Most Rotarians probably recognize Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution as one of the six Areas of Focus for Foundation global grants, but I wonder how many know much about one of the major components of Rotary's Peace Program, the Peace Fellow Program. Each year Rotary selects up to 100 professionals from around the world to study at one of its six peace centers: Duke University in Chapel Hill, NC; International Christian University in Tokyo, Japan; University of Bradford in Bradford, England; University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia; Uppsala University in Uppsala, Sweden; and Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand.

Rotary awards up to 50 fellowships for master's degrees; the other half are for certificate studies. Applicants must be proficient in English and have demonstrated a commitment to international understanding and peace. Leadership skills are also a must. Those seeking a master's degree must have had three years of work or volunteer experience in a related field, and certificate applicants need a strong academic background plus five years of work or volunteer experience in a related field.

Where do Peace Center alumni work? Just over half of them work for non-governmental (36%) or governmental agencies (15%). Smaller numbers (between 5 and 10%) work in United Nations agencies, research/academics, teaching, or are pursuing an advanced degree. Most are happy to visit Rotary clubs and share their experiences. If you wish to know more about the Peace Fellows Program, check out https://my.rotary.org/en/document/rotary-peace-centers-program-guide-rotarians.
Meet One Busy Lady: Ravie Aujla

Ravie Aujla is one busy lady! In addition to all her community commitments, she runs four businesses! Yes, four—this is not a typo! Each has a different focus. Her software business provides companies with inventory management software. She also owns a Farmers’ Insurance Agency, and Mid-Valley Tax provides tax and bookkeeping services. The fourth business is agricultural; Ravie farms and exports walnuts. In fact, she also exports produce—prunes and walnuts—for her brother Jag’s farm.

Her evenings are filled with work in the community. She serves on the local hospital’s foundation board and the educational foundation board for the local school district. She also is a member of Quota Club International and the local Chamber of Commerce for whom she also does bookkeeping. Of course, Rotary plays a big role in her life too.

Ravie first joined Rotary in February, 2010. She says she was looking for a professional organization for fellowship, fun, and a commitment to service. She found it with Rotary, and her Indian heritage really made the whole Polio Plus effort very personal. Like so many new Rotarians, her first job was that of bulletin editor. At her third meeting, she was told, “You know computers and can write” so bulletin editor it was. She was soon tapped to serve as club president and filled that role in 2012-13. She adds that it was a “great year” as things became very organized. In 2014, she was asked to serve as an AG for Area 1 and is currently in her last year of service in that role. She indicates that she has thoroughly enjoyed that opportunity and hopes to stay involved at the district level in the future.

When asked for her favorite Rotary experience, Ravie responded with an overall impression. She said that she is continually amazed by how much hard work and effort people put into their service, working peacefully not only locally but around the world. She is proud to be a Rotarian and says it makes her feel good to be a part of it. However, she has at least one personal goal to fulfill; she wants to participate in an immunization trip.

Asked about her funniest Rotary experience, Ravie responded that it happened during her year as president elect. She was still rather new to Rotary so she didn’t know a lot. The current president was focused on attendance and had developed a program to encourage people to come to meetings. Rotarians who missed a meeting had their names put in a hat, and the person whose name was drawn had to take care of the club chicken for a week. The plan, however, ran awry when the chicken died. Needless to say, Ravie decided to go in a different direction in her year as president.

Ravie and her husband Bhajan have been married for 21 years. Ravie indicates that most people don’t know that she was part of an arranged marriage. While she was born and raised in Gridley, her parents believed strongly in their cultural practices so after she graduated from college, her father went to India to seek a husband for Ravie. He talked with Ravie about the qualities she would want in a husband. (She added, “What did I know at 21?”) Then, according to custom, her father worked with the middlemen in India to find potential husbands who might be compatible. Two or three possibilities were identified, and it was time for the rest of the family to make the trip to India. The families met and talked—Ravie said she had perhaps 15 minutes with her future husband—when her husband-to-be’s mother walked over, took a chain from her neck, and placed it around Ravie’s, signifying “She’s ours now.” Ravie didn’t really understand the process at that point so her parents pulled her aside and explained what was happening.

(continued on next page)
Her parents also were not prepared to provide a gift to the in-laws-to-be so they ended up giving them some cash. Two weeks later, Ravie says, they had a proper Indian engagement party. While the arrangement may seem strange to those of us of different cultures, it has worked for Ravie. She says that in such instances, it takes luck and partners learn to love each other, and like in most marriages, partners also learn to compromise. She says she was lucky. She and Bhajan have one son, Gaurav, a freshman who is studying mechatronic engineering at CSU, Chico.

Ravie and Bhajan enjoy traveling and each year take a couple small trips and one big trip—defined by Ravie as “involving a plane to a place that is at least five to six hours away.” This past year they took a 10-day cruise to Turkey, Italy, France, and Spain. When they have the time, they also enjoy taking in a movie, going out to dinner, and just relaxing at home. They also enjoy community events, and Ravie adds that they try to stay away from technology when they are home since so much time at work is spent on their computers.

Rotary is fortunate to have someone as dedicated and connected to her community as Ravie. We all wish her the best as she comes to the end of her term as AG and seeks a new Rotary experience that is just the right fit for her.

2017 Teacher Grants
Rotary Clubs of Folsom and Folsom Lake

Here are the teachers with Megan Ham, President of the Rotary Club of Folsom Lake, standing on the far left, and Bob Mange, Teacher Grant Program Manager for the Rotary Club of Folsom, seated second from the right.

By Frank Woods, Rotary Club of Folsom

At the Rotary Club of Folsom meeting on January 19, twenty teachers from Folsom schools received grants totaling $7,500. The amount of each grant ranged from $156 to $500. This year, the Rotary Club of Folsom teamed up with the Rotary Club of Folsom Lake for this project. In addition to the funds from each club, just over $1,400 was donated by a member of the club. Bob Mange introduced each teacher who was at the meeting and Megan Ham, President of the Rotary Club of Folsom Lake, presented the checks. Upon receiving the checks, each teacher explained his/her project. (Continued on next page)
The following teachers received grants:

Mackenzie Pesce-Chan, kindergarten teacher at Sandra J. Gallardo Elementary, received $372 for “Stand Up Chart and Trade Books.”

Christi Axelson, fourth grade teacher at Russell Ranch Elementary, received $500 for “Junior Great Books.”

Heather Sancedo, first/second combination teacher at Theodore Judah Elementary, received $156 for “Mental Math/Number Sense Tiles.”

Rick Berry, third grade teacher at Theodore Judah Elementary, received $401 for “Fish in the Classroom.”

Heidi Bonnett, PE teacher (K-5, 630 students) at Theodore Judah Elementary, received $500 for Archery Unit.

Debbie Steele, third grade teacher at Natoma Station Elementary, received $500 for “STEM classroom.”

Melanie Roehrs, first grade teacher at Empire Ranch Elementary, received $265 for “Benchmark Books.”

Katelin Shepier, kindergarten teacher at Empire Ranch Elementary, received $500 for “Mini Apples for Many Hands.”

Hallie Wallace, fifth grade teacher at Oak Chan Elementary, received $496 for “Yoga in Education.”

Dianna Peterson, sixth to eighth grade teacher at Sutter Middle, received $496 for “Make Us Creative.”

Beth Williams, Sharon Sutherland, Jennifer Blandenfield, and Emily Derrick, seventh grade English teachers at Sutter Middle, received a Group Project award of $380 for a “Children’s Historical Book Project.”

Kelly Baquero, eleventh grade teacher at Vista Del Lago High received $496 for “IPad Access for Google Classroom.”

Tyler Johnson, grades 9-12 engineering teacher at Folsom High, received $495 for “From Folsom to the Stratosphere.”

Pam Goldman, grades 9-12 engineering teacher at Folsom High, received $500 for “Folsom Zoo Projects.”

Kristine Baciocco, kindergarten teacher at Folsom Hills Elementary, received $440 for an “IPad + critters.”

Mercedes Kirk, first grade teacher at Folsom Hills Elementary, received $500 for “Creative Arts for First Graders.”

James Fanshier, math and PE teacher at Folsom Lake High, received $500 for an “Equipment Cart.”

The teacher grant program started as a club project 18 years ago. Each year, the club has sent out applications to all Folsom schools encouraging teachers to apply for up to a $250 grant to fund a project, purchase materials, and/or equipment for their class or classes. Last year through a collaborative effort with a club auction and individual member donations, the grants were increased up to a maximum of $500. With the partnership with Rotary Club of Folsom Lake and an individual donation this year, the club was able to offer $7,500 with a $500 maximum per grant. To date, including this year’s grants, Rotary has provided over 250 teachers with grants totaling over $70,000. This year there were 32 applicants from 11 schools. Seventeen grants were awarded to 20 teachers.
February is a great month to get to the heart of the matter because it’s American Heart Month! The gift of blood supports patients who may need blood during cardiac surgeries. Big-hearted Rotarian blood donors help patients who have endured severe medical challenges involving the heart; patients like Cori, Caden, Kiah, and Tim. THANK YOU!

There’s plenty of time left in this friendly competition to change the rankings and move your club up!

We look forward to seeing Rotarians or designated supporters at BloodSource donor centers and mobiles throughout the region this February. Give from the heart this February to help patients in need.

Visit bloodsource.org or call 866.822.5663.

Be sure to give your Rotary Club name so that your donation can be noted in the District 5180 Blood Drive Challenge.

**ROTARIANS GIVE FROM THE HEART**

**UPDATE ON THE DISTRICT 5180 BLOOD DRIVE CHALLENGE**
By Lynette Anderson

On the morning of Martin Luther King Day, the Rotary Club of North Sacramento held its first fundraiser at the new TopGolf in Roseville. With 91 golfers and 16 “meal only” BBQ buffet tickets, we exceeded our expectations. Given the short timeline (we only decided to have this event about two and half months ago), Steve Delikat, our TopGolf Chair, figured 60 golfers was a reasonable guestimate. Thanks to Rod Barbour and our “Gold Sponsor,” Lawson Mechanical, we were halfway to 60 before anyone else sold a single ticket.

The “Gold Sponsor” came with 42 golf tickets. Our event took up half the second floor, and our goal next year – and there will be a next year – is to reserve an entire floor. That would be 200 golfers.

It was as much a social event as it was a golf tournament. Providing a weird combination of golf, bowling and darts, TopGolf said you didn’t have to be a golfer to have fun, and they were right! The beauty of the format is that non-golfers, beginning golfers and avid golfers can play in the same bay without worrying about holding up the rest of everyone on the course. And all golfers benefited from the roving golf pros, who gave helpful tips to improve play.

The best part: weather doesn’t matter. When we pulled up to TopGolf that morning, it was cold and overcast, which could have foreshadowed a miserable day on a golf course. Everyone appreciated the space heaters, and especially how warm the seats were when you returned after your turn hitting balls.

Looking very satisfied, “Gold Sponsor” Rod Barbour of Lawson Mechanical.

Everyone had fun . . . one way or the other – Elizabeth Delikat and friends.

Wow, so many golfers . . . all under one roof. Such fun!
In addition to a “scramble,” we had a “long drive” and “closest to the pin” competition. We also had a “tee jar” contest, raffle prizes and a silent auction.

The staff at TopGolf was extremely gracious, cooperative and accommodating. All in all, Steve Delikat, PE Molly Evangelisti, and PP Leslie Arnal’s advance planning paid off. We think we netted around $6,000, which is considerably less than our net at the crab feed, but the shrinking size of our club simply doesn’t permit us to tackle such a large event anymore. And, the deluge of competing crab feed events within a relatively narrow window is a negative as well.

TopGolf is a new thing. Its novelty makes it attractive, and it is very popular. That makes it easier to sell tickets. Bottom line: It was one of the best fundraisers we’ve ever had because it was fun and because we made some money!
D5180 Paul Harris Society Challenge

In honor of The Rotary Foundation (TRF) Centennial year, DG Barbara Tracy has created a “PHS District 5180 Challenge.” As part of that Challenge, we are offering your clubs the chance to win Paul Harris Fellow (PHF) points with any new Paul Harris Society (PHS) members.

The Paul Harris Society is a “special category” of PHF membership. A PHS member chooses to donate a minimum of $1,000 annually to the Foundation General Fund and/or Polio Plus. Any combination of donations to these funds is allowable, so long as the total is $1,000 or more per year.

Here’s how the Challenge works: The Rotary Club with the largest percentage increase in Paul Harris Society members (on a per capita basis) will win 3,000 PHF points. The 2nd and 3rd place Rotary Clubs win 2,000 and 1,000 PHF points, respectively. All PHF points can be used as those clubs choose.

The PHS Challenge ends at midnight on March 31, 2017. Winners will be announced at the District 5180 Conference in Santa Clara May, 5-7, 2017.

To learn more about becoming a PHS member:

- Contact Kathy Clemens, D5180 PHS Chair at (916-784-9104) or kaclemens@earthlink.net or your Club President or Foundation Chair,
- Go online at www.rotary.org/contribute, or
- Call the RI Contact Center at 1-866-976-8279.
By giving from your heart each and every year, you change lives, support families, and empower communities.

Join the Paul Harris Society today.

Rotarians have a 100-year track record of working together to address some of the world’s most pressing needs.

Your continued support to The Rotary Foundation helps fulfill the promises we made to improve our communities and communities around the world.

What is the Paul Harris Society?

Named after Rotary’s founder, the Paul Harris Society recognizes those who annually contribute US$1,000 or more to the Annual Fund, PolioPlus, or an approved Rotary Foundation grant. By joining the Paul Harris Society, you are making a lasting difference in communities around the world.

Rotary Direct, Rotary’s recurring giving program, makes it easy to join the Paul Harris Society. Consider making a gift of $85 a month or $250 a quarter by using the attached contribution form or by visiting www.rotary.org/contribute.

Your gifts help provide

• Vocational training for teachers establishing an early childhood education center in South Africa
• Water filters, toilet blocks, and hygiene training to prevent fluorosis in a community in India
• A scholarship for a medical professional in Italy to research treatments to minimize mortality rates among premature babies
• Peace-building seminars for 200 teachers and 1,300 students in Uganda
• Insecticide-treated mosquito nets and medical services to help prevent malaria in Mali

Projects like these rely on the ongoing gifts from compassionate individuals like you. Thank you for trusting Rotary with your continued support.

The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International
www.rotary.org
Point West Rotarians were out and about over the holidays having fun while serving the community! On December 21, almost 40 members participated in Salvation Army’s annual food and toy distribution at Cal Expo. Point West members participate every year in this event, which they fondly term “chicken chucking,” where they hand out boxes of food, bags of potatoes and frozen chickens to families in need.

Two days later, on December 23, over 30 Point West Rotary members participated in the Salvation Army bell ringing. Manning (personing?) the east and south door entrances at the Arden Fair Macy’s store, we braved the rain and cold. We rang our hearts out and raised over $800 for the Salvation Army. Those working the east entrance did manage to raise just a bit more money than those working the south entrance…but the real winners are the families that will be helped by the money we raised.
This was my first experience spending Christmastime and New Year's out of Japan. There were a lot of differences between American holidays and Japanese. After the Thanksgiving holidays, we decorated the house for Christmas and went to buy our Christmas tree. We got a real tree. It smelled very good. I've never used a real tree for Christmas, so I was so excited. I couldn't wait for Christmas to come. During Christmas time wherever I went, I could hear pretty Christmas songs. Many houses were decorated with Christmas lights and ornaments. I could enjoy just walking around on the streets. I thought that American people must really like Christmas because they start preparation weeks ahead of time. There are a lot of cute Christmas things in the stores.

On Christmas morning, there were a lot of presents in front of the fireplace and my stocking was filled with stuff. We opened the presents together. I got many presents that I've wanted. Everyone smiled and felt happy. That night we went to the grandparents' house and had dinner with many relatives. Before we had dinner, everyone held each other's hands and prayed. It felt very fresh for me because most Japanese people are not Christian. Neither am I, so we don't have such a custom. I think American Christmas has important meaning for the family. They enjoy family time. In Japan, we celebrate it, too but it's not like American Christmas. Most young people there hang out with their friends or lovers.

Instead of that, we celebrate New Year's more grandly than Christmas. We have special New Year's dishes with relatives and go to shrines to pray for happiness and health of the year. January 1st to 3rd are called “san ga nichi.” Most of people don’t go to school and work. They stay in their home and spend time with their family. But celebrating the New Year's in the U.S. was different from that. On New Year's Eve, there was a party at a ROTEX's house and we went to see the fireworks at Old Sacramento. It was very beautiful. After that we enjoyed dancing to music. I have not experienced a dance party until I came here, so I didn’t know how to dance. The party continued until midnight. It was the first time that I did the countdown of the New Year with many people. I was so excited, but I was really tired.

I had a good time with my host family and friends. But during these events I was thinking about my family and friends in Japan. I got homesick. I like America, but at the same time I love my home country. I realized that again through these holiday experiences. I'll never forget about these great holidays. Thank you, everyone.

Thanks to Karen Cendro for the idea of parallel Christmas Holiday letters from both outbound and inbound RYE students in the exchange between Japan and District 5180 and to Jeannine Sparks for coordinating the effort. Good job!
Prior to my Rotary exchange, various people commented that the holidays are a very difficult time while staying in another country. At that point in my life, I had never been homesick before, so I didn’t take it to heart. I expected the holidays to be a little lonely, but the experience of being in another country to celebrate their version of Christmas would mask those feelings. I was wrong.

Due to issues with my third host family, I am still living with my second host family at the Buddhist temple. I’m very fond of them! Since they are Buddhist, they don’t celebrate Christmas. Instead of eating all day, decorating the house or watching Christmas specials, I helped clean the front and backyard of the temple. My oldest host brother probably felt sympathetic towards me, so later in the day, he and his girlfriend took me to get donuts and dip my feet in a natural hot spring foot bath. It was such a relaxing and thoughtful gesture; I was so grateful and appreciate that he thought of me, and looking back, I feel guilty for taking their time. In Japan, Christmas is a day for couples to go on dates.

In actuality, I wasn’t sad or lonely during the Christmas holiday because the day or days leading up to it didn’t feel like Christmas. Unlike in America, Matsue doesn’t decorate their streets or stores, and there are no Christmas themed shows on TV or Christmas music on the radio. Some commercials such as for Coke, 7-11, and Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) had a Christmas “feel,” but that’s just marketing for you. In Japan, most families celebrate Christmas by eating KFC and a special Christmas cake.

My host family thought this is how we celebrate Christmas in America, too.

I thought I was going to get through the holidays without any problems, but the next day, when I Skyped home, I thought for the first time since I arrived in Japan, that I should be home with my family. My parents host a huge Christmas party. There are about 40 people who celebrate at our house (including small children and dogs). These relatives and friends are of all ages and ethnicities, and we eat, play bingo and poker, and swap Christmas presents. It’s super noisy and chaotic and is something that I really miss. The moment I saw and talked to my brothers, I felt like a dam had been holding back all my emotions.

All my pent up emotions came flooding out; the frustration of not picking up the language, the stress of not meeting everyone’s expectations, and the loneliness of not having friends made me feel vulnerable. I had a lot of time to think about everything, since I barely did anything for the rest of winter vacation and I came to the conclusion that there is a silver lining. These feelings are temporary, and I still have half of my exchange left. If this is my lowest point, that means that everything is going to eventually get better! One of the people who told me that the holidays are rough also said that by January, everything will click, and I am choosing to believe her!
By Carol Bogart  
Rotary Club of West Sacramento

“Boy led,” that’s how Clarksburg Scoutmaster Liam McGregor defines his “adventure” troop: Clarksburg Boy Scout Troop 83. Many in his audience of Rotary Club of West Sacramento members January 19 knew just what he meant, having been scouts in Troop 83 as boys.

The speakers were the boys themselves, starting with 13-year old James Clark. James flawlessly delivered his prepared remarks about the history and legacy of Troop 83. Among the highlights, James asked for a show of hands of any former scouts present who claimed the distinction of being part of the “Snow Troop” that made national headlines in 1979. Hands that went up included those of Tom and Andy Wallace and Mike Campbell (all three West Sacramento Rotary Past Presidents).

In 1979, then-Scoutmaster Mike Campbell, adult leader Tom Wallace, Boy Scout Andy Wallace and eight other Clarksburg Troop 83 Boy Scouts began planning a two-and-a-half day, 17-mile Nordic (cross country) ski trip in the Sierra Nevada. The trek was to include camping along the trail, and older scouts digging “snow caves” in which to sleep.

The group was dubbed “the snow troop” after being reported “lost” in near whiteout winter storm conditions; conditions so rough the group at times battled 84 mph winds. The boys ranged in age from 12 to 18.

Talk about an adventure trip! Mike Campbell lost his heel-hold on an ice sheet, hurtled down the slick slope on his backpack-turned-sled. Tom, focused on stuffing his sleeping bag into his backpack, didn’t see it happen – but soon lost his own heel-hold, following Mike down the mountain on his backpack – more than 100 feet!

As the full group survived that particular leg of their misadventure, camp was pitched in the valley formed by the Middle Fork of the American River. Hands and feet some could no longer feel were warmed by an open fire. The group ultimately made its way to a ski shack – where they gratefully found a working phone and called for help. Tom writes: “We ended up ‘topping the news’ on every major network newscast, and our picture was

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ROTARY BOY SCOUTS
PHOTO BY DAVID KAMMINGA

Clarksburg’s Nick Garbutt recalls “blisters and sunburn” from his first 51-mile hike as a “tiny kid” with Troop 83. Nick, now 18, was awarded his Eagle Scout badge at the West Sacramento Rotary lunch meeting.

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ROTARY BOY SCOUTS
PHOTO BY CAMILLE VALENCIA

For Nick Garbutt’s Eagle project, he took on the role of installation project manager for a graceful sculpture created specifically for Clarksburg by former Rotary Club member Roger Berry.
on the front page of most of the newspapers in the country including *The New York Times.*

Three of the nine skiers were Tom’s sons: Dave, Dan and Andy. Andy, then 15, is now, like his father, a Past President of Rotary Club of West Sacramento. Tom, who just turned 81, relates that “nine of nine” boys who made the trip all made Eagle Scout. Troop 83’s “average” is 25 Eagle Scouts per 100 boys, he said, adding that the national average is “one to two” Eagle Scouts per 100 scouts.

Clarksburg Boy Scout Troop 83, since its inception, has produced at least 125 Eagle Scouts. Ardent Troop 83 supporters include West Sacramento Rotary’s long-time members Steve Heringer and Dick Marshall. Each has two adult sons who are Troop 83 Eagle Scouts, and Marshall’s father, Scud, was Scoutmaster. Long-time club member Gary Merwin and Club Secretary Peter Anderson both have a son who is an Eagle Scout. Current club President Bill Bevier has a son who is an Eagle Scout, but in another troop, not Clarksburg’s, and apologies to any others not listed here.

Tom writes of the “snow troop’s” trip: “I am convinced that the bonding that took place from our experience was the reason all nine achieved the Eagle rank. I notified Paul Harvey, when the last boy (Tom's son David) became an Eagle, and he reported it on his show ‘The Rest of the Story.’” Today, not only are all three of Tom’s sons Eagle Scouts, both of Andy’s sons, Tyler and Cory, are as well.

As Friday's Rotary Club meeting focused on Troop 83 and its adventures, past and future, a particularly moving ceremony was Scoutmaster Liam McGregor’s presentation to Nick Garbutt of his Eagle Scout badge. Nick completed the badge requirements just four days before his 18th birthday. (Every scout must finish the Eagle badge requirements before he turns 18.)

Nick’s project would be challenging for an adult man, let alone a 17-year-old boy. In 2015, Nick got together with Clarksburg residents Don Clark and Mike Campbell, who are West Sacramento Rotarians, to develop a “game plan” for the project. Nick's role: was installation project manager for a sculpture created...
just for Clarksburg by former West Sacramento Rotarian Roger Berry.

Nick’s responsibilities included establishing and maintaining good lines of communication with all participants, as well as recruiting adult and Troop 83 volunteers. He scheduled dates for and attended meetings with Clark Pacific technicians, and he worked with Yolo County inspectors.

After receiving authorization for the placement of the sculpture from the River Delta School Board, the industrious youth also met with local contractors to, he said, “develop the best way forward to complete the project in a timely manner and in the proper way.”

And meantime, Clarksburg adults were busy helping, too. Like his dad, Andy Wallace was very involved with the troop as an adult leader. His West Sacramento engineering firm, Wallace-Kuhl, and Don Clark’s company, Clark Pacific, were actively involved. The pedestal for the sculpture was built by Clark Pacific. Welding of the sculpture was certified by Wallace-Kuhl. Wallace said that sculptor Berry and Campbell contributed “at least … 200 hours to the project.”

The “Silver Bend” sculpture – symbolizing Clarksburg’s location on the Sacramento River – was completed in 2016. Today, it’s prominently displayed in Triangle Park, a city centerpiece bordered by Clarksburg Community Church, Delta High School, the local library and the Scout Cabin.

Clark’s personal involvement with the troop has helped it earn its reputation as an “adventure” troop. A recent trip led by Scoutmaster McGregor (formerly a Troop 83 Boy Scout who made Eagle Scout in 1994), with support from Clark, took the boys bushwhacking in the Sierra as they hiked to Upper Bear Lake. A highlight: The troop encountered a waterfall! Two older scouts (Henry Underwood and Nick Lara) and Clark rock-climbed up its side.

Clark, who, with his wife, Karen, has a leadership role in Clarksburg Community Church, where both work closely with youth, gave a report on the trip one Sunday. Henry, an Eagle Scout, was asked, “How big was the waterfall?” He didn’t miss a beat. “Pretty big,” he said. Clark smiled ruefully, relaying the daredevil but
exciting waterfall adventure and then got a laugh when he apologized to the parents.

Fifty-mile hikes are a hallmark of Troop 83. At Friday’s Rotary Club meeting, 12-year-old Elliot Wyatt recalled his first such hike. He said he was the smallest hiker. Older scouts take responsibility for the younger scouts, and, Elliot said, he was given a nickname. The listening Rotarians erupted in laughter when Elliot said the other scouts named him “the backpack-with-legs.” Initially, he said, he was apprehensive about the hike, worried he’d miss his brother (and did), hated the food, and noted that “the GPS didn’t help us at all.” At the hike’s conclusion, the purpose of the hardships became clear when, Elliott said, “A sense of accomplishment washed over me like a tidal wave.” (He also remembers the bear that loped out of the area in which the troop planned to camp.)

To earn money for the troop’s upcoming spring adventure (traveling by train across four states to Colorado, where the troop will hike and bushwhack for nine days, go whitewater rafting and more), Clark gave the boys a donation for their trip after the scouts volunteered to bushwhack dense brush on overgrown property Clark just bought, and also remove trash and debris along the road. In his presentation, James said success – such as surviving dense wilderness terrain – depends on “working as a team, Identifying everyone’s individual strengths.” Nick said, that by the end of the hike he led along the north fork of the Mokelumne River, the scouts were eagerly whacking through thick thorny briar bushes that caught on their packs. Nick remembers coming across “two bears and the largest rattlesnake I’ve ever seen.”

At the Rotary Club meeting, the Troop 83 scouts played to a packed house, including several of the Rotarians who are one-time Troop 83 scouts or scoutmasters. On behalf of Wallace-Kuhl, Andy Wallace donated $1,000 toward the trip. Eleven Rotarians “rang the bell,” contributing a total of $1,100 toward the trip. After Andy “passed the hat,” in total, the membership had donated more than $2,700 to help defray the trip’s cost of $400 per boy.

The troop’s current 23-scout roster of boys ages 11-17 not only includes third generation Clarksburg Eagle Scouts, but also boys from Courtland, Walnut Grove, West Sacramento, Sacramento and Elk Grove. To finance the trip, Troop 83 needs to collect a total of $18,280 by March 12, Scout Sunday. Anyone wishing to donate may write a check to Clarksburg Boy Scout Troop 83 and mail it to:

Troop 83
P.O. Box 83
Clarksburg, CA. 95612

Rotary’s motto, “Service Above Self,” began with scouting for many Rotarians. Close-knit Clarksburg enthusiastically acknowledges and applauds the community service provided by Troop 83: the Boy Scouts, troop leaders past and present, supportive families, and the Eagle Scouts. Today, many former Boy Scouts who made Eagle Scout continue that tradition of selfless service as Rotarians. Currently, Clarksburg Boy Scouts Troop 83 has soon-to-be Eagle Scouts coming up. Stay tuned!
Safe Halloween in Fair Oaks
By Cliff Straehley, Community Service Chair, Rotary Club of Fair Oaks

The Fair Oaks Rotary Club’s “Safe Halloween” event is an enjoyable and beneficial annual project for our club. It not only provides a safe way for children to participate during daylight hours on Halloween (about 10:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.), but it also provides an opportunity for deepening the connection between the Fair Oaks community and our Rotary club.

On the day of the event, Rotarian volunteers come in costume and give the children a chance to play games and of course to collect candy. The Fair Oaks outdoor summer theater auditorium is decorated with a Halloween theme. Inside the theater children get a chance to choose some free, age-appropriate, books to take home. A face painter also participates.

Fair Oaks Village has a number of small businesses. Some of them help collect the books that we will eventually distribute. The books are donated by customers and members of our community, starting several weeks before Safe Halloween. This community involvement indirectly promotes Rotary. It also builds bridges between business owners, their customers, and the Fair Oaks Rotary Club. Enjoy the pictures of this year’s “Safe Halloween.”
The volunteers were able to give local youth the gift of healthy recreation that encourages both sustainable transportation and a better future -- for the young recipients and the community as a whole.

Donate a bike to a child and they will love to ride it, but teach a child how to build and maintain a bike and they will become a cyclist forever. That’s the mission behind the 50 Bikes for 50 Kids program.

On Monday, January 16, 2017, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and the National Day of Service, several local Rotarians joined forces with the North Natomas Transportation Management Association to help 50 kids transform bike parts into 50 ready-to-ride bicycles. To participate, the kids are nominated by local youth organizations based on their trustworthiness, responsibility, academic achievements and other qualities.

Participating from the Rotary Club of Point West - Sacramento were Mike Garcia, Tom Slagle, Jerry Reguera, Gary Pevey and Desirée Wilson. In addition, the club also donated $5,000 to the event to purchase 20 of the bikes that were assembled that day. Kerry Volker, President of the Rotary Club of Natomas, also participated as a bike builder.

The “volunteer engineers” worked with the students to help assemble each bike and gave the students valuable hands-on experience in teamwork, building and the construction of a bicycle. The students also received bike helmets and bike locks and participated in a bicycle skills course to ensure they understood the rules of the road.
Jim’s Zany Photo Contest

Let’s Share the Fun!
Take Pictures at Your Events and Share the Zaniest!

The Very Simple Guidelines

• Each Rotary Club may submit two pictures.
• The pictures must be taken at a Rotary Club meeting, project, or event.
• Something in the pictures should indicate they were taken at a Club event.
• A member of the Club must be in the pictures – though not necessarily identifiable.
• The pictures should depict a fun time in progress.
• The pictures are to be taken and submitted between July 1, 2016 and April 15, 2017. Be sure to indicate the Club’s name and the activity taking place with each picture submitted. Please also provide a name and contact information for someone with knowledge of the picture in case a question arises.
• All pictures submitted to contest guru Jim Tracy – within the discretion of the contest guru – will be displayed at the 2017 District 5180 Conference.
• Pictures may not be altered with Photoshop or any other program.
• The winning photo will be determined by vote of Rotarian attendees at the 2017 District Conference in Santa Clara.
• The photographer of the winning picture and his/her club will be recognized at the 2017 District Conference, and the winning picture will be featured in the District 5180 Newsletter and on the District 5180 website.

That’s all, folks. Submit your entries to Jim Tracy at james.tracy09@comcast.net by April 15, 2017.