

# THE HIGHLIGHTER

*The Official Monthly Newsletter of Rotary District 5300*

***Christine Montan, District Governor***

Index

1	D.G. Monthly Letter
2	District Foundation Report
3	D5300 Matching Grants
4	District Conference News
5	Rotary Youth Exchange Report from Germany
6	Altadena Rotarian Receives Award
7	LV Southwest Club Reaches Out Across the Globe...to Bhutan
8	Covina Rotary Supports Our Troops
9	Delicious Fundraisers!
10	LV Central drinks martinis and cuts hair to raise funds!
11	Glendora Rotary Brings Gift of Better Sight to Tijuana
12	Youth IT Conference
13	Family of Rotary
14	Editorial

## *Letter from Governor Christine:* ***IT'S ALL ABOUT FAMILY!***

**Dear fellow Rotarians,**

The month of December is a busy one for most of us. No matter which holiday we celebrate – Chanukah, Christmas, Kwanza – there is activity! Decorating and lights, and presents to be wrapped, baking to be done, and toys to be assembled. There is the rush of shopping and visits with family and friends. There is travel over icy roads, and time spent with kids out of school.

But as well in District 5300, there's other hustle and bustle. Rotary clubs all over Nevada and Southern California are hosting parties for the disabled and elderly, delivering baskets of food to families in need, Santa Clothes projects, Happy Feet projects for warm socks and shoes, caroling at local hospitals, donating to Toys for Tots, working on projects for soldiers serving in far away places. In the coldest weather I am warmed by the selflessness of Rotarians.

December is a time that Rotarians focus on family – and in our case, our extended Family of Rotary - Ambassadorial Scholars, our Youth Exchange students, our newest club members welcomed into holiday social events so they might know us more personally.

I have a framed card in my office I got many years ago. I'd like to share with you the sentiment:

*Care deeply. Give freely. Think kindly. Act gently, and be at peace... for this is the spirit of Christmas.*

I wish for each of you a blessed and wonderful holiday season.



In the hustle of year's end, take the time for quiet reflection. Not so much on New Year's resolutions, for what are these but promises we make to ourselves, but to think on all the good that has been done by Rotarians committed to "Service above Self" in 2006. It'll warm your heart too.



## *The Rotary Foundation (TRF) Monthly Report*

*By: Bob Novell, D5300 Foundation Chair*

December means that Thanksgiving is behind us, the holidays and the New Year are around the corner, and maybe we should be thinking about some year-end contributions to the Rotary Foundation in order to reduce our income taxes.

- **District Simplified Grants (DSG's).** Funding is now available from The Rotary Foundation for this year's DSG's. Clubs are being encouraged to submit grant applications to obtain matching funds (\$500 to \$1,500) from the District for a for new and innovative projects within our local communities. We have \$25,000 available in DSG funds to support Club projects.

- **Southern California Foundation Dinner.** *The Magic of the Rotary Foundation* will be this year's theme for the Southern California Rotary Foundation Dinner on January 27<sup>th</sup> at the Royal Vista Golf Club in Walnut (see the District website for more details). This will be an opportunity to celebrate the wonderful programs and project that we can do through the Foundation.

- **Rotary Foundation Contact Center.**

Don't forget that the Foundation has created a Contact Center (email at [contact.center@rotary.org](mailto:contact.center@rotary.org) or by phone at 1-866-976-8279) where one can call for requests for help.

- **International Matching Grants (MG's).**

Grant applications were submitted in November by Las Vegas Northwest (school equipment for rural community schools in Chile) and East Los Angeles (water project for a monastery in Nepal). Sally Chan from Monterey Park has used a Voluntary Service Grant and has return from China where she was involved in delivering 550 wheelchairs.

- **Foundation month at our District Clubs.**

Clubs throughout the District reported that they had used Club meetings during November to talk about Foundation grant projects, our Group Study Exchange, Ambassadorial Scholarships, and the need to continue to support the Foundation as one of our most important charities of choice.

### Here are the winners of

### The Rotary Foundation District Awards for 2005-2006.

#### Total Annual Share Giving

1st Place:	Victorville
2nd Place:	Las Vegas Southwest
3rd Place:	Apple Valley

#### Total Giving

(Annual Share + Restricted Giving + Permanent Fund)

1st Place:	Victorville
2nd Place:	Alhambra
3rd Place:	Las Vegas Southwest

#### Per Capita Giving

1st Place:	Victorville
2nd Place:	Las Vegas Southwest
3rd Place:	Victor Valley Sunrise

## *District 5300 Charitable Foundation Grants*

PDG Conrad von Bibra, President of the Rotary District 5300 Foundation has announced that the following grants have been approved. These grants match club funds for projects that help children or youth.

- Rotary Club of Alhambra \$1,000 for their new "Easter Food Deliveries" project in cooperation with the Alhambra Unified School District.
- Rotary Club of Arcadia Sunrise \$1,000 for their "Middle School Teen Leadership Seminar" led by Scott Greenberg.
- Rotary Club of Caliente \$350 for their sixth grade students to lay a wreath on graves in Arlington Cemetery during their school sponsored trip to Washington D.C.
- Rotary Club of Claremont \$1,000 for their "Together We Prepare" emergency response and CPR training for all eighth grade students at El Roble School.
- Rotary Club of Hesperia \$450 to help their "Santa Clothes" project.
- San Marino Rotary Charities \$750 for their "Adopt -a-Text" program of recording and circulating audio copies of a textbook for the blind and dyslexic.
- Rotary Club of North Las Vegas \$400 for educational software and manuals for the Boys and Girls Club.

These matching grants were primarily made possible by the generous donations in memory of Ronald Lefler by his widow Marla Lefler and their son Paul. These seven grants together will be touching the lives of over 1200 kids!





# DISTRICT CONFERENCE NEWS

- Your District Conference Committee is proud to introduce our **first two major sponsors**, who will help bring Jack Canfield to your conference next May. They are **Tom Brady** of the Sierra Madre club, and **Imy Dulake** of the Arcadia Club. We are grateful to those two Rotarians who were willing to step up and “Lead the Way” toward creating a successful event. Are you ready to join them?
- **Conference Committee Update:** Co-chairs Rudy and Susanne Hayek are pleased to welcome our latest additions to our Committee: *Carolyn Anderson* from the Ontario Club, who will be facilitating our **Entertainment**; *Geri Rohrberg* from Las Vegas Central, who agreed to oversee **Logistics**, (of course when she is done with chairing RYLA in February); and *Maureen Mc Kinley and Christine Smith*, also from Las Vegas Central who will be organizing the **House of Friendship and Photo Gallery**. (To view the full Conference Committee, please visit the Conference page on the District 5300 web site).
- **Reminder:** Make your plans early to attend the District Conference. Because it will take place during Memorial Weekend, we recommend that you make your reservations now by contacting Rancho Las Palmas Resort and Spa (just mention Rotary when you call). Again, please visit the Conference web page to access the resort.
- **Conference Registration:** You will be able to register for the Conference on line in the next few days. We almost have our technical challenges handled, and we will give you the green light very soon. Thank you for your patience.

Rudy and Susanne Hayek



Sierra Madre Rotarian, Tom Brady is the President of *The Destination Group*, ([www.dgrp.com](http://www.dgrp.com)) The Destination Group is a full service web technology and database marketing company serving the entire cruise industry, government tourism initiatives, and hotels and resorts since 1995. The company is based in Sierra Madre and supports the

*Dan Stover Music Competition* each year. “We are truly pleased to be a corporate sponsor for Rotary District 5300’s 2007 District Conference!” Tom and his wife Julie, have two daughters, Jennifer and Kathleen.



Imy Dulake is a member of the Arcadia Rotary Club where she is currently Membership Director. She is a Realtor with Coldwell Banker Arcadia where she is an International Presidents Premier agent, in the top 1% of her company. Imy is also Executive Sales Director. She holds a third degree

black belt in tae kwon do. She has lived in Arcadia, with her husband Richard, for thirty years. Visit her website: [www.imydulake.com](http://www.imydulake.com) for more information about her and her work.

## *Guten Tag Rotarians von Kalifornian!*

**My name is Kate Hanley and I am currently an exchange student somewhere in Germany.**

I would like to give a bit of insight into the life of an exchange student, but I have limited experience because I have only been living in Germany for a little more than two months. So I can only explain my experience so far as something similar to what infants go through. I am confined to speaking in simple sentences with a limited vocabulary and terrible grammar, such as "What do you make on weekends?" or "Where is toilet?", I generally am unaware of where I am or where I'm heading and spend most of my time hoping that the people I'm following will eventually lead me to where I'm supposed to be and I find it fabulous! Not because I enjoy being clueless, but because I find the state of being utterly vulnerable and dependent on the help of others completely terrifying and absolutely invigorating.



The little town of Sulingen consists of many charming features that make me feel like I'm living in an earlier time. Silly little things such as the way the town's people hang their clothes outside to dry, after riding their bicycles home from work along cobblestone streets, encourage me to satisfy my curiosity about this new place. In the beginning, it all seemed so adorable, but unnecessary, before I understood the logic behind it. For example, most people ride their bikes everywhere because fuel is incredibly expensive here, so they found sticking with bike riding a practical alternative. Also, they hang their clothes outside to conserve energy and cut power costs, not just because it gives their towels a freshly crisp feeling.

In trying to understand the German culture, I have gone through multiple phases. The first phase played out as more of a series of the same reaction when I told my friends that I was going to be an exchange student in Germany: "Why? You don't like beer and you're a vegetarian. Where's the benefit?" Sadly, their comical viewpoint made sense to me at the time and I tended to ask myself that question more and more as my departure date approached. I eventually managed to calm myself down by assuring my inner vegetarian that my host mom would adore soy Bratwurst, once she was introduced to it. The food situation didn't play out that way, but it was close enough.



The second phase occurred after the first few weeks of my exchange, when I came to believe that the German culture was basically the same as that of my native land, with the exceptions being that they speak in gibberish and ride their bikes everywhere.

I am currently in the third phase of my Rotary exchange (not bad for 2 1/2 months), which means that I'm still basically in the dark when it comes to cultural insight, but have come to recognize a few subtle differences. The most apparent difference seems to be the social humility and lack of patriotism. I am used to seeing multiple American flags flying in the front yards of my neighbors, which are occasionally accompanied by Lakers flags, but the point still being that the symbol of our nation is ever present.

I feel as though I was allowed to look through a keyhole into the German world and that this little bit of information and insight has already given me a better understanding of the world I live in. I can't wait to peek into the rest of the keyholes which allow me an opportunity to get to know my fellow host countrymen a bit better. **It is with great appreciation that I thank the Rotarians of District 5300 for sponsoring me and the many other teens in this opportunity of a lifetime!**



## Luther Eskijian receives Joseph B. McMullen Award

by Craig Cox

The Joseph B. McMullen Award was established in 1997 to recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the community, the Rotary Club of Altadena, Rotary International or the world. Named after its first recipient, past District Governor and Club President Joseph B. McMullen, the award represents the highest honor given by the Rotary Club of Altadena. On November 16, surrounded by family, community leaders, friends and fellow Rotarians, this prestigious award was given to Luther Eskijian for a lifetime of service to his profession, community, country, faith and Rotary.

Ray Carlson reviewed Eskijian's involvement in the Junior Achievement — Armenia project. Beginning as idea in Luther's office, the project has yielded six matching grants and has introduced thousands of Armenian students to economics and entrepreneurship.

Eskijian's grandson, Noah, presented congressman Adam Schiff's acknowledgment of his 56 years of service (and perfect attendance) in Rotary.

State senator Jack Scott's representative commended him on his community contributions through his many buildings and service as an architect.

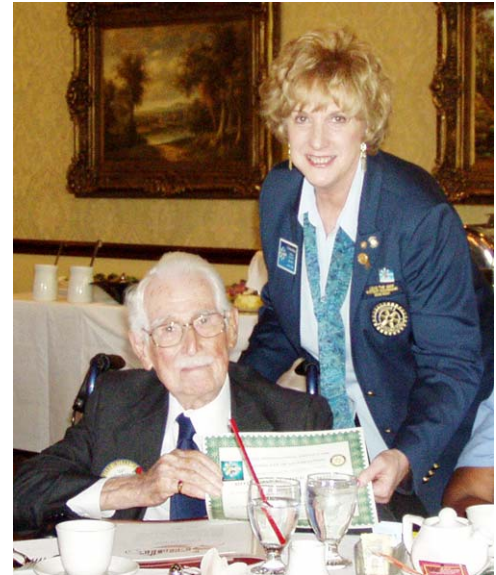
Rotary District 5300 Governor Christine Montan congratulated Eskijian on his many decades of service and presented him with his 56 year pin of perfect attendance.

Mike Zoeller, program chair, thanked Carlton Gustafson for organizing the event. Zoeller shared how Eskijian has inspired him through his 31 years as a neighbor and his 23 years as a Rotarian. Eskijian's ability to mature gracefully, continue learning, and handle adversity has made a significant impact on Zoeller's life. It was Eskijian's persistence that encouraged him to join Rotary. Zoeller thanked Eskijian for his continuous support of the Rotary Foundation and his 6 Paul Harris Fellowships.

Eskijian joined the Rotary club in July 1950 - 17 months after the club's founding. Past District Governor and Past President Art Ferris (who joined in April 1953) reflected on the many years serving with him. Ferris especially admired Eskijian's priorities in making sure that his church service would not be impacted by his Rotary service. Ferris enjoyed the awardee's many presentations on trips, personal health, and the advantages of a *rebounder*. He was very proud that Altadena was awarded *Best Club* when Eskijian was club president — 1979-80.

Carlton Gustafson joined the club in July 1965, and said that Eskijian was always a great example. Gustafson's perfect attendance in Rotary (another amazing statistic) was inspired by Eskijian's perfect attendance. Gustafson highlighted two projects that he enjoyed with Eskijian: the rabies vaccination clinic and the boys club painting project.

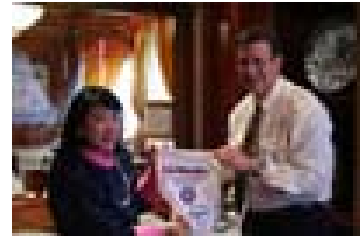
Congratulations to Luther Eskijian. You have been an inspiration to several generations of Rotarians. Thank you for your willingness to serve for so long and so well.



District Governor Chris Montan presents Joseph B McMullen Award to Luther Eskijian, Altadena Rotarian, who has 56 years of perfect attendance

## *Las Vegas Southwest Rotary Lends a Hand to Bhutan*

In October 2006 Las Vegas Southwest Rotary had one of its members, Chris Publow, travel to Bhutan to make a donation to the Tarayana Foundation. Chris and his fellow trekkers were able to meet with the Queen of Bhutan and make the presentation of \$2500 for the foundation that Her Majesty founded in 2003. The Tarayana Foundation is a non-profit organization working to uplift and enhance the lives of vulnerable communities in rural Bhutan.



Chris was able to meet with Her Majesty the Queen, Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, for over an hour and had the opportunity to talk about the wonderful things Rotary has done internationally. Her Majesty talked about the objectives of the Tarayana Foundation:

- Help the poor and rural communities become self reliant and self sufficient through the initiation and establishment of income generations activities.
- *Promote artisan skills through the establishment of training centers and facilitation of sale of products.*
- *Enable children from disadvantaged and poor families to pursue education through support grants for basic need of uniforms, shoes and other necessary expenses.*
- *Provide greater economic security and dignity of life to vulnerable individuals through grant of maintenance allowances.*
- *Instill the values of volunteerism in the Bhutanese youth.*

For more information on the Foundation and how you can help go to [www.tarayanafoundation.org](http://www.tarayanafoundation.org).

Bhutan is truly Shangri-la, the mythical country hidden deep in the mountains. It is about the size of Switzerland located in the eastern Himalayas between India and China (Tibet). It is sparsely inhabited (population about 700,000). It is a poor country with 80% of the population engaged in agriculture or raising livestock. The beauty of the landscape seems unreal to us Americans: houses with brightly decorated window frames and shingled roofs, patchworks of green paddy fields, plots of buckwheat, oak forests, a covered bridge, a seven century old monastery, a man guiding his yaks as they pull the plow through the field, women beating the rice stalks, and old lady carrying wood on her back along the trail to her home. I

If you have any specific questions on traveling in Bhutan or trekking the Himalayas you can contact Chris Publow at [cpublow@aol.com](mailto:cpublow@aol.com).

## *Rudy Salinas walks the walk...*

"Help your fellow man like your family" says Rotarian Rudy Salinas. At right is a picture of Rudy receiving an award for his 400 blood donations! The Red Cross is always short of blood donations but especially so at the holidays when there is an increase in the number of accidents. Blood products have a limited shelf life and there is a very small percentage of qualified donors who actually donate. Please consider giving the gift of life this holiday season!



## COVINA ROTARY CLUB SUPPORTS OUR TROOPS



President Dan Banh's theme this year is "Rotary Does the Community Good". Anyone familiar with Rotary knows that this is what the organization is known for, but the dedicated Rotarians of this active club have gone one step further....they have extended their support of the "community" to include those California residents serving our country in Iraq.

Leading the charge is Rotarian Gordon Browning, who has turned his home into somewhat of a packing center that would make even the busiest UPS driver envious.



Since 2004, Gordon has stood before his club week after week to solicit donations for his project. Tapatio (to spice up commissary food) and individual flavor packets (to change the taste of the water continuously consumed by soldiers living in the desert) are welcome.....but so are dollars. Gordon figures he has rounded up close to \$10,000 in food and phone cards that go into "goody boxes" for the troops so far, and he has no intention of stopping until our soldiers come home for good.

The Covina Rotary Club was honored last spring by a visit from Sgt. Robb Pruitt, representing the Warhawks helicopter unit based out of Los Alamitos, bringing with him hundreds of slides depicting the conditions of the war. Now that this group is safely home, Gordon has identified the 1114<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company stationed out of the National Guard Armory in Bakersfield, which the club began supporting on March 25. As this troop consists of both women and men, the most sought after items are hand lotion, shampoo and hair conditioner, pretzels and beef jerky....oh, and the ever popular Charmin toilet tissue, to take the "sting" out of military issue brand that one soldier told us "feels like it's made out of old trees." So as not to have any down time, however, Gordon recently identified the 185<sup>th</sup> Infantry Unit from San Diego as a second troop that the club will support. He sends out several boxes each week to each group.



Sgt. Glenn Arguelles of the 1114<sup>th</sup>, told Gordon "We really appreciate anything that the Rotary Club sends us, especially your love and prayers." When he found out that both troops could use industrial vacuums to clean out the fine sand that gets into every crevice and makes already challenging living conditions even worse, Gordon immediately turned to his fellow Rotarians, whose answer was short and sweet: "Let's Do It!"

For more information on the "Adopt-A-Troop" project or Covina Rotary Club, contact Gordon Browning via email at [sassa1@verizon.net](mailto:sassa1@verizon.net).



## *Apple Valley Rotary Keeps Things Spicy*

What's hot and spicy and earns \$18,000? The Wannatouchama Regional Chili Cook Off! Apple Valley Rotarians just put the fire out on their 5<sup>th</sup> annual event, sanctioned by the International Chili Society. A top cash prize of \$1000 helped attract nearly 40 professional cooks, including 8 former world champions! The event also serves as a qualifying regional, with winners headed to the World Champion Cook Off in 2007 and a chance to win the \$25,000 top prize.



The "Wannatouchama" is the brainchild of Apple Valley Rotarian Tony Inglese, himself a world class chili cook. It has evolved into the biggest annual fundraiser for the Rotary Club of Apple Valley. Money raised is earmarked for the Club's teacher mini-grant and children's literacy programs. The appeal of the event cuts across demographics, attracting people of all ages, and enjoys tremendous sponsor support from the business community. It also proves our claim to be "The Most Active Rotary Club in the World!" with over 80% of the club membership taking an active role in the planning and execution of the chili cook off.

In addition to the professional cooks, the event features a Battle of the Rotary Clubs cook off, with local clubs competing for bragging rights. This year Apple Valley reclaimed the trophy from the Victor Valley Sunrise Club. With a team headed by father and son Rotarians, Carl and Randy Coleman, club members gathered at their outdoor kitchen and sautéed and browned and seasoned their way to a winning recipe.

For more information, contact Kathie Martin, 2006 Chili Cook Off Chair and President-Elect, at (760)403-5148, or [kmartin@applevalley.org](mailto:kmartin@applevalley.org).

## *From chili to wurst...Boulder City Sunrise's Yummy Fundraiser*

**The Boulder City Sunrise Rotary Club's Wurstfest in late September has become a valley wide event. This event hosts live and silent auctions, brats and beer, as well as live entertainment. Funds raised support the larger part of our giving back to the community.**



## *Fundraising...with a twist*

The Las Vegas Central Rotary Club has held a small fundraiser for the last three years to supplement their budget line item for International Wheel-chairs. Current President, Maureen A. McKinley opens her home, and more importantly her kitchen, and throws a MARTINI PARTY. About 15 years ago, she received three Martini glasses for Christmas gifts. She had just started drinking Martinis and to this day isn't sure whether her family friends were encouraging her to drink more or just with nicer glasses! These three thoughtful gifts blossomed into a collection of currently more than 125 individual glasses and a fundraiser!



The Martini Party is every October and each guest gets to choose a martini glass from her collection and then ask the friendly expert bartender for their favorite martini. This year's favorites were Lemon Drops and Incredible Hulks. Maureen cooks and cleans for almost a week and serves what she used to call "heavy hors d'oeuvres" and the guests call dinner. This year's menu included cheeses; pates; lox and cream cheese; phyllo with chicken, gorgonzola cheese and spicy sweet and sour Thai sauce; crab puffs; tea sandwiches; bruschetta; marinated drumsticks; filet of beef with mashed potatoes; pork tenderloin with Thai rice sticks; french cut lamb chops with asparagus; chocolate truffles; and, pumpkin biscotti.

So all of you collectors out there, think about how you can share your collection and/or hobby and raise a little money and lots of fun.

## *A Rotarian makes the "MOST WANTED" list of the Rotary Military Police LV Central Club Faces Hairy Situation*

By: Maureen A. McKinley

I am sure you are as shocked as I was when I discovered that one of my newest club members and Vocational Service Chair was wanted by the Rotary Military Police. When Aaron Oseas first joined our LV Central Rotary Club two years ago. I was happy on two accounts. One, he was under 30 and two, he had long hair. I thought great, what a great Membership chair or co-chair. The club can finally send someone out for newer younger and in the words of William Stenhammer, past RI President, "a snowboarder vs. a cross - country Rotarian".



It wasn't until a couple of months ago that I learned that Aaron wasn't growing his hair just because he liked it but to either donate to cancer victims or somehow raise money for cancer patients. His hair is now over 13 inches long and he is "Leading the Way" by asking all lovers of short clean hair and scalps to help him cut his hair by donating either \$5.00 an inch for each inch cut or a flat donation. He is also looking for a barber/stylist? The highest bidder will be able to cut his hair and/or shave his head at a regularly scheduled meeting of the LV Central Rotary club. The current date selected is November 22nd. Any takers? Anyone want to join this effort by cutting his/her hair? What a great idea and leave it to my club to come up with again a new way to raise money.



(Ed. Note: This event raised \$1200 for the Nevada Childhood Cancer Foundation!)

## Glendora Rotary brings gift of better sight to Tijuana

On Saturday the 28th of October eight Rotarians and guests (Craig Triance, Ray Malki, Annette Whistler, Darleen Curley, Guadalupe Corder and her husband Alfonso Sanchez, Bob Lohrs and I) took the Focometer Project to Juan Jesus Posada school in Tijuana. We screened about 180 kids from very poor areas, and fitted about 40 of them with glasses. Additionally, we brought reading glasses and sunglasses for their parents, and fitted over 50 pairs of glasses to adults. Thanks to the generosity of our club, we now have two Focometers to work with, which shortened our day by hours. After every child was seen, the Agua Caliente Rotarians with whom we work invited us to a member's home for carne asada, beans, guacamole, and beer! We gratefully accepted their offer, and were driven



to a beautiful home (yes, in Tijuana) designed by the hosting Rotarian who is an architect. The home was beautiful, and the people are welcoming and gracious beyond description. A very good time was had by all! After dinner and lots of good conversation we were driven back to the Otay Mesa border, walked through customs (where the agents seem to now recognize us and wave us through--maybe it was our blue Rotary jackets they recognize), retrieved our cars and drove home. We left at 6:00 am and arrived home at 9:00 pm -- tired but very pleased. Come with us next time. The next trip will be January 27th.

## It's Not Too Late to Register for the 2007 RI Convention!



Go To [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) and follow the links to the convention registration pages.

### WHY ATTEND THE 2007 RI CONVENTION?

1. Family-friendly, fun and VERY affordable.
2. Salt Lake City is clean, safe, and affordable with a world class airport and spectacular scenery.
3. Salt Lake City is within easy driving distance of many national parks.
4. The first World Peace Symposium is scheduled for June 15-16, 2007.
5. The International Institute is scheduled for June 15-16.
6. Genealogy stations will be available throughout the convention hall and the world's largest family history center is only one block from the Salt Palace.
7. GREAT Host Organizing Committee activities and tours at: <http://www.rihost2007slc.org> Attend a rodeo, be inspired by a performance by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir (FREE), enjoy an evening of Host Hospitality with local Rotarians or experience a taste of the Old West at the Rendezvous in the Park



## ***World Bank Video Conference Brings Youth IT-Zambia Participants Together***

**by C. Ray Carlson**

A two-hour World Bank-orchestrated video conference on Nov 7 brought together 21 participants in Zambia, Washington DC, and Altadena for an exchange of views on progress being made in the Youth IT-Zambia program. In addition to six Rotarians distributed among all three locations, the conference included in Zambia the National coordinator, two Citizens Exchange (CE) participants from the US, and trainers and students in classes there. In D.C., participants included two representatives of US Agency for International Development (US-AID), the US Department of State coordinator of Altadena Rotary Charities' \$130,000 grant for Youth IT-Zambia, two World Bank staff, and others from non-governmental organizations (NGO), as well as Tony Bloome, international coordinator of Youth IT. Ray Carlson participated by SKYPE phone from Altadena but without visual connection. A DVD will be made available shortly.



The trainers and students each gave their impressions of progress and offered suggestions on how the program might be improved. The three CE participants each offered their observations and suggestions. The US AID participants were especially delighted by the concept of Youth IT and what they were hearing and offered to involve youth Business International (YBI) another organization with similar objectives and funding for microfinance of the students' business plans. US AID ought to be involved from the start in the next round of Youth IT in Zambia and elsewhere, one of their representatives offered.

As the 200 students complete their Information Technology, Entrepreneurship Education and Healthcare studies, a total of 200 class hours, they will begin writing business plans and entering them into a competition in January, the award ceremony of which will likely be transmitted through another video conference more widely than this first one. In February or March, nine Zambian students and their leader will come to the US for exposure to experts in the fields of IT, healthcare and business, and will be lodged in the homes of Rotarians from sponsoring clubs in D.C. and California (Simi Sunrise, Newport-Irvine, and Altadena).

This was undoubtedly a major milestone in the Africa program of Altadena Rotary and Altadena Rotary Charities, which began in February 2001 when Sam Carlson, president of a World Bank entity, World Links, responded to an enquiry in November 8, 2000 by then club president Ray Carlson (no relation) about possible collaboration. This initial contact led to the Uganda Youth IT project orchestrated by Tony Bloome and involving Rotary Clubs in Kampala, Altadena, and Edmonton.

The more sophisticated Zambia program in Lusaka and soon in Livingstone, with IT plus Entrepreneurship plus Healthcare, will be expanded to other towns and then to other countries in Africa, for which many more Rotary Clubs will recruited for participation. The desperate need in Africa for IT-qualified healthcare employees and for those with an entrepreneurial mindset to start new healthcare service businesses, will make this program a major force for good in coming years.

C RAY CARLSON

Youth Entrepreneurship Education - District 5300  
PO Box 40400, Pasadena CA 91114-7400  
626.797.5462







The Las Vegas Southwest Rotary Club turned their official Governor's visit into a gala birthday party for DG Chris Montan! Here are some photos of the festivities:



Sheila Reed (RC of Arcadia) visits District 5300 "expatriate", Susan Nunnery, in Seattle. Susan has recently announced her engagement to her sweetie, Paul Schwartz.

Congrats to both! Despite her move, Susan remains the District's Public Relations Chairperson. She and Paul will be in the District next Spring and they look forward to seeing their old friends then. Below, Roger Schulte (Upland Rotary Club) also recently visited Susan and Paul. It seems that they won't have a chance to miss their old friends!



## ROTARY IS ALL ABOUT FAMILY

BY SUSANNE HAYEK, EDITOR

Shannon Dang, editor of the Alhambra club's newsletter, recently wrote this about their Past President, David Snyder: "many of us revere David for his long term dedication to Rotary, his sense of humor (!?), and a few other projects that have the David Snyder stamp of excellence on them – Alhambra Rotary brochure (reprinted occasionally), our orientation process (including the handout each new member receives) which he has coordinated since "can't remember when," and one of his Presidential mottos – "Attendance is the privilege of membership!" You'll notice the word is "privilege," not "responsibility," and David stressed attendance as the backbone of Rotary."

With December being designated by Rotary International as "Family Month", it's a perfect opportunity to talk about attendance. As Rotarians we are privileged to be part of not only our own family, but our many Rotary families as well.

Yes, RI has relaxed it's definition of attendance and "make-ups" to encourage participation in Rotary-related activities, but the bottom line truth is that there is no fellowship without attendance. Or as Dennis Filangeri writes in the wonderful e-bulletin of the LV Northwest Rotary Club, "there is no fellowship in an empty chair".

I feel privileged to go to the Embassy Suites every Friday at lunchtime to share fellowship with my fellow Rotarians at the Arcadia Rotary Club. I'm proud to be part of such a fun and active Rotary family.

I'm also excited to attend events of my District "extended" Rotary Family where I can connect with friends from all around the District. Having participated in RYLA, attended many District Conferences, Assemblies, PETS, PRLS, etc. I have met so many people around D5300 that I look forward to seeing.

As I always say, Rotary is the thing that makes a big world small. It brings us back to an age when everybody knew your name when you walked down the street of your home town. It's the "Mayberry" and "Cheers" antidote to the cell-phone and PDA! Thanks for reading and have a wonderful holiday filled with the presence (and presents) of family and friends!



**The District 5300 Highlighter** is the official monthly publication of

Rotary International District 5300.

Deadline for submissions is the 20th of the month.

The Highlighter is edited by Susanne Hayek, Rotary Club of Arcadia.

Submissions should be sent as Microsoft Word files and should include photographs, as .jpg, with photo credits and names of persons appearing in the photograph. Submissions should be sent to: [susannehayek@earthlink.net](mailto:susannehayek@earthlink.net)

Susanne can also be reached at 626-355-9323 or 626-353-1266