary school in Lawndale,” Dickie continued. “At that particular school, the kids didn’t have many books at home, so they got to keep them for their home libraries. I just felt what we were doing was so important for those children.”

Marks’s introduction was a little different. “While attending a Rotary meeting, I witnessed the look of compassion and caring by all members when they were seeing a video regarding a water well being built in Africa. The topic was partnering with Wells Bring Hope to donate \$1 million for the project. I just knew that I wanted to part of that group of Manhattan Beach Rotarians.”

“We both want to do the best job we can for our respective clubs,” said Mark. “Rotarians are such good people and do such good things that we want to make sure we continue the tradition and do the very best for our members. I have a great board with great initiative, and that makes my job easier.”

“When you’re a part of Rotary, you’re really making a difference, both locally and internationally,” Mark concluded. “When you think about all the wonderful things Rotary has accomplished, who wouldn’t want to be part of one of the most successful humanitarian organization in history?” ★



ROTARY DISTRICT 5280's ANNUAL



Literacy BREAKFAST

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 7-9 AM

LAWRY'S THE PRIME RIB | 100 N. LA CIENEGA BLVD., BEVERLY HILLS

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

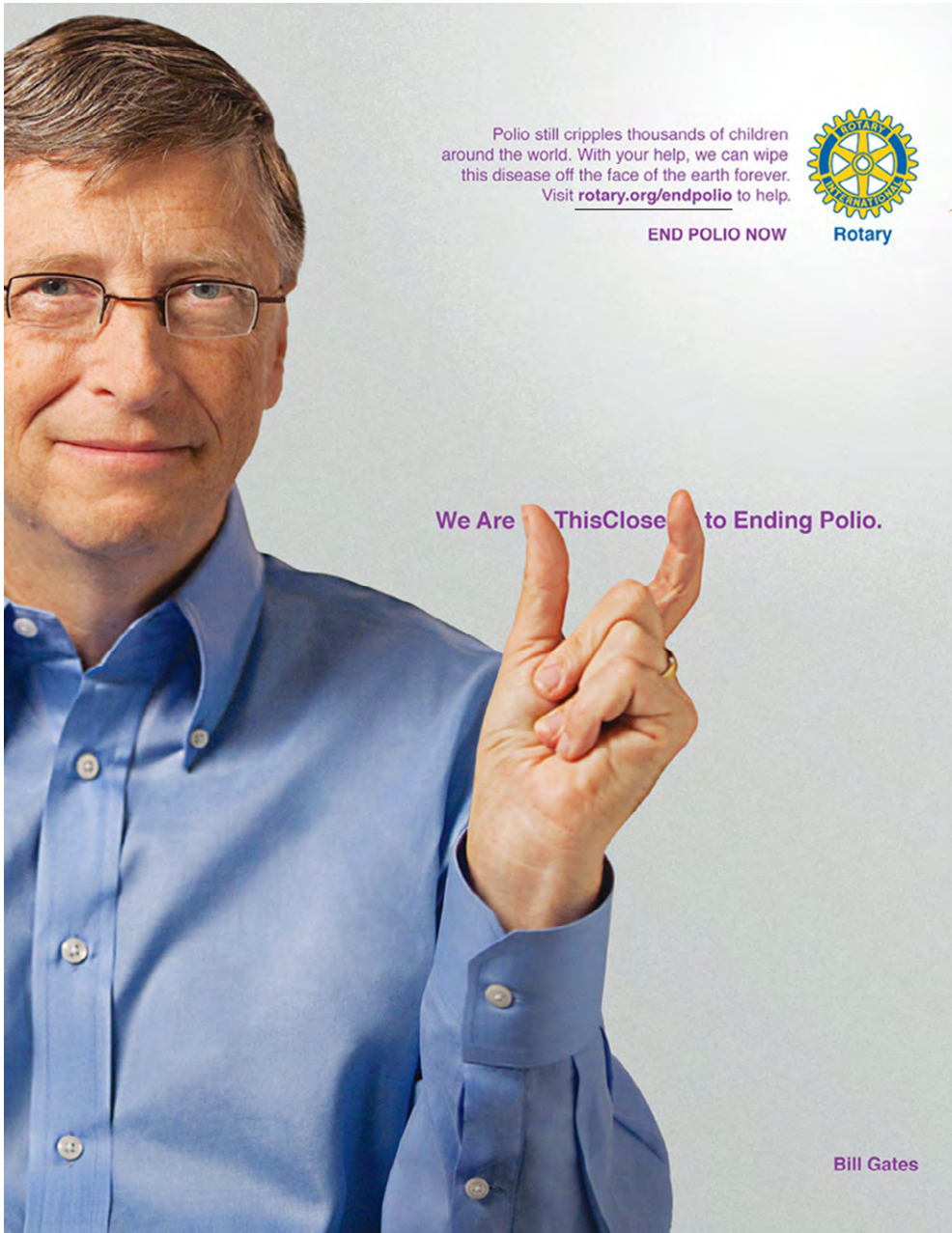
DR. FRANCES GIPSON, CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER, LAUSD

RSVP REQUIRED TO ATTEND. [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE](#)

QUESTIONS? CONTACT EVENT CHAIR STEPHANIE SIORDIA
AT STEPHSIORDIA@GMAIL.COM

Free!





OCTOBER 24: WORLD POLIO DAY

By Shirley Glitzow (Lawndale), Polio Plus Chair

DID YOU KNOW that World Polio Day will be celebrated on October 24? We have much to celebrate as the number of cases that have been reported in 2017 is just nine as of the end of August. We need to keep our fellow Rotarians, friends, and family members aware that we haven't yet reached the finish line!

This year is the 100th anniversary of the Rotary Foundation. Wouldn't it be wonderful if every Rotarian in the District would donate at least \$20 to finish the job of eliminating polio? Already this year, so many Rotarians and clubs in the District have contributed to Polio Plus. Rob's Run was a wonderful kickoff event to publicize and raise funds for the cause.

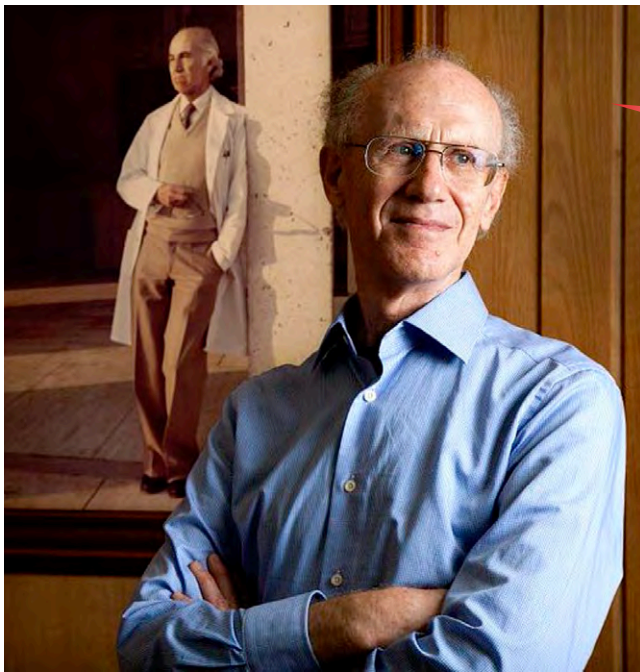
Think of creative ideas that your club could conduct to raise funds for World Polio Day! You could have a wine and appetizer social, garage sale, bike ride, carnival/festival, or 5k walkathon. Find sponsors to make your event successful. What can you share with your club and the District to celebrate World Polio Day?

Another easy way to get involved is through social media. Imagine if every club in the District tweeted and posted news about World Polio Day. That's thousands of social media posts across the District and be sure to have your friends share the message about polio eradication with their friends.

If you haven't already done so, Rotary clubs or members can make a check out to Rotary Foundation and send it to the District office. As the District Polio Plus chair, I will complete all paperwork to make the process easier. If you need additional information, feel free to contact me at shirley_glitzow@live.com or 310.377.2979.

Let's race to the finish line to End Polio Now! ★





THE BATTLE OF THE SUPER STARS. POLIO VACCINES, THAT IS

By Lorine Parks (Downey), Senior Correspondent

ONE OF DISTRICT GOVERNOR COZETTE VERGARI'S DREAMS will come true on Saturday, October 28, as she sits down to dine with 750 of her fellow Rotarians, their families, and friends.

District 5280 Rotarians will be treated to a rare evening. The District Foundation is holding its Million Dollar Dinner at the JW Marriott LA Live, in downtown Los Angeles. KNBC TV's weatherman, Fritz Coleman, will be the emcee. John Mina (Historic Filipinotown), chair of the dinner, said tickets also will be drawn for grand prizes of \$3000, \$1000, and \$500.

DINNER GUESTS WILL BE KICKING OFF Centennial II: The Second 100 Years of The Rotary Foundation. Dr. Peter Salk, son of Dr. Jonas Salk, will be the keynote speaker. He is the director and president of the Jonas Salk Legacy Foundation and heir to a thrilling story: the race to be the first to discover a way to prevent and eradicate this frightening scourge, polio. This is a disease that

ravages people of all ages, especially children. Peter and his two brothers were human guinea pigs for their father's experiments. "He gave us the shots in our kitchen," Peter recalled. "My father boiled the needles and syringes on the stove top, then lined us up. I hated shots. For some reason, the shot didn't hurt that day."

Polio is a disease caused by bad sanitation. Where there is good water and hygiene, polio doesn't have a chance. But once it's established in a population, it's very contagious. In fact, when a person is infected with polio, it is expected that polio transmission among family members will occur in nearly 100% of children and 90% of adults.

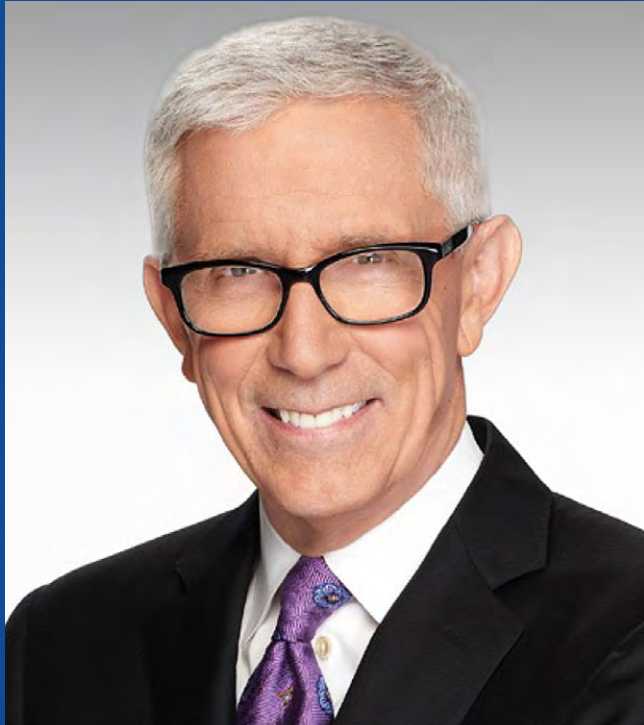
There is not a cure for polio, but treatments and rehabilitation therapy have been developed. Enter the first of two "superstar virologists." In 1955 Jonas Salk, with his vaccine. It was safe because it contained a formalin-killed strain of the influenza virus that could not cause the disease but rather

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Dr. Peter Salk,
son of Dr. Jonas Salk,
will be the keynoter at the
Million Dollar Dinner.
He is heir to the race to
discover a way to prevent
and eradicate polio.

Make a Dream Come True!  SEPTEMBER 2017





KNBC TV's weatherman, Fritz Coleman, will emcee the Foundation's fundraiser.

Dinner guests will be kicking off
Centennial II:
The Second 100 Years
of The Rotary Foundation.

—continues

induce antibodies that were able to ward off future attacks of polio. Drawbacks? This Inactive Polio Vaccine (the "I" could also stand for Injectable) costs about 80 cents a dose and it takes trained technicians to administer it.

Remember the sugar cube soaked in vaccine? In 1961 Dr. Albert Sabin delivered his oral polio vaccine. It was good and cheap (twelve cents a dose), and easy for anyone untrained to administer. The bad news? The OPV (Oral Polio Vaccine) used an active form of the virus and some of the recipients could get the disease. Sabin and many scientists, at the time, believed that only a living virus would be able to guarantee immunity for an extended period.

Despite Sabin's belief in live-virus's efficacy, the risk for paralysis from the vaccine does exist, although it is slight. So in 1999, a federal advisory panel recommended that the United States return to Salk's vaccine because it cannot accidentally cause polio.

NOW, WHERE DOES ROTARY COME IN?

In 1985, after seeing how smallpox had been eradicated, Rotary announced that it would take on the cause of eliminating polio. Rotary joined with WHO, UNICEF, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, to lead the fight.

Rotary and its partners have reduced polio cases by 99.9%. We are that close.

There are some new outbreaks and many of them are

complicated because of politics, geography, and the culture of the affected area.

Some tribal chiefs in Afghanistan and Africa, for example, have refused to allow polio workers into their territories, fearing they are disguised CIA agents or that the vaccine is a means of ethnic extermination by causing sterility.

So the polio story, though nearly completed, is still keeping its supporters in suspense until the very end. Neither Salk nor Sabin patented his vaccine; they donated the rights as gifts to humanity.

WHAT'S NEXT? Jonas spent his remaining years searching for a vaccine for AIDS. The Salk Institute for Biological Studies in La Jolla is now a leading center of research on cancer, neuroscience, diabetes, and aging. Jonas was a bio-philosopher who died in 1995 at 80. He constantly wrote and spoke about "man's relationship to man," suggesting ways for people to evolve and get along. "We can create ourselves and our future by shaping ourselves— not our cells," he said.

The Rotary Foundation has set new goals for its second century. They are empowering Rotarians and others to continue fighting disease, reducing poverty, providing clean water, promoting peace, and advancing economic development in communities all around the world. ★



“Join us in celebration by supporting
and being a part of our campaign.”



THE ROTARY FOUNDATION'S CENTENNIAL YEAR

By DJ Sun, District Rotary Foundation Chair 2016-18

THIS YEAR MARKS THE CENTENNIAL of The Rotary Foundation, which began in 1917 with a stated goal of “DOING GOOD IN THE WORLD” and an initial donation of \$26.50 from the Kansas City Rotary Club. Since then, the Foundation has raised a total of \$4.1 billion, changed millions of lives, and made a profound impact upon humanity. Since 1979, the Foundation has dedicated a total of \$1.6 billion to the PolioPlus project, successfully eradicating polio in every country except Afghanistan and Pakistan by 2015.

This project not only rid the world of one of its most devastating diseases, but also established the organizational structure necessary to help fight against others, such as HIV, malaria, tuberculosis,

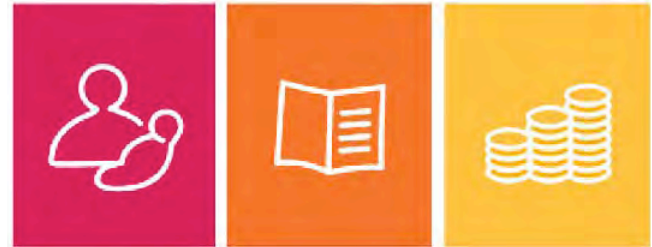
diabetes, and Ebola. In 2015, the Foundation’s Family Health days treated 344,000 people in Africa, many of whom had never received any medical care in their lives. The Foundation has also combatted illiteracy, facilitated microfinance projects and economic self-sufficiency, constructed water treatment and sanitation facilities, provided maternal healthcare services, and worked towards bringing peace and understanding to war torn communities.

This year represents an opportunity to celebrate our past accomplishments while laying the groundwork for future ones. The Foundation’s goal is to build an endowment of \$2.025 billion by 2025. District 5280 began a fundraising campaign in 2015–2016 and, as
—continues





ROTARY'S Areas of Focus



Maternal and child health

Basic education and literacy

Economic and community development



Peace and conflict prevention/resolution

Disease prevention and treatment

Water and sanitation

WAYS TO GIVE

- CASH
- STOCK AND MUTUAL FUNDS
- TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY
- REAL ESTATE
- MAJOR GIFT PLEDGE
- LIFE INCOME AGREEMENTS (U.S.)
- BEQUEST THROUGH:
 - Will or Living Trust
 - Retirement Plan (U.S.)
 - Life Insurance
 - Donor Advised Fund (U.S.)
 - Charitable Remainder Trust

—continues
of today, has contributed \$1.5 million. Direct cash gifts are not the only way to contribute. The Rotary Foundation also accepts bequests, which can be dedicated towards specific causes or bequeathed only under certain conditions. Listed below are several “WAYS TO GIVE” for reference.

JOIN US and be a part of The Rotary Foundation’s centennial celebration and our District’s accomplishment by supporting our campaign. Please contact your club president or Foundation chair for more information. You may also contact me or District Fundraising Chair Val Velasco for further assistance. ★

CONTACTS:

DJ Sun: djsunrotary@gmail.com 323.459.9236

Val Velasco: vvleasco@aol.com 310.821.7890

Let us all work together to ensure that the foundation’s past successes will not only be replicated, but will be exceeded.





Rotaractor Ián Guanduláin, from Mexico City, at a meeting of District 5280 Rotaract members.



MAKING A NEW FRIEND

By Sarah Furie (San Fernando Valley Rotaract) District Rotaract Executive Aide

AROUND THE WORLD, Rotary International has connected so many people from different cultures, religions, political views, and traditions. Through Rotary, I have made friends from many countries who I can network, collaborate, and volunteer with and who I enjoy being around. With social media it is now easier than ever for people all over the world to stay connected.

Ián Guanduláin visited Los Angeles this summer from the Rotaract Club of Plateros Centro Histórico in Mexico City. He reached out to our District Rotaract Club on social media, asking to meet us. He attended one of our meetings and a few days later we all went out for dinner as friends. It was great getting to know Ián; we wish he could stay and be a Rotaract member in our District. —continues



The District Rotaract Club
will give backpacks to 300 children
in Colombia during this year's
Humanitarian Trip.

Donations of pencils, colored pencils,
pencil sharpeners, and erasers
are needed.

If you would like to donate
supplies or money,
please email Chris Reyes at
pnoy12@yahoo.com.



From the left: Christopher Becerra (Angel City Rotaract), Sarah Furie (San Fernando Valley Rotaract), Luis Ramirez (Hawthorne/Lennox Rotaract), Ian Guandulain (visiting Rotaractor from Mexico City), and Christopher Reyes (UCLA Rotaract)

—continues

Ián loved seeing the way Rotaractors from different clubs communicate with each other and come together to talk about projects on a District level. Ián said, "Meeting one Rotaract Club is awesome, but meeting people from different clubs is so much better. And yes, all of us are Rotaractors, but also we are like siblings, no matter if I'm from México and you are from the USA, you made me feel like part of you. That's something you cannot find anywhere; it's only Rotaract. That was just amazing."

We were able to talk about the projects his club is doing and share our Rotaract experiences as well. Now, anytime he visits Los Angeles, he knows he has a Rotary family here, and I'm excited to visit him one day in Mexico. ★





Auckland (top) and Milford Sound (bottom)



THE ULTIMATE 17-DAY ROTARY TOUR OF NEW ZEALAND

THE PAKURANGA, NEW ZEALAND CLUB invites you to join them on a 17-day tour of the island nation **April 6–22, 2018**. Here are some highlights of the trip:

- 4- or 5-star accommodations
- Here are some of the 62 tours/visits:
 - Four Rotary fellowship events
 - Kelly Tarlton's Sea Life Aquarium
 - Auckland Sky Tower
 - Tour of 'Hobbiton'
 - Te Puia (Rotorua centre of Maori culture and geothermal wonders)
 - Huka Falls
 - Napier wine tasting
 - Wellington's Te Papa Museum
 - Weta Workshops
 - Ferry to Picton
 - Hanmer Springs
 - Lake Tekapo
 - Lake Pukaki
 - Arrowtown
 - Queenstown
 - Milford or Doubtful Sounds
 - Dunedin
 - Christchurch City

Here are comments from Rotarians who participated in the 2017 tour:

- "We thought the tour was fantastic. Sharron (tour guide) was brilliant."
- "We thoroughly enjoyed every minute of the tour and you are to be congratulated."

The 17-day tour price is NZ\$6,495 pp shared twin (\$4,696) and NZ\$8,390pp single (\$6,066). There is an optional four-day pre-tour to Northland/Bay of Islands. The price is NZ\$1,495pp shared twin (\$1,081) and NZ\$1,890pp single (\$1,367).

To receive the full nine-page itinerary, email peter.hawkins@xtra.co.nz or john.mcmillan@xtra.co.nz. The tour is limited to 26 guests. ★



The Rotary Foundation
MILLION DOLLAR Dinner

FOUNDATION CELEBRATION
 CENTENNIAL II



**Featuring Emcee
 Fritz Coleman**
NBC Weatherman and Comedian



**Keynote Speaker
 Dr. Peter Salk**
*Director and President of the
 Jonas Salk Legacy Foundation*



OCTOBER 28, 2017

Black Tie Optional

\$135 / person • Self Parking \$10 • Valet Parking \$20

JW MARRIOTT LOS ANGELES L.A. LIVE



**MEMBERSHIP NOOK:
 ARE YOU PROVIDING VALUE
 TO YOUR MEMBERS?**

By Kathleen Terry (Manhattan Beach), SAG Membership

IF A ROTARY CLUB PROVIDES VALUE, a “return on the member’s investment,” members stay and they bring their friends, associates, and colleagues into Rotary. The majority of members leave Rotary when they perceive it is no longer worth it. You can keep members interested and engaged in Rotary by first looking at everything your club does. Examine your club’s “culture”—programs at meetings, projects in all service areas, meeting time and location, dues, social activities—to make sure your club is providing the value your members deserve.

Are Your Members Satisfied with their Club Experience? How do you know? Don’t wait until a member leaves to find out what your club is not doing right. Be proactive! Identify and personally talk with “at-risk Rotarians” to find out what is going on and then address needs. “At-risk Rotarians” are those who do not attend meetings, participate in projects or social activities, do not pay their dues, or have financial difficulties. Show that you care for your members.

Reach out to those who miss a meeting or event to make sure they are okay and to ask them what the club could do to make it easier for them to participate. Check out the free “*The Membership Resource Guide*,” which was created specifically to help you quickly find membership resources and publications based on your club’s need. [Here is a link to the guide.](#) ★





Wynne Ritch with his favorite signed Norman Rockwell piece. (Photo by Ed Crisostomo, Los Angeles Daily News/SCNG)

THE GREATER VAN NUYS CLUB

launched its “Service Above Self” fundraising event in 1972. The first year the club raised \$39,000 and honored six people. PDG Emilio Basile and Wynne Ritch created the event. “Emile Basile figured out that with my fundraising experience the club would be successful,” said Wynne.

Because Wynne worked for 32 years as a fundraiser for the Boy Scouts, doing the Rotary event came natural to him. “It takes people to climb aboard and make a commitment. It’s about building relationships, and the advice I give is ‘be prepared to give to get.’

“Simply told, I put together names of people who have done something for their community and have financial resources. Our honorees have come from Children’s Hospital, Labor Union 300, Birmingham High School, Valley College, Rotarians, and other community-minded people,” commented Wynne. “Emile was one of the first honorees, because he’d been in Rotary forever.”

—continues



Imaginative Club Project:
**FUNDRAISING WITH A
 NORMAN ROCKWELL HEART**

By Lorine Parks (Downey), Senior Correspondent

Make a Dream Come True!  SEPTEMBER 2017



Wynne has collected more than 100 signed Rockwell paintings.

He didn't realize that one day something would happen that would have him selling his beloved Rockwell's because he needed the money.

Not for himself, but for something much more important: his granddaughter, Sara.

—continues

WYNNE, AN EAGLE SCOUT, BEGAN COLLECTING NORMAN ROCKWELL PAINTINGS as a hobby.

According to an article by Dennis McCarthy in the *Los Angeles Daily News*, Wynne has been scouring the country for signed Rockwell paintings and has collected more than 100 of them. Most were owned by people who felt the same way about Rockwell's Americana art as I did. It spoke to them, touched something inside of them that made them feel good and proud," said Wynne in the article.

Many of the pieces were on the market because something had happened and the sellers needed the money. Wynne didn't realize that one day something would happen in his own family that would have him selling his beloved Rockwell's because he needed the money, too. Not for himself, but for something much more important.

SEVEN YEARS AGO Wynne and his, wife, Rosemary, gave \$25,000 on behalf of the Greater Van Nuys Club, to the Neuromuscular Center at Children's Hospital. "It was because our granddaughter, Sara, had Spinal

Muscular Atrophy (SMA)," Wynne said. Sara was diagnosed with the rare genetic condition in which muscles throughout the body are weakened because cells in the spinal cord and brainstem do not work properly, taking away the ability to walk, eat, or breathe. SMA does not, however, affect a person's ability to think, learn, or form relationships with others.

"It's for Sara that Rosemary and I are doing this with Rotary," Wynne commented. He and Rosemary took on the fundraising duties for the club with the stipulation that half the money raised would be earmarked for the clinic and so far, the club has given \$50,000.

Believe it not, "it was Sara who helped raise most of the money. Her picture brings tears to people's eyes. She is our inspiration. Honorees receive a special Rotary glass clock with their name on it. We also have silent and live auctions. Rosemary and I literally buy the items or get them donated."

Sara attends the event with her Go-Go Scooter, riding around the room smiling and shaking hands.

—continues



—continues

About the time Sara was diagnosed with SMA, the FDA approved a new drug, Spinraza, to treat the disease, but the cost was an astronomical \$125,000 a shot, and Sara needed more than one. With the drug, some patients are able to sit unassisted, stand, or walk when they would otherwise not be expected to do so.

Fortunately, Wynne's daughter's family has good health insurance and the shots are covered, but there are other families who are not as fortunate. Wynne wondered about their kids?

WHAT WOULD ROCKWELL DO IN THIS SITUATION, WYNNE ASKED HIMSELF? "Rockwell would sell his paintings to help them. No doubt in his mind." So, one by one, Wynne's beloved Rockwell's have been coming

off the walls of his Granada Hills home. But there is one he will never sell. It's from 1972 and Rockwell titled it, "Can't Wait." It shows a little boy dressed in his older brother's Boy Scout uniform, much too big for his small body, and giving the scout's three-finger salute. "Scouting teaches what no other organization teaches," Wynne said. "I don't understand why more parents don't put their children in scouting to learn basic skills that will make them better men."

This year the club raised \$65,000. The 2018 "Service Above Self" fundraiser will be held in May. "We follow up with some of the children at the clinic, and this year five of them were given Spinraza shots. Yes, we are seeing a difference." ★



Sara in her Go-Go Mobility Scooter

This year, Wynne's Greater Van Nuys Rotary Club raised \$65,000 to treat SMA.

"We follow up with some of the children at the clinic. Yes, we are seeing a difference."

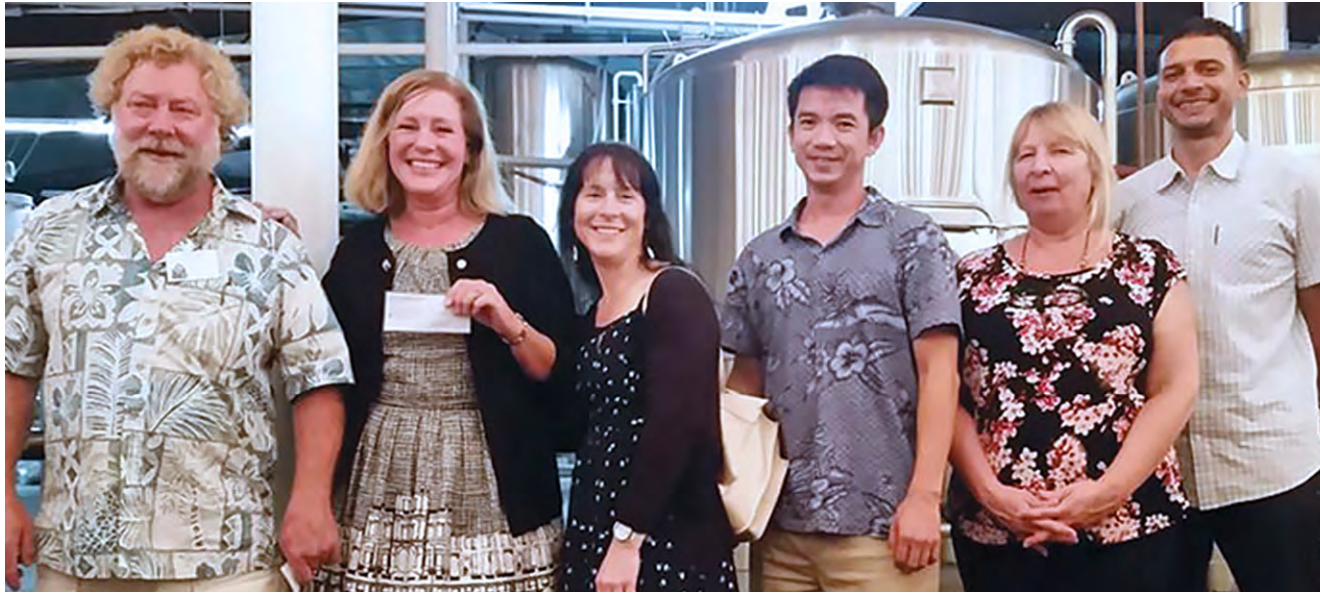
—Wynne Ritch





CLUB 62

News from District 5280 Clubs



(Above) *South Bay Sunrise* President David Hensler presented checks from the proceeds from the South Bay Beer & Wine Festival to a number of charities including the Harbor Regional Center. (Photo caption: David Henseler and Kerry Ryerson from left to right. David is president of South Bay Sunrise and Kerry represents the Harbor Regional Center. The others are HRC volunteers. One of several organizations awarded proceeds from the South Bay Beer & Wine Festival.)



(On the right) *Westchester Rotarian* and Vision To Learn's Executive Director Ann Hollister has been selected as an honoree for the Los Angeles Sparks' #WeAreWomen campaign, which recognizes women who have made a significant impact through their work and are leaving a lasting legacy. Ann has shaped her career around helping others.

—continues





The Inglewood Rotary Club sponsored the 2017 National Night Out, hosted by the Inglewood Police Department at the Inglewood City Hall. The club served more than 250 hot dogs and chips to the community. ★



OTHER DISTRICT NEWS

HUMANITARIAN TRIPS TO COLOMBIA

Guity Javid and Mark Ameli are seeking your assistance in securing funds for the District humanitarian trips to Colombia in March 2018. A contribution from your club, regardless of the amount, would be appreciated. 100% club participation would be ideal.

Guity and Mark are available to make a presentation at your club about these trips. Contact Guity at 310.890.5454 or gjavid@springstreetcapital.com. ★

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MAKE A DREAM COME TRUE

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Cozette Vergari, Westchester, District Governor

Michael S. Turner, Woodland Hills
 Senior Assistant Governor Communications

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

Lorine Parks, Downey
 Senior Correspondent

Sarah Furie, San Fernando Valley Rotaract
 Rotaract Correspondent

Gidas Peteris, Beverly Hills
 Linton Morgan, Inglewood
 Lek Pollard, Westchester
 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 