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# THE HIGHLIGHTER

*The Official Monthly Newsletter of Rotary District 5300*

**Christine Montan, District Governor**

## *Letter from Governor Christine: New Year's Resolutions*



Dear Rotarians,

Another new year, another chance to make resolutions. This time, how about making a resolution you keep?

For those of you who heard my talk at the various events that served as the "official visit" of the District Governor, I asked Rotarians to "vow to take some action this year." I suggested every person who calls themselves a Rotarian should have a project they believe in, and are working on. That they talk to others about when they are asked, "What is Rotary?" I asked Rotarians to take the first step on the path to Rotary service, or if they have been traveling the path, to go a little further, work a little harder, to lead the way...

*RI President Bill Boyd writes: "We are often asked, 'What is Rotary'? It can sometimes be difficult to give a quick and easy answer. Rotary is about so many things: friendship and fellowship, international understanding and cooperation, vocational ethics and community leadership. All these values brought us to Rotary and all are reasons why we stay. But first and foremost, Rotary is about service and putting service above self."*

January is Rotary Awareness Month. What does your club do to educate the members to the opportunities Rotary offers? How do you as a member find out about the Rotary world outside the club meeting? I can suggest these few ways:

Read the Rotarian magazine. Surf the [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) and [www.district5300.org](http://www.district5300.org) websites. Visit other clubs. Attend District events. Meet other Rotarians. Join a Rotarian fellowship. Volunteer to work a service project. Involve yourself in new member orientation. Attend the Rotary International Convention in Salt Lake City in June.

The more you know about Rotary, the deeper your appreciation for the organization, and the better Rotarian you will become.

My sincere best wishes to you all for a happy, healthy and prosperous new year!

Chris

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

*By: Bob Novell, D5300 Foundation Chair*

Happy New Year. We are halfway through the Rotary year and Rotarians in District 5300 continue to contribute to the Foundation which means that District 5300 Rotary Clubs will be able to use the Foundation's educational and humanitarian grant programs at a level that very few other Districts in the world can do.

- **District Simplified Grants (DSG's).** The final day for submitting a grant DSG application was December 31<sup>st</sup>. Review, approval, and distribution of funds to Club's whose DSG's have been approved will take place in January. 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 projects that we can do through the Foundation.
- **Polio Eradication Update.** In addition to the endemic countries of Nigeria, India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan, twelve countries have reported polio cases in 2006 due to importations (Somalia, Yemen, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Kenya, Angola, Cameroon, Namibia, Niger, Nepal and DR Congo). The eradication program now has vaccines which are twice as effective and diagnostic tools that detect and track poliovirus twice as fast as before. The remaining challenges to a polio-free world are: (a) strengthening political oversight at the national, state and district level, (b) curbing the intense transmission in the high-priority states in northern Nigeria and western Uttar Pradesh, India, (c) increasing access to reach enough children with vaccine to break the final chains of transmission, (d) continuing to apply the rapid response strategies to stop polio outbreaks in previously polio-free countries, (e) addressing low routine immunization rates and surveillance gaps in polio-free areas, and (f) maintaining funding.
- **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.

### Congratulations

A deep and sincere thanks to those clubs who, by the end of November, have already exceeded their SHARE fund goals of giving to Our Rotary Foundation: Las Vegas, Las Vegas Sunset, Las Vegas West and Pasadena Sunrise.

Congratulations to those clubs who are already 50% or more towards meeting their goal: Apple Valley, Barstow, Chino, Claremont, Claremont Sunrise, East Los Angeles, El Monte/South El Monte, La Verne, Las Vegas Central, San Gabriel, Victorville and West Covina Sunrise.

District 5300's goal is that every member gives at least \$120.00 to OUR Rotary Foundation every year. This is roughly \$2.00 a week and can be used

to send OUR community members to another country to expand their business, professional and personal knowledge as well as build bridges for PEACE.

This money also sends OUR students to another country to study for a year and puts money into OUR community projects. Please give and continue to support Rotary International's goal of fostering International Peace and Understanding.

May this New Year bring you prosperity and open your hearts and pocketbooks to those less fortunate than yourselves.

Margaret Cooker, your District's annual giving chair.

## *'07 Peace Conference to focus on Latin America*

*by C. Ray Carlson, Program Chair*

Latin America and Hispanics in the US will be the focus of the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Rotary International District 5300 Peace Conference. It will be held on Saturday, March 31, at Azusa Pacific University.

This conference, like previous ones on Africa and the Middle East, will present ideas on how to eradicate poverty through entrepreneurship education that leads to new business formation and job creation.

The huge unemployment in Mexico and other Central American nations leads to migration North in search of jobs. The migrants say they would far rather stay home with their families and in the neighborhoods and culture they grew up in. But in order to put food on the table for their families, they take enormous risks to come North.

So a program directed toward Job Creation in Mexico makes sense for them and is something we Rotary Club members, with plenty of business-savvy, can direct our attention to.

Actually, Altadena Rotary launched such a program in Tijuana in 1999, in collaboration with CETYS Universidad which operates the Junior Achievement program across Baja California, and 1,600 students were impacted. Unfortunately, the leadership of the university changed and the JA program got side-tracked, but not before the Ministry of Education had investigated the JA program and found how valuable it was. Dr. Carlos Rodriguez Rubio, of CETYS, spoke at Altadena Rotary last year and presented a document on the value of a new collaboration between Rotary Clubs in District 5300 and in Mexico and with CETYS.

The population of Hispanics in D-5300 is rising rapidly and has reached 42 percent of the population. Very few Hispanics are to be found in Rotary Clubs here and it should be valuable to show them that we are interested in helping their youth. So Hispanic organizations, clubs, and Latin Studies programs at universities will be solicited to send representatives. Workshops will be held in the afternoon to develop practical projects and associations.

For details, contact PDG Dr. Garbis Der Yeghian at <[mashdots@aol.com](mailto:mashdots@aol.com)> or C. Ray Carlson at <[ray@rotapreneur.com](mailto:ray@rotapreneur.com)> 626.797.5462



C. Ray Carlson



PDG Garbis Der Yeghian





**The Rotary Club of South Pasadena held their annual Holiday Luncheon** for members and guests on Tuesday, December 12. They were entertained by the Drama Club from South Pasadena High School who performed a 60's version of "Twas the Night Before Christmas." Under the direction of Drama Teacher Donna Tucker, the students provided a very interpretive presentation of the classic Christmas story, including 60's terminology, hair styles, and music. A few of the properly aged Rotarians and their spouses actually joined the students in some of the dancing. Those members that were products of the 60's had no trouble relating to the presentation. Some of the younger and older members were seen scratching their heads, but a good time was had by all.

Ms. Tucker said this was the first time her student had given this performance to a group that wasn't students. They were nervous, but were gratified that the audience enjoyed the performance as much as they did. She also said that some of the participants actually got their wardrobes from their parents' closets. Now where is that favorite polyester leisure suit of mine?

## Jr. Interact Stays in Shape and Spreads Holiday Cheer

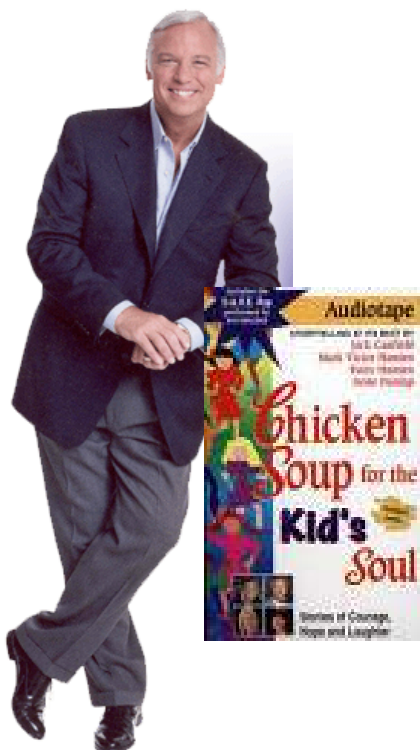
By Sheila Reed, Arcadia Jr. Interact Director

The Arcadia Junior Interact Club has had a busy time this winter. They held a walk-a-thon on November 19<sup>th</sup> at which they raised about \$2,000 and on December 13<sup>th</sup> they caroled at Arcadia Methodist Hospital.

The patients were so excited to see & hear them.



Assisting at the walk-a-thon were Arcadia Rotarians John Murphy, Pat Barnes & Joanne Tweedy, Gina Post. There were also lots of AHS Interact kids there as well. It was a great "co" fundraiser/fellowship activity!



## The Purpose of District Conference

You hear it every year from your District Governor and your Club President. "You have to go to the District Conference! It's a celebration of the end of the Rotary year, and we are going to have a great time together". How much of that message actually sinks in and resonates with you? If you are like most busy 21<sup>st</sup> Century Rotarians, attending the District Conference can be just another event you are asked to fit into an already full schedule.

OK, I admit it. I don't blame you for saying to yourself, "not another Rotary thing"! As a fellow Rotarian, I understand what it is like to be approached with many opportunities to volunteer, and/or attend various Club and District fellowship events. Throughout the year, we are deluged with weekly announcements for: participating in fundraising and Rotary Foundation opportunities; volunteering to work on local service projects; attending planning and board meetings; and of course to attend the annual Rotary International Convention. I am out of breath just writing this!

All that being said, I am going to speak to you from the heart about why I would love to see you at the Conference. Simply put, I feel rejuvenated and reconnected with my Rotary spirit when I attend District Conferences. **Personally and professionally**, I make new friends, become reacquainted with old ones, and have a great time with them all; **Inspirationally**, I get to see the best-of-the-best at District Conference, from award winning projects, to talented young musicians and future leaders. **Globally**, I see how instrumental Rotary is in taking a stand and being ambassadors for peace and partnership between nations. If you have ever witnessed our GSE teams' presentations, you will know to what I am referring.

Basically, you get it all in one weekend, and enjoy some down time at a beautiful resort.



## Thank You



If you have never been to a District Conference, come to this one during the May 24-27 weekend to get your feet wet. If you haven't been one in a while, come on down and get re-energized. If you're a new Rotarian, or if there are some in your club, don't miss this opportunity to get fully immersed in what our District does.

We promise you an incredible show and line up, and you can see the program specifics when you click on to the registration link on the [District home page](#). Be open to new possibilities and get new ideas about how you want your Rotary experience to be heretofore. Attending a District Conference can be that opportunity, but only if you take the step of actually registering for it.

I look forward to getting to know each of you who attend the conference.

Yours in Rotary,

Rudy Hayek

2007 District Conference co-chair

District Conference Sponsors,  
Imy Dulake, Coldwell Banker  
Arcadia  
([www.imydulake.com](http://www.imydulake.com)) and

Tom Brady *The Destination  
Group*, ([www.dgrp.com](http://www.dgrp.com))



## 7Year Old Wins \$10,000 from Pahrump Valley Rotary!

By: Manon Rodriguez

Pahrump Valley Rotary Club held its annual \$10,000.00 Give-away this fall. 300 tickets were sold by our members for \$125. each which included dinner for two and one chance at winning the "big prize". Many other prizes were offered in the drawing after the winning ticket was picked. Past President Darleen Howard has always done an outstanding job selling these tickets. This year was no exception. Much to her surprise, a ticket that she sold was the winner. Not an unusual occurrence with one exception. The winning ticket was won by a Paul Harris Fellow who happens to be 7 years old. The owner of this ticket was none other Steven Howard, Darleen's Grandson.

After buying a telescope from our local Wal-Mart, a savings account was opened to get Steven started on his college education. This was a news-worth event in our small town.

Our local TV station was at the check presentation that was done at Steven's school. This was a win-win for all of us. Our club received great publicity and Steven has his college fund started.



## Hook Mideract Club Raises \$1,100—Amount Matched by Victorville Rotary

The students of Victorville's Hook Junior High School Mideract Club put on a dance in October and raised \$1,100 for Heifer International; this money was matched by the Victorville Rotary Club. On Monday, December 18th, the Mideract Club presented the check to President Cherie Range and were surprised by the match of their funds by their sponsoring Rotary Club. The students have selected Animals For Africa as the recipient of the money.

Receiving the Mideract Club check are L-R: Foundation Director Margaret Cooker, Youth Services Director Helen Young, Mideract Club VP Anisa Pacheco and Rotary President Cherie Range.



On hand for the check presentation were L-R: (back row) Margaret Cooker, Jennifer Starbuck, Matt Drake, Advisor Nancy Noble, Kimberly Aleman, Cherie Range, Helen Young, Anisa Pacheco, School



Principal Nason, Cherie Sanders and Caroll Yule. (front row) Brittany Bracelly, Dalton Villamero, Erika Johnson, Andy Quinteros, Kanisha Withers, Mercedes Stanfield, Briana McFashion and Daniel Hernandez.

Following is a list of the animals purchased:

Heifers 2 at \$500  
Water Buffaloes 2 at \$250  
Goats 2 at \$120  
Sheep 2 at \$120  
Trio of Rabbits 2 at \$60  
Honeybees 2 at \$30  
Flock of Chicks \$20  
Flock of Ducks/Geese \$20

## *Glendora Rotary Serves up Christmas Lunch for Seniors*

By: Jonathan Blake

For more than 30 years the Rotary Club of Glendora has been serving a Christmas lunch for senior citizens at the La Fetra Senior Citizens Community Center.

This year, the Luncheon Committee was headed by a new member, Homa Malganji and she did a fabulous job coordinating the event!

Nearly the entire club membership participates in this event because 200 hungry senior citizens all want to be fed all at once!

The club pays for the entire meal and the members serve it through an efficient assembly line of food preparers and servers.

This year's meal consisted of baked ham, candied yams, salad, fruit compote, and pumpkin pie.



Entertainment was provided by Glendora High School's Royal Stuart's Choir directed by Brian Trevor.



Gordy Norman dressed in his Santa Claus suit took Polaroid pictures with senior citizens sitting on his lap.

Pastor Tom Stricklin recited one of his famous Christmas stories that had everyone cheering at the end!



And these senior citizens really know a good deal when they see one! Word spreads through the San Gabriel Valley and senior citizens come from all the surrounding cities. There was even a couple visiting from England that joined the festivities!



One senior citizen told me that her group had all the senior centers mapped out. One center had the best games, another was the most friendliest, another had the best lounging area and Glendora had the best Christmas meal!

An interesting aspect is that many of the Rotarians serving the meals are actually much older than the senior citizens they're serving!

This continues to be a great tradition for our club and gives new members of our club a feeling of what Rotary does around the world!

## *South Pasadena Rotary Serves at the El Sereno Barrio Action Center Posada*

On December 20, 2006, South Pasadena Rotarians Pat Jackson, Robert Kemp, Sara Munshin, George Rigney, and Walt Simmons plus family members assisted at the Posada sponsored by the Barrio Action Youth & Family Center in the neighboring community of El Sereno. The Center works with people of all ages with a special emphasis on helping high-risk youth and their families break the vicious cycle of poverty, despair and social deprivation through providing tutoring, counseling, and other social services. Rotarians helped at the Posada, which was attended by approximately 300 community members, by serving food, distributing gifts (many donated by the club), and helping with the cleanup. Los Angeles City Councilman Jose Huizar personally thanked the Rotarians for their service to this project.

-Sara Munshin



" The years of our lives are much the same, up and down, good and bad, triumph and failure, gain and loss, but when January 1st....the New Year... comes around, we look forward with great anticipation to what will come our way for the good and for the good of the World.

All too often, we fail to take advantage of any of the few controls we have in influencing good things to happen.

Little things like showing appreciation to others... giving the compliment, even if there is little cause, to someone we care for ... and letting someone know that we are there for them if needed.

Demonstrating good fellowship and spreading goodwill to all, are things that we can do readily and easily, and which can help enhance our relationships with those we come into contact with and make this World a better place."

Thank you for everything and Happy New Year

Ronald Farra

Rotary Club Baabda D2450 Lebanon



## **Help Wanted-District Administrator**

District 5300 is accepting proposals for the position of District Administrator. This person will report to the District Governor and will provide complicated and varied professional administrative and clerical tasks, in support of the position of District Governor and District operations, and manage the activities of a virtual or real District Office. Proposals are due no later than January 15, 2007.

For more information, please visit [www.district5300.org](http://www.district5300.org)





**Utah is an international hub for genealogy and family history research,  
thanks to the world-class Family History Library.**

Located on Temple Square in Salt Lake City, less than two blocks from the Salt Palace Convention Center, the Family History Library is the world's largest and most advanced repository of genealogical information. Their various records hold the names of more than 3 billion deceased people (prior to 1930) and is open to the public free of charge. Visitors can search the:

- Ancestral File Database (36 million names)
- International Genealogical Index (725 million names)
- 2.4 million rolls of microfilmed records
- 742 million microfiche
- 310,000 books
- 4,500 periodicals

700 electronic resources

These records have been collected from churches and government offices in most countries of the world, and staff at the Family History Library speak many of these languages.

A little overwhelmed? Begin your research at the genealogy kiosks located in the **House of Friendship** where Library staff will be on hand to get you started. If you want to learn more, you can attend one-hour presentations in a specially-designated **Genealogy Room** on the second floor of the convention center before heading to the Family History Library.



## STEPPING OUT OF THE COMFORT ZONE...

BY SUSANNE HAYEK, EDITOR

The e-mail I received as a member of the Arcadia High School Music Club said “host families needed”. AHS band and orchestra families were being asked to host the Australian Southern Stars, a marching band due to perform in the Rose Parade. They would arrive on December 29th and depart on January 3rd. My family and I had often wondered what it would be like to host a youth exchange student and I admit the thought was both tempting and terrifying! Here was our chance to stick a toe into the water!



We eagerly awaited the arrival of our two “Marching Koalas”. We were thrilled to meet two lovely 14 year old musicians, Laura, a piccolo player, and Katie, a trombone player. They were so excited to be in America! The giant servings of lemonade, complete with a sugar rim on the glass, at The Cheesecake Factory were a highlight! We also took them on the Gold Line commuter train to Olvera Street as well as to Old Town Pasadena on New Year’s Eve to see all the people camping out for the parade. The next day we were proud to claim them as our own as they marched down Colorado Blvd. playing “Waltzing Matilda” and wearing shirts I had pressed early that morning.

Even though it was not a Rotary exchange, Rotary is always in the picture! They were thrilled to learn that Rudy and I had been to their homeland for the Rotary International Convention. The Rotary connection was also in evidence when we took them to the Sierra Madre Rose Float barn where they met Sheila Reed (Arcadia Rotary Club) there to help on the float with her Jr. Interact club. They also had a chance to meet Kris and Sue Poulsen (Sierra Madre Club) who were there dropping off Calla lily leaves for the float. (lots of photos at [www.hayekfamilyalbum.com](http://www.hayekfamilyalbum.com)) They spent two happy hours cutting roses and gerbera daisy’s for Sierra Madre’s float.

The entire family concluded that it was a truly great experience to host these two young ladies!

**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