



THE HIGHLIGHTER

The Official Monthly Newsletter of Rotary District 5300
Christine Montan, District Governor 2006-2007

Letter from Governor Christine: LEADING THE WAY – WOMEN IN ROTARY



Dear Fellow Rotarians,

In the month of May, District 5300 marks an historic anniversary – the twentieth (20th) anniversary of the Supreme Court decision allowing women to join Rotary!

From the RI website – “Reflecting society in 1905, the organization had been limited to male members and remained so officially until 1989, when the Council on Legislation, Rotary’s Parliament, voted to eliminate the male-only provision, opening up membership to qualified women across the world (though in the U.S., women Rotarians began to appear in the 1986-87 Rotary year).

That was the year I joined Rotary, and June 1987 will mark MY twentieth anniversary! Today there are only about 145,000 female Rotarians worldwide, and many Rotary Clubs’ membership do not reflect the numbers of qualified women in their communities that are waiting to be asked. We can take pride in the fact that our small District, and particularly the small Rotary Club of Duarte, changed Rotary, and by doing so, changed the world. How much more vital and relevant is our organization today because of women who joined, and who have taken on leadership roles!

As the year winds down, we celebrate the accomplishments and successes of the sixty Rotary Clubs in our District at the annual District Conference. OUR Conference will be May 24-27 (Memorial Day weekend) at the luxurious Rancho Las Palmas Resort and Spa. You can come just for the day, although to choose which will be difficult. I look forward to seeing you there for the weekend, the day, or a session, as we celebrate “leading the way”.



The Rotary Foundation (TRF) Monthly Report

By: Bob Novell, D5300 Foundation Chair

- **Summer Gala Foundation Dinner.** George and Mary Newton from the Apple Valley Rotary Club will host a gala dinner this summer at their brand new home for Rotarians for up to 200 guests who have qualified this year for membership in the Paul Harris Society (annual support of \$1,000 or more to the Foundation), or who qualified this year as either new Major Donors or Bequest Society members. Don't miss this opportunity to be a part of this historic evening, see your Club's Foundation Chair or go on-line to make your contribution. .
- **GSE.** Greg Custer (San Marino) reports that the GSE team from District 1910 (Central Europe) has arrived and begun their visits on April 27th while Pam Hayes (Covina) our GSE team left on April 30th for their visits to District 1910 countries.
- **Rotary Center for International Studies in Peace and Conflict Resolution.** John Regan (Claremont) and Dee Matreyek (Rancho Cucamonga) report that we can now accept applications for this program. See the District website for details.
- **The state of polio eradication** (from the Polio Plus in Action Newsletter). After the international spread of 2003-2005, endemic poliovirus has been beaten back to only four parts of four countries. Global polio eradication depends on the engagement of the leaders of the "final four" countries: Nigeria, India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. The strategies and tools to eradicate polio are better than ever. The program now has vaccines which are twice as effective and diagnostic tools that detect and track poliovirus twice as fast as before. Policies to minimize the risks and consequences of international spread of poliovirus are now in place: travelers to and from polio-endemic countries are advised to be fully vaccinated before travel. The remaining challenges to a polio-free world are:
 - Strengthening political oversight at national, state, and district level.
 - Curbing the intense transmission in the high-priority states in northern Nigeria and western Uttar Pradesh, India.
 - Maintaining funding.



High Desert Foundation Dinner



District Leadership from right: DGE Charlie Barr, DG Chris Montan, DGN Gene Hernandez and Louise, and DGND Tom Novotny and Robin



DGE Charlie Barr receiving recognition as a Major Donor to the Rotary Foundation with the presentation of a crystal by District Governor Christine Montan.



As captioned above but also including M.C. James Baxter (rear left) and Ambassadorial Scholar from South Africa, Michael Gordon, (center rear).



Ryan and Jennifer McEachron receiving recognition as Major Donors to the Rotary Foundation with the presentation of a crystal by District Governor Christine Montan.

One of the five groups that were recognized by Governor Chris for donations to the Foundation benefiting DGND Tom Novotny's year. Back row- Tom Novotny, Chris Montan, Teressa DeAtley, Kay and Ken Chambers, Luis Frisby and Don Barber; Front row; Manjita and Ramesh Patel who presented to Mr. & Mrs. Somabhai Patel.



Meet Cathy Raacke: New District 5300 Administrator

Cathy Raacke has deep roots in the San Gabriel Valley. She was born and bred in Temple City. Her mother was in the first graduating class of Temple City High School, and her daughters have followed in her school path thus far: Emperor Elementary, Oak Avenue, TCHS, PCC. Older daughter Heather will be 21 in June; Kylie will be 13 in September. Heather is a 3rd generation graduate from TCHS. Kylie will be following in a few years (she is currently at Oak Avenue).

Cathy founded and owned an alarm company for 17 years and she is one of five females currently licensed in the state of California to own and operate an alarm company. In addition, she spent 17 years in corporate America with Southern California Edison (1978-1993) and incorporated the alarm company during that time.

In Cathy's current role with Post Alarm Systems as their Community Relations Consultant, she is involved with a variety of projects including community events, public communications, etc. She also worked closely with the San Marino Police Department developing a plan to meet their needs and budget for a card access system. Bidding against several competitors, she was awarded the project after a year of meetings, researching the needs of the client and developing and implementing a system that would meet their needs. "It is extremely gratifying to have that accomplishment" says Cathy.

Cathy thoroughly enjoys the alarm/security industry. After all, it has been in her blood for the last 20+ years. It is interesting to note that her careers have been more in male-dominated industries (electrical, security) but as Cathy says "I feel comfortable and think a woman's touch of intelligence and organizational abilities is what these industries could use!"

Cathy identifies her time as San Marino Chamber president as fun, very exciting and one of her fondest accomplishments (besides her children). She and her fellow members rebuilt the organization with the assistance of a great team of volunteers (Chris Datwyler being one of them along with Judy Carter – (wife of Wayne Carter: current San Marino Rotary President) and took it to a new level. It is fascinating how paths continue to cross numerous years later!

Cathy was originally inducted in early 2002 in the San Marino Rotary but had to leave to take care of personal matters. She was re-inducted in January 2007. She says she is very excited to be an active element of Rotary again and especially in the role as District Administrator. "I know this is a new role for the District, but give us a little time and we'll be running at full-speed to meet the needs of our clients." says Cathy. She views the "60 Clubs" in District 5300 as "clients", which means her role is to make sure the District's clients are having their issues addressed and resolved. "I'm excited to be a part of the team that will take District 5300 to a new level with the guidance and input from the Member Clubs of District 5300. Change is always difficult, but if done as a team with a mutual goal set, it can be accomplished." says Cathy.



40 Year Anniversary of District 5300 GSE

Herb Hezlep was Chairman of the Receiving Committee for the 1967 Group Study Exchange between District 245 and District 5300 in Southern California/Southern Nevada. He will be in Perth for the first two weeks of March to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the exchange. Past District Governor Bill Holywell was the Rotarian leader of that team which included six young men. Bill and Herb have become great friends over the years. The reunion, to be held on 10 March at The Holywell home, is unique in that all seven team members plus Herb will be present for the occasion.

Herb is a 49 year member of the Rotary Club of Monrovia, California. He served as president of his club in 1964-65. He and his wife, Liz, have made frequent trips to Perth over the years and they have hosted many visitors from Perth in their San Marino, CA home. The Holywells and one of the team members visited the Hezleps within the last year. He regards his GSE experience as the highlight of his Rotary service.



By Herb Hezlep

This is the 40th anniversary of D5300's first group study exchange with then District 245 in Western Australia. The team arrived at LAX on February 18, 1967, and were our guests until April 21. I was honored to be the district's first GSE chairman. Eldon Osborne was my housing chairman and was responsible for arranging 105 home stays (15 each for seven team members). We moved the team twice a week.

I have been fortunate to keep up with all members of the team. Two of them have been guests in our San Marino home in the last year. My wife, Liz, and I went to the 1971 Rotary convention in Sydney along with over 40 Rotarians from D530. About 25 went on to Perth after the convention. I used to go to Australia on business and frequently flew out to Perth to visit my friends. I have probably been to Perth a dozen times since 1947 and have never stayed in a hotel. The last time was five years ago when I attended their 35th anniversary.

They are very proud of the fact that all seven team members will be present along with yours truly after 40 years.

There will be a video, pictures and display board in the House of Friendship at the District Conference in Rancho Mirage this May 24-27.

It's a GO! Baja, Here we Come!

By C. Ray Carlson

Baja California is the focus of a new initiative for Poverty Eradication through Entrepreneurship Education that leads to Job Creation. That has been the thrust of the last four Rotary Peace Conferences, and Mexico was the primary focus of the one on March 31, 2007, with the Quechua Indians in the Highlands of Peru and Hispanic immigrants in the U.S. as additional emphases.

Dr. Carlos Rodriguez Rubio, of CETYS Universidad in Tijuana, spoke passionately of the need for an entrepreneurial culture in Mexico so that new businesses and jobs would be created. The international Youth Entrepreneurship Education program that Altadena Rotary has been developing for the past 17 years is seen as the answer. And CETYS Mexicali has an active program of IMPULSA (Junior Achievement) for doing it that has been tested over time and found to work. The teachers and students in the MBA business program are fully capable of teaching and showing others how to teach. They just need money to make it happen on any kind of massive scale. A partnership with Rotary Clubs in Mexico and the U.S. can provide that, along with leadership of the many Hispanic Rotarians that we have in District 5300.

When the new focus on Baja California was put forth at the recent District Assembly by C. Ray Carlson, 2007-08 chair of International Projects, three Rotarians came forward and volunteered to take a leadership role: Javier Espinoza, PR of East L.A., Rudy Salinas, President 2006-07 of East L.A., and Edward Chavez, President 2007-08 of Pico Rivera Rotary. They urged that we meet very soon and develop a plan of action and a Matching Grant application so that funds will be available when school begins in the Fall.

Mr. Ernesto Romero Salas, of CETYS in Mexicali, presented a detailed plan at the Peace Conference for how that program in Baja can be implemented through their impressive services of Programa Emprendedor. There are 204 high schools and about 90,000 pupils in Baja, which has a population of around 3-million. His plan shows how the program can begin in the 2007-08 school year in a few schools in Tijuana and Mexicali, then in 2008-09 expanded to more schools and with Ensenada added to the mix, and in 2009-2010 to more schools and with Tecate and San Felipe added. Thus, year by year, the program would be expanded to more and more schools so that within, say ten years the whole state is being impacted.

This is modeled after the program and experience of Junior Achievement of Armenia where, with \$62,000 of support from Altadena Rotary, four other Clubs, and The Rotary Foundation, plus a huge grant from US AID, they are now able to impact 170,000 students each year in a country with about the same population as Baja State.

At an unrelated meeting the same week, Carlson met Luis Marquez, COO of the Puente Learning Center in East L.A. and Boyle Heights which has 2000 youth and adult students every day, and he expressed interest in collaborating with Rotary to begin Entrepreneurship Education locally to enhance job creation for U.S. Hispanics

As soon as a master plan is agreed upon, Dr. Rubio plans to meet with Rotary Clubs in District 4100 to persuade them to partner with District 5300 and other districts to bring about a massive expansion of Youth Entrepreneurship Education throughout Baja and beyond.

Within a month of the Peace Conference, leadership has been identified, and an outline plan and budget defined so that we can begin a long-term program for Job Creation in Baja California and to attempt to relieve the crushing poverty of that state that drives so many to leave families behind and seek jobs across the border. District 5300 has a plan and leadership and money to make a difference. And we Rotarians will **share** our collective '*business-savvy*' with the many needy who are just a few hours' drive from us, and even the many all around us. Baja California - Here we come!

Montebello Rotary Awards Teacher Mini-Grants

by Anne Donofrio-Holter

The Montebello Rotary Club presented Greenwood Elementary School and Montebello Intermediate School with a total of \$2,200 in teacher mini-grants at a recent meeting.

Montebello Intermediate teachers plan to use their mini-grants to purchase materials for hands-on algebra and geometry instruction while Greenwood Elementary teachers will use the funds to purchase area rugs for four first-grade classrooms.

"We are very grateful to the Montebello Rotary Club for their support and for providing us with the funds needed to purchase these area rugs for our students," said one Greenwood teacher. "Our students are very excited and looking forward to receiving them."

This year the club, which has been awarding mini-grants for the past ten years, received a total of 15 applications. Vocational Service director Gabriel Robles met with the principals to discuss the need and benefit of each application. Mini-grants are awarded for any activity or project that enhances the teaching process for a large number of students and offers a long-term benefit to the school. There must be limited or no other funds available from the school district or other sources.

In a show of their appreciation, the first grade students presented the Rotarians with hand-made thank-you cards.



From One House to Four

Claremont Sunrise Rotary began building houses in Mexico in about 1998. Working through an organization called Corazón (Spanish for *heart*), which supervises the build, the club has constructed one house each year for a deserving Mexican family. Three other clubs in District 5300 – Big Bear Dawnbusters, Alhambra, and Laughlin – have partnered at various times with Claremont Sunrise in the builds. That means sharing the cost of materials (about \$5500) and enlisting the 45-50 volunteers needed to build the house.

At 16' x 24', the homes are spartan by U.S. standards, but provide needed shelter for the family for whom it is built. The single-room houses have no indoor plumbing or electricity, since the villages where they are located lack the necessary infrastructure. They do have concrete slab foundations – poured and finished in advance of the volunteers by Mexican concrete masons from Corazón's trade training program. The homes are put up in one day, with volunteers crossing the U.S.-Mexico border at about 7:00 AM and crossing back into the U.S. at about 5:30 PM that same day. Recent builds have been in a village about 25 miles south of Tecate, a border town about 40 miles east of Tijuana.

After the 2006 build, Sunrises Ken Rowland proposed that multiple clubs in District 5300 undertake a Super Build (four houses, 200 volunteers) with Corazón. Thanks to his efforts – and the cooperation of Rotarians from a number of clubs – the build will take place on May 12, 2007, in the suburbs of Tijuana.

A Rotary Anecdote

Rotary Club of South Pasadena

In 2004, Marchelle Sellers, Founder and Executive Director of the Pasadena Ronald McDonald House, presented a program to the Rotary Club of South Pasadena. Marchelle told the story of how her special needs son, Reese, motivated her to take on the challenge of creating a non-profit organization and residential facility for the families of hospitalized children. This meant Marchelle had to work with the City of Pasadena and the California Department of Transportation (Cal-Trans), two large, bureaucratic organizations, to renovate two 90 year old Craftsman homes located in the 710 Freeway right-of-way. After several years of hard work by many supporters, the first of the two houses opened and McDonalds Corporation agreed to sponsor the facility as an official Ronald McDonald House.

After Marchelle told her story, Rotarian George Rigney asked what type of funding opportunities were available. Marchelle listed several, including a park-quality swing set for \$2500. Fellow Rotarian Scott Hancock stood and complimented Marchelle for her good timing. Scott explained that his triplets were celebrating their birthday that very day and that he and his wife, Missy, clearly understood the need for a local Ronald McDonald House since their triplets had to spend their first several weeks in the hospital. Scott offered to donate half the cost of the swing set if the club covered the rest. An immediate Board decision was made to purchase the swing set. A matching grant was subsequently received and the play equipment was ordered.

Members of the South Pasadena club were inspired by Marchelle's story and Scott's generosity. At the next meeting, discussion turned towards making a service project out of installing the swing set. Rotarian and General Contractor Tom Lake agreed to lead a group of hearty soles in the construction of the swing set. Always looking for a reason to party, the entire club and their spouses were invited. What should have been a 2 hour project ended up in an all-day picnic in the backyard. What made the project take so long was there were too many chiefs and not enough Indians. Among the work crew were a contractor, cabinet maker, apartment house owner, and a variety of other skilled workers. There was even a real chief – a police chief at that. No one took time to read the directions and George Rigney simulated work by moving empty boxes from one place to another. As the day ended, the new swing set stood against the setting sun and only a few parts were left over.

The Pasadena Ronald McDonald House is run by a Board of Directors. The Board had been encouraging Marchelle to become involved in a local service club, preferably in Pasadena. Because of the generosity, spirit, and fellowship she shared with the South Pasadena Club, she decided to accept their invitation to join.

Marchelle Sellers currently serves as the Community Service Chair for the South Pasadena Rotary Club where she is seen as a future leader. Rotarians have since added a fence to the back yard. And, perhaps most amazing, the swing set is still standing!

Rotary brings good people together for good causes. Friendships are made, lives are changed and we all benefit.

Submitted by: Dan Watson, President, Rotary Club of South Pasadena

Local Club Participates in Rotarian Action Group

In 2005 the Rotary International Board of Directors created a new category of organizations called Rotarian Action Groups. Such groups differ from the recreation-based Rotary Fellowships by their focus on action.

In the 2006-2007 Rotary year, under the leadership of members Wolfgang Jockusch and Lisa Hahn-Smith, Claremont Sunrise Rotary joined an action group called Rotarians for Mine Action (RFMA). The purpose of the group is to support the removal of land mines from in areas that have seen military conflict.

Thanks to Jockusch's onsite investigations in Afghanistan while stationed there as a member of the German air force), and the state-side efforts of Lisa Hahn-Smith, Claremont Sunrise is providing funds to HALO International to clear mines from cultivatable land in Afghanistan, and is making plans to raise the awareness within District 5300 of the importance of mine removal. Jockusch also serves as the vice-president for Europe of RFMA.

For more information about Rotarians for Mine Action, see <http://www.rfma.org/AboutUs.htm>

District 5300 GSE Team Members for 2007-Outbound



Janette Ledea is a 33 year old self employed establishing residential care facilities from Sierra Madre, **Russ Osmonson** is a 40 year old Dean of Students at a boarding school in San Marino, Pam Hayes, Team Leader, Rotary Club of Covina, **Minh La** is a 31 year old teacher at Griffith Middle School in East Los Angeles, and **Susan Justin** is a 36 year old critical care nurse from Whittier.

Last Minute District Conference Tips**By: Rudy Hayek****2007 District Conference Co-Chair**

Planning a District Conference on Memorial Day weekend has been challenging. Our original dates had to be changed without much choice because of the of venue (and date) change of the RI International Convention from New Orleans to Salt Lake City this year. We realize that we have had to compete with traditional family holiday plans and vacations, as well as other commitments that take place during this beginning-of-the-summer weekend.

The good news is that we have had a better than expected enthusiastic response from many of you, and we want to thank you for being willing to once again show your willingness to support your district Rotarians and to share in the successes during this past Rotary year.

With only twenty-three days to go, it is time to make your plans to attend. I have devised a little checklist to facilitate your decision-making process and travel plans:

1. Start at the web site, www.SHARETHEADVENTURE.ORG

- **Press the *Conference Agenda* link and see what we have scheduled.**

Take a look at the *meal sessions* for events like:

- **Jack Canfield (*"Chicken Soup for the Soul"*) Keynote**
- **Dan Stover and 4-Way Speech Finals**
- **Professional Comedy Night**
- **Club Presidents' Recognition Ceremony**
- **Gospel Entertainment**

2. Now go to the ***Conference Registration*** link, which will take you to the on line SPORG registration template and register for your meals. It is only \$175 for all six meals!

Do not forget the GOLF TOURNAMENT. Only \$135 which includes lunch, cocktail reception and dinner

Hotel Registration link: our room block has been sold out at the Rancho Las Palmas, but we have placed a couple of options of nearby resorts and hotels (two of them are walking distance from our venue). Do not wait. Remember, it is a holiday weekend and we do not want you to be left out.

There is so much more for you to choose from at this conference, AND you can still have a lot of fun with your family. After all, this is YOUR event, and we promise to give you a great show. All you have to do is register!

IMPORTANT NOTICE

For all Rotarians and Clubs that remit their dues and send contributions to North America

Effective 1 October 2006, lockbox addresses changed for Rotary International, The Rotary Foundation, and The Rotary Foundation (Canada).

Please take note of our new mailing addresses below.

For Rotarians and clubs that remit payments and contributions to the US:

Send membership dues and payments to Rotary International:

Rotary International
14255 Collections Center Drive
Chicago, IL 60693

Send contributions to The Rotary Foundation:

The Rotary Foundation
14280 Collections Center Drive
Chicago, IL 60693

NEW TOLL-FREE TRF CONTACT CENTER

In October, The Rotary Foundation Contact Center began taking general inquiry calls and emails for The Rotary Foundation and its programs from Rotarians, clubs and districts in the United States and Canada.

Call **1-866-9ROTARY** or E- mail: contact.center@rotary.org to check on your donations and recognition points, deadlines for grants and applications, contact names for your applications, and more.

The TRF Contact Center is open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Central Standard Time

Family of Rotary

It's a sad time for any Rotary Club when they lose a longtime member and friend. Not when one moves away, although that can be sad too, but when one dies. Altadena Rotary Club has had more than their share. Longtime Rotarian Bud Railsback passed away after a illness. Bud died in April, just four months after wife Sally. Their oldest member Luther Eskijian, who was honored a few months ago, died the same week. And then news of the death of the daughter of Past President Bill Jennings, who was killed in an automobile accident. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Altadena Rotary Club. May it help to know that others care.

D.G. Chris Montan

Dear Friends,

This is to express my deepest sympathy and condolences to the families and friends of the victims at Virginia Tech and to the people of America. I was shocked and dismayed by the heinous criminal act committed by a sick young man born in Korea and raised in the United States.

There is not much one can say to ease the sense of loss and grief of the bereaved families at this time of sorrow. I just want you to know that my thoughts and prayers are with them. It is also my hope that this unfortunate tragedy would not affect the traditional friendly ties between the people of our two nations.

Please accept my deepest sympathy.

Sincerely,

Song-Hyon Jang

Governor Nominee

District 3650

S.H.Jang & Associates, Inc.

Yonji Dreamville, 701

275-1, Yonji-dong, Chongro-gu

Seoul, 110-470, Korea

Hang out at the Hangar

The excitement of activity at a general aviation airport is one of the attractions of an annual fundraiser co-sponsored by the Claremont Sunrise and Upland Rotary clubs. The site is a modified hangar (#316) at **Cable Airport** in Upland, hence the title, "hangout at the hangar."

Scheduled for Tuesday, June 12, 2007, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., the event centers around hors d'oeuvres and a delicious barbeque dinner, complemented by a silent auction, art exhibits, and airplane rides. Members of the two clubs are selling tickets for the event at \$25 each.

For more information, or for tickets, contact Chuck Freitas (Claremont), 909-560-1994 or Bob Cable (Upland) 909-573-5558.

Travel Safety Tip

Ever wonder what is on your magnetic key card?

Answer:

- a. Customer's name
- b. Customer's partial home address
- c. Hotel room number
- d. Check-in date and out dates
- e Customer's credit card number and expiration date!

When you turn them in to the front desk your personal information is there for any employee to access by simply scanning the card in the hotel scanner. An employee can take a hand full of cards home and using a scanning device, access the information onto a laptop computer and go shopping at your expense.

Simply put, hotels do not erase the in-

formation on these cards until an employee re-issues the card to the next hotel guest. At that time, the new guest's information is electronically overwritten" on the card and the previous guest's information is erased in the overwriting process.

But until the card is rewritten for the next guest, it usually is kept in a drawer at the front desk with **YOUR INFORMATION ON IT!**

The bottom line is: Keep the cards, take them home with you, or destroy them. NEVER leave them behind in the room or room wastebasket, and NEVER turn them in to the front desk when you check out of a room. They will not charge you for the card (it's illegal) and you'll be sure you are not leaving a lot of valuable personal information on it that could be easily lifted off with any simple scanning

device card reader. For the same reason, if you arrive at the airport and discover you still have the card key in your pocket, do not toss it in an airport trash basket. Take it home and destroy it by cutting it up, especially through the electronic information strip! You can also use a small magnet and pass it across the magnetic strip several times. Then try it in the door, if it does not work it erased everything on the card.

Information courtesy of: Pasadena Police Department

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: susanne-hayek@earthlink.net

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