



THE HIGHLIGHTER

The Official Monthly Newsletter of Rotary District 5300
Charles M. Barr, District Governor 2007-2008

LETTER FROM GOVERNOR CHARLES: *June is Rotary Fellowship Month*



Dear Fellow Rotarians,

103 years ago Rotary was founded on “fellowship.” Today this same shared fellowship is one personal reward we receive through our membership in Rotary. When one combines “fellowship” with “service,” Rotary membership often takes on an even deeper personal significance.

For many of us, May 16th proved to be just such an occasion through our participation in Corazón Super Build. 160 Rotarians from throughout District 5300 took time out of their lives to work together to help others less fortunate. In one day we built two homes and three home-additions in Cerra Azul near Tecate, Mexico.

The families we helped spoke little or no English. They could easily be described as impoverished and their living conditions were crowded, unsanitary, and lacking in basic amenities. Over the past few years they had “earned credits” by volunteering and attending community self-help classes sponsored by Corazón toward a new home or addition to their existing home.

Though most of us spoke little or no Spanish, we quickly formed bonds with these families. At midday we took a break from the 105 degree heat and enjoyed a lunch of beans, rice, tortillas, and a cactus salad prepared for us by each family as a small way to thank us as friends and Rotarians who were making a significant difference in their lives. At the end of the day, keys to the new structures were passed along to the families at each of the five sites. Our proud smiles and the tears, and those from the family members we helped, said it all.

Through this Rotary project we had formed bonds of fellowship with Rotarians and Rotaractors from throughout the District as we worked together to give others an opportunity to live in a basic home. Most of us also formed

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Letter From Governor Charles *continued*

everlasting memories of the momentary connections with those families we helped as they worked side by side with us. Truly, we came away knowing that “He who serves best, profits most.” We had experienced a deep sense of mutual “fellowship” and the gratification of giving.

As your District Governor during this past year, the friendship and fellowship which I experienced has been personally pleasing and highly satisfying. I thank each and every one of you for not only making me feel welcome but also for extending the spirit of friendship as you carried out the work of Rotary. 2007-08 has been a banner year. Friendships have flourished and opportunities for fellowship have abounded both in your clubs but also in the projects you have carried out. I personally thank you for being involved, committed, caring Rotarians. I know that this same spirit will continue next year when Gene Hernandez becomes Governor.

Las Vegas Northwest Rotary Relieves a Toothache

by Judith A. Filangeri, Rotary Club of Las Vegas Northwest

Can you imagine having a pounding toothache with little hope for relief? Such is the plight of under-insured kids in Clark County, Nevada. The Rotary Club of Las Vegas Northwest, whose mission is to assist disadvantaged women and children in the greater Las Vegas and world communities, presented a check for \$1,000 to the Huntridge Teen Clinic. The Clinic provides

medical and dental care to uninsured and at-risk adolescents, age twelve to nineteen years, who are ineligible or unable to obtain services available through Clark County agencies. The check was presented by Rotarian Jim White, D.D.S., to Steve Williams, Huntridge Teen Clinic's Executive Director.



(l to r): Huntridge Teen Clinic Executive Director Steve Williams, Jim White, D. D. S.

JPL's CloudSat Receives Rotary National Award for Space Achievement

by Hal Yorke, Director, International Service, Altadena Rotary

On April 21, 2008, CloudSat, a joint project of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and Colorado State University was awarded a Rotary National Award for Space Achievement (RNASA) in the Stellar Team category, for providing unprecedented perspectives of the Earth's clouds. The project was honored for "exceptional achievement by an international joint government, university and industry team in conceiving, designing, developing and launching the CloudSat spacecraft that provides an unprecedented three-dimensional perspective of Earth's clouds to answer questions about how they form, evolve, and affect the weather, climate and fresh water supply."

CloudSat is not a weather satellite — it is a space-based experiment to study clouds and the effect that they have on the weather and ultimately on our climate. It has the first satellite-based millimeter-wavelength cloud radar — a radar that is more than 1000 times more sensitive than existing weather radars. Unlike the ground-based weather radars we have become accustomed to on the evening news, which use centimeter wavelengths to detect raindrop-sized particles, CloudSat's radar is able to detect the much smaller particles of water and ice that constitute all types of clouds, whether or not they produce rain, hail or snow.

Clouds exert an enormous influence on our weather and climate. They play a key role by bringing water from the air to the ground and by transporting water from one region of the globe to another. Clouds also dominate the energy budget of Earth; they profoundly influence the exchange of solar and thermal energy within the atmosphere and between the atmosphere, oceans, land surface, and space.

Because clouds have such a large impact on the Earth's radiation budget, scientists believe they could be a major factor in bringing about global change. It is highly likely that changes in climate caused by clouds will, in turn, give rise to changes in clouds due to climate: in effect, a cloud-climate feedback system. These feedbacks may be positive (compounding or increasing the changes) or negative (reducing the net change), depending on the processes involved. Some of the main uncertainties in predicting how our global climate will evolve over the next 20 to 50 years are due to our poor understanding of clouds and their radiative properties.

The Principal Investigator of the CloudSat project, Prof. Graeme Stephens of Colorado State University is responsible for overall scientific leadership within the project. JPL provides project and mission management and was responsible for the development and building of CloudSat's unique Cloud Profiling Radar. Co-launched with another Earth-observing satellite on 28 April 2006, CloudSat and CALIPSO joined three other satellites already in orbit (Aqua, PARASOL, and Aura) to form a constellation of satellites known as the A-Train on 1 June 2006. Because of their close proximity, these satellites provide nearly simultaneous observations of the

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JPL's CloudSat Receives Rotary National Award... [continued](#)

Earth and its atmosphere, providing an invaluable data resource for scientists who study the weather and the Earth's climate.

The Rotary National Award for Space Achievement recognizes outstanding individuals and teams from industry and government who have made significant contributions to the US space program. The RNASA Foundation was established in 1985 by the Space Center Rotary Club (Houston, Texas), a club chartered by Rotary International on August 6, 1964, with the assistance of its sponsoring club, the Rotary Club of Pasadena (Texas).

Rancho Cucamonga Rotary Club Wants Golfers

by Tamara C. Martin, Rotary Club of Rancho Cucamonga

Two of the Ambassadorial Scholarship candidates for 2009-10 came to visit our Club this month. Charlie Wright introduced Elaine McGlaughlin and Leah Newman. Elaine is from Alabama and is attending Pomona College, and Leah is from Massachusetts, attending Scripps College. Both of them gave wonderful presentations. Interviews will be held in Arcadia on April 19th.

Everyone in our Club is gearing up for International Convention under the guidance of Ed Biebrich. Those members of our Club, as well as some from Rancho Sunrise, who cannot attend the entire Convention, are traveling by train to the hospitality get-together on Monday, June 16th at an Olivera Street restaurant. With the Mexican buffet, wine, beer and Margaritas, it should be a wonderful time of fellowship.

Diane Williams and Firat Tuncay are working hard on our All-City Track Meet to be held May 17th at Chaffey College from 6 a.m. till 1 p.m.

The 12th Annual Rotary Club of Rancho Cucamonga's Golf Classic will be held on June 9th at Arrowhead Country Club in San Bernardino. This is our biggest fund raiser of the year. Steve Smith is leading this committee.

Our Interact Club at Los Osos High School is sponsoring a "Relay for Life" event. Dennis Williams is working on a new membership roster.

Rancho Cucamonga Rotary Club meets every Tuesday at 12:15 p.m. at Etiwanda Gardens. For more information, contact President Bill Roman.

Prominent Speakers Gather to Promote Peace and Eradicate Polio

by Shirley Pozzuoli, Rotary Club of Pomona

Prominent speakers, a world-renowned artist, sculpture and poet, Mark Strickland, and a number of notable Rotarians recently engaged their time and expertise to benefit our communities, our children, and the world through Rotary International's endeavor to promote peace and the permanent eradication of Polio. The free multidisciplinary, multicultural conference, hosted by Dr. Garbis Der Yeghian and District Governor Charles M. Barr of Rotary International District 5300, was held on Saturday at Travis Auditorium, located on the Pasadena campus of Fuller School of Psychology in California.

The theme of the event, “Engaging The Other – The Power of Compassion”, was introduced by Conference Chair, Dr. Garbis Der-Yeghian, Past Rotary District Governor and President of Mashdots College, the only Armenian Institution of higher education in the United States. The distinguished panel of speakers included California State Senator Dr. Jack Scott; Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca; Rabbi Steven Jacobs, President of Progressive Faith Foundation; Mr. Salam Al-Mrarayati, Executive Director of Muslim Public Affairs Council; Reverend Leonard B. Jackson, Senior Advisor to Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa; Grand Master Tong Suk Chun, President of World Cultural and Sports Foundation; Dr. Henry Safavi, President of American University for Humanities; Mr. Robert Jones, Director of Field Operations, National Insurance Crime Bureau and Retired FBI Manager; Reverend Alexia Salvatierra, Executive Director of Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice in California; Dr. Andrea Shields, Executive Coach-Psychologist; and Kenneth R. Boyd, Past District Governor of Rotary International. The afternoon session was coordinated by C. Ray Carlson, Rotary International District 5300 Director of International Projects, and focused on “Entrepreneurship: Create Jobs; Create Hope; Create Peace.”

Hamo Muskofian, a noted Diplomatic Journalist and Editor, was present and recorded the event for the foreign media.

World-renowned artist, sculpture and poet Mark Strickland spoke briefly about “In Vertical” an original work, he generously donated for auction during the Peace Conference, with all proceeds to benefit the Rotary District 5300 PolioPlus Campaign. The campaign was initiated with a matching \$100 Million Grant to Rotary from The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Mark Strickland's original water color banners and the oil on canvas wall hanging was exhibited at the conference to expose the effects of cultural turmoil on the enduring human spirit. Mr. Strickland also generously signed ten of his limited edition works, for sale at the conference, with all proceeds donated to PolioPlus. For information on Mark Strickland's “In Vertical” Peace Conference art to benefit PolioPlus, contact Shirley Pozzuoli, Rotary District 5300 at polioplus2008@gmail.com.

Wheelchairs for Ecuador by Ken Coonrad, Rotary Club of Las Vegas Northwest

For the past eight years, the Wheelchair Foundation has led an international effort to create awareness of the needs and abilities of people with physical disabilities, with the aim of delivering a wheelchair to every child, teen and adult in the world that needs but cannot afford one. So far, more than 672,000 wheelchairs have been taken to 152 countries and geographical areas around the globe. [<http://www.wheelchairfoundation.org/>]

During 2006-2007, the Rotary Club of Wasilla Sunrise, Alaska (my previous club) raised over \$20,000 for the purchase of 287 wheelchairs. This included contributions from 10 Rotary

clubs in Alaska and two out-of-state clubs. Of course, the wheelchairs needed a destination. A Rotary exchange student, Sebastian Chavez (known as Sebas), who was attending Wasilla High School in the 2006-07 school year, told members of the troubles back home. Poverty in the towns of Ecuador was rampant and especially hard on the physically challenged, many of whom were unable to meet simple medical needs, including obtaining wheelchairs.

On February 7, 2008, I left for Ecuador, arriving late the following night. After an hour of immigration lines and customs lines; I met up with some of the members of the Quito Rotary Club and 'Sebas.' I stayed at the home of Alberto Reyes, the President of the Quito Club. On Saturday we toured the city and



The Wheelchair Foundation presents a certificate to each recipient inscribed with the name of the donor.

had lunch high atop one of the many steep hills in the city. Saturday evening we enjoyed a Rotary Fireside party.

On Sunday, Sebas and his parents and sister picked me up and we drove north for several hours. I saw several square miles of greenhouses where 70% of the world's roses are grown. We toured the markets and craft fairs and then had lunch/dinner at an elegant restaurant. Ecuador is a country of extremes – either you have nothing or you have everything.

Monday was Wheelchair Distribution Day, and we were up at 4:00 a. m. and on the road by 4:30, heading to Riobamba, a city about three hours south of Quito. The Quito Club had worked with the Catholic Diocese to identify which of the local handicapped needed chairs the most. All the way there I was worried that the wheelchairs were going to be distributed to folks that really didn't need them or that something else would go amiss with the plan. WRONG!

Within two minutes of my getting to the church where the event was scheduled, people started carrying in the needy – in the center of a blanket, on their backs, in all kinds of ways. I was overwhelmed. After I got my composure back, we started organizing the chairs and putting the Rotary stickers on them. Then I heard my name being called and I saw one of the

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Wheelchairs for Ecuador... continued

Quito Rotarians directing a middle-aged woman to me. She came at a dead run to hug me and say, "Thank you. Thank you. God bless you. God bless you," in broken English. Soon I was ushered to the front of the church to sit with the Bishop of Riobamba.

Following Mass, the distribution started. Folks were carried to their new wheelchairs, had their picture taken, were given food and drink, and then were allowed to leave. I saw much happiness, tears, joy, blessings and good being done, and I left Ecuador knowing that I and all the members of the Rotary Club of Wasilla Sunrise had changed the lives of these folks and their caregivers for the better.



News from Rancho Cucamonga Rotary Club by Tamara C. Martin

International Convention will have come and gone as we read this newsletter, and I am certain it was fabulous. I had the privilege and pleasure of attending the one in Mexico City a thousand years ago, and it was an unbelievable experience. If you ever get an opportunity to attend an International Rotary Convention, I recommend it. In fact, I can personally vouch for the fact that any type of convention Rotary puts on – any size - is worth its weight in gold.

The final details are coming together for our All-City Track Meet to be held May 17th at Chaffey College from 6 a.m. till 1 p.m. Coach Richard McAllister encouraged everyone at today's meeting to get involved.

Our 12th Annual Rotary Club of Rancho Cucamonga's Golf Classic will be held on June 9th at Arrowhead Country Club in San Bernardino. This is our biggest fund raiser of the year, and we are putting final touches on this event as well. We have lots of great prizes, awards and food – plus the banquet will be memorable.

Rick Nelson and Dennis Muller are going to Tecate, Mexico, for Project Super Build this weekend to help construct eight houses. Way to go, guys!

Rancho Cucamonga Rotary Club meets every Tuesday at 12:15 p.m. at Etiwanda Gardens. For more information, contact President Bill Roman.

Excerpt from the RI President's Travelogue for March, 2008

Las Vegas, Nevada. Once we arrived, we were met by Past District Governor Alfred Slaggert and his wife, Mary Ann. Later, we had supper with other district leaders.

The next morning, we visited West Prep Elementary School, where we heard praise for Rotarians' work. The public school provides an excellent education, primarily to students who come from economically depressed areas. Two years ago, it was regarded as one of the worst schools in the state, but with a new principal and assistance from both the community and Rotary, it is now considered a model of learning and discipline that helps young men and women break their families' cycle of poverty.



*Shirley Pozzuoli, Rotary Club of Pomona, and
Rotary International President Wilf Wilkinson*

After visiting the school, I met the mayor of Las Vegas, Oscar Goodman. It was my pleasure to award him Paul Harris Fellow Recognition on behalf of local Rotarians; he was genuinely surprised and honored. I also presented him with one of my Rotary Shares gifts. He, in turn, presented me with a key to the city.

That evening, nearly 300 Rotarians from Nevada held a Foundation dinner at the Gold Coast Casino. There we met polio survivor Shirley Pozzuoli, of the Rotary Club of Pomona, California, and became reacquainted with club president Lynn Maranville and his wife, Joanne, who had driven across the desert from the distant Rotary Club of Caliente, Nevada. We also recognized donors and met Interactors, Rotaractors, Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholars, and Rotary Youth Exchange students. One of the highlights was listening to the madrigal singers, who in addition to entertaining the audience with their beautiful voices, inspired my wife, Joan, and me with the singing of Canada's national anthem, "O Canada."

Photo by Bernard Hunt

Montebello Rotarians Attend 54th Annual Service Club Banquet

by Anne Donofrio-Holter

The Montebello Lions Club members were the hosts of Montebello's other service club members at the Montebello Senior Center for the city's 54th annual All Service Club Banquet. The annual event honors all those who help others in the community through their volunteer work in Montebello's five service organizations.

Although it is a celebration recognizing the work and dedication of all service club members, a highlight of the event is the selection of one member as the All Service Club Person of the Year. This year that honor went to Montebello Rotarian Kathy Kohn.

Another highlight of the evening was the presentation of the annual attendance awards. A long-standing tradition fell this year when the award for lowest attendance (based on percentage of club size) and winner of the infamous toilet seat award went to the Optimists rather than the Rotarians. The Optimists will maintain custody of the toilet seat for one year, passing it on to next year's recipient.

Each club president then gave a brief presentation highlighting his or her club's accomplishments during the past year. Rotary president Tom Millhouse spoke of the club's ongoing service projects in the areas of health and education in our community and in Mexico, as well as the club's efforts, working with the Montebello Historical Society, to transform the Sanchez Adobe into a museum, historical resource for local schools, and self-supporting venue for community and social events.

Following dinner and the awards, attendees enjoyed music and karaoke provided by disc jockey Jessie Castillo.



Paul Harris Fellow Honored via Long-Distance

by Patrick Carlton, Rotary Club of Las Vegas

During a recent meeting of the Rotary Club of Kenai, Alaska, David Welles, Past-President (1976-77) of the Rotary Club of Las Vegas, presented a Paul Harris Fellow award via telephone. This unusual ceremony honored Petty Officer First Class Wil Milam, United States Coast Guard, who serves as an Aviation Survival Technician (Rescue Swimmer.)



Club Foundation Director Jeff Belluomini recognizes Petty Officer 1st Class Wil Milam as a Paul Harris Fellow during Kenai, Alaska, Rotary meeting.

Milam, a close personal friend of Rotarian Dave, recently took part in the rescue of four occupants of the fishing vessel *Illusion*, which sank in the Bering Sea during a brutal winter storm. His actions displayed the commitment of all Coast Guardsmen to the saving of human lives at sea. Milam reported that "the vessel sank with four people on board ... my [survival] suit malfunctioned during the operation, allowing the suit to flood with water and causing me to become severely hypothermic ... fortunately, [we] were able to get all four of them and myself out of the sea."

Dave Welles, working with Milam's wife Deb, arranged to recognize Petty Officer Milam for his service. "I know of no better example of Service Above Self than the work that Wil does, and no better way to express my appreciation ... than to make him a Paul Harris Fellow."

Milam replied that he was "just doing the job I've been trained to do ... but if such recognition raises money to bring Polio vaccine to children in poor countries ... then I can live with it!"

RI District 5300 Peace Conference Brings Top Cop, Top Educator, Money by Ray Carlson, Altadena Rotary

The 13th Annual Rotary International District 5300 Peace Conference was held Saturday, May 10, 2008. Dr. Garbis Der Yeghian chose to revert to the program focus of earlier years, turning our attention to The Power of Compassion. 11 speakers were scheduled ahead of me and my Poverty Eradication finale.



Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca

It was almost 3:00 p. m. when I walked to the podium, so I decided to wrap it up in 30 minutes and ask my four partners — Bessie Kruis, Julie House, Javier Espinoza and Ray Malki — to each tell in a few minutes about our plans for the Philippines, Liberia, Baja, and Nazareth, emphasizing the need for funds. PDG Conrad von Bibra came to me at the close and said we could get \$1000 from the District Foundation for the two-week Baja Corazón boot camp for 25 youth entrepreneurs that will start July 1. We already have pledges for \$600 from clubs, so we are drawing closer to the goal of \$2500.

Javier Espinoza, a Rotarian from the East Los Angeles Club, who heads up the Baja program, took the opportunity to connect with Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca to discuss youth entrepreneurship education for Hispanic youth. They agreed to meet again to consider this topic.

After California State Senator Dr. Jack Scott spoke, I inquired about when should we might start calling him “Chancellor” now that the morning news had reported that he will take that post for all 109 community colleges in California in January. Then I asked “How many students does that represent?” and he replied, “Over 2-million!” I suggested that we had heard from the Top Cop [Baca’s moniker] in the country and now the Top Educator. This generated lots of smiles and applause all around, and of course I will make an appointment with him to talk about Entrepreneurship Education and Business Plan competitions between all those colleges!



California State Senator Dr. Jack Scott and Rotarian Ray Carlson

Making important connections and gathering pledges of money for important causes – that’s what makes conferences like this worth attending.

Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar Michael Gordon Graduates from UNLV

by Karen Whisenhunt, Las Vegas Rotary Club

I've had many proud moments in my Rotary years but none can compare to May 17, 2008, the day our Rotary son, Michael Gordon graduated from UNLV with his Masters Degree in Public Administration. As an added bonus, Michael was one of four graduates out of over 2,800 students to be recognized at center stage for his accomplishments and dedication to UNLV and the Community as a "Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar from Cape Town, South Africa."

Amanda Hurst, the President-Elect of the Rotaract Club of Las Vegas, joined my husband Tom and me for the graduation ceremonies. We were also honored to share this memorable day with Michael's father, George Gordon, who came from South Africa to see his son graduate.



Over the past year, Michael has made monthly contributions to the RI Foundation to reach his third Paul Harris Fellow level. On Thursday, May 15th at the Rotary Club of Las Vegas luncheon, with tears in his eyes, Michael honored his Father and idol as a Paul Harris Fellow. Mr. Gordon is a kind and highly moralistic individual. Michael's Mom, Ina, another remarkable person, was unable to make the trip and was truly missed. It is obvious where Michael gets his drive and values, as he has wonderful parents.

The first year, Michael studied under the Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship. Through his hard work and dedication on campus, he was offered other scholarships to stay for the second year. His awards, citations, accolades, and the service organizations and projects he's organized or been involved in are too plentiful to list in this article. As an Honorary Member of the Las Vegas Rotary Club, and Past President and Charter Member of the Rotaract Club of Las Vegas, Michael continues to be a dedicated member of Rotary, of UNLV and of the local and International Community.

Tom and I have been honored and blessed to be Michael's host family for the past two years. We dropped the "host" part a long time ago. Michael truly is part of our family. The Rotary Club of Las Vegas is equally as proud to have hosted Michael and grateful to the Rotary Club of Bellville and District 9350 for selecting such an excellent Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar.

Michael captivates an audience, is highly dedicated to service, and has proven that one person really can make a difference. He has captured the hearts and minds of District 5300 and touched the lives of so many people since he arrived in the U. S. In the words of Jack Nicholson "you make me want to be a better person."

I'm sure all the Rotarians in District 5300 and District 9350 join me in saying "Congratulations Michael, and thank you for your dedication to Rotary and the World."

Australian Group Study Exchange Team Visits Montebello

by Anne Donofrio-Holter

Several Montebello Rotarians hosted four members of the incoming Rotary Group Study Exchange (GSE) team that spent a month in Southern California and Nevada. The Rotary GSE program is a unique cultural and vocational exchange opportunity for young business professionals

in the early years of their careers. Teams spend four to six weeks abroad participating in vocational activities in their respective fields, being immersed in the culture, enjoying fellowship with host families and members of the community, and working with the host District's Rotarians at club meetings and various Rotary activities.

This year's GSE team, from Australia, consisted of constables (police officers) Narelle Beer and Tim Forster, land care coordinator Rhonda Day and dietitian/diabetes educator Lucien Deane-Johns. Rotarians Ted Jones, Anne Donofrio-Holter and Larry Holter accompanied the team to the Montebello Police Station, and following a tour of the facility, Beer and Forster went on a "ride along" with Montebello Police officers. Both Beer and Forster have experienced most aspects of local policing and were interested



1 (l to r) Montebello Rotarians Ted Jones, Anne Donofrio-Holter, Cook Hill Sr VP and Newport-Irvine Rotarian Norman Witt, GSE Member Rhonda Day, Montebello Rotarian Joanne Miceli

in studying overseas trends in policing and how their vocation is practiced in Southern California.

The following day, along with Cook Hill Properties Senior Vice President and Newport-Irvine Rotarian Norman Witt, Jones, Donofrio-Holter and Montebello Rotarian Joanne Miceli accompanied Day on a tour of Montebello Hills. The area is one of the largest remaining open spaces in the San Gabriel Valley and is the site of the Montebello Hills Specific Plan. The plan, if approved, would provide for 1,200 homes/condos and for approximately two-thirds of the 487-acres to be set aside for permanent open space, including parks and trail systems along with areas for continued oil operations.

Day's work includes supporting land care groups and providing awareness and education to local schools and the general community. She viewed the tour as invaluable in both her personal and vocational advancement and as an opportunity to share the work being done in Australia.

All team members found the tours of great interest and had many questions for their guides. While in our area, the team visited a number of local sites including Beverly Hospital and Monarch Litho.



(l to r) GSE Team Members Tim Forster, Narelle Beer, Montebello Police Chief Dan Weast, Montebello Rotarians Anne Donofrio-Holter, Ted Jones

West Covina's 6th Annual Business Recognition Dinner Honors West Covina and West Covina Sunrise Members by Luis Chacon

The City of West Covina held its 6th Annual Business Recognition Dinner on April 10th, 2008 at Hurst Ranch in West Covina. Each year the City hosts the annual Business Recognition Dinner to honor the outstanding achievements and contributions of West Covina businesses.



Team Chacon - 2008 Small Business of the Year (l to r) Sherri Lane - Mayor West Covina, Luis Chacon- West Covina Sunrise, Yulanda Davis-Quarrie,- Chair of West Covina Chamber of Commerce, Carolina Chacon, West Covina Sunrise

This year the City of West Covina and the West Covina Chamber of Commerce recognized nineteen (19) exceptional businesses.

Two of the honorees were Team Chacon (Luis & Carolina Chacon) and Keller Williams Realty and the Tenant Foundation (Dr. Forest and Miriam Tenant). Team Chacon was recognized as the 2008 Small Business of the Year and the Tenant Foundation received the 2008 Community Service Award recognition. Luis, Carolina and Miriam Tenant are members of the West Covina Sunrise Club, and Dr. Forest Tennant is a member of the West Covina Noon Club.

The event featured two outstanding guest speakers: Maury Wills, the Legendary Los Angeles Dodger and John H. Semcken, III, of Majestic Realty Company. Mr. Wills shared

stories of his celebrated baseball career and Mr. Semcken discussed the proposed National Football League (NFL) stadium in the City of Industry and the positive effects it will have on West Covina's businesses. He also commented on the need for businesses to stay in touch with their legislators regarding what they are doing to support our business community.

The Business Future Looks Bright by Boyd Hudson, Rotary Club of Altadena

The Rotary Club of Altadena recently recognized outstanding students from John Muir High School and Marshall Fundamental Secondary School, who presented their business plans as part of the Dewey Merrill Awards program. Merrill was a long-time member of Altadena Rotary, whose great love was the students at John Muir. He was a regular volunteer at Muir, teaching the students about entrepreneurship and business plans. He died on campus after teaching a class in 1998.



Academy Travel — (l to r) Wesley Mair, Nikki Scott, Vernetra Gavin-Lead Teacher Computer Careers Academy, Marshall HS, Keith Gates and Syed Hasan

Nikki Scott, Keith Gates, Wesley Mair and Syed Hassan from Marshall Fundamental presented their plan called **Academy Travel**. These students plan to develop a web-based travel agency that will serve both domestic and international travelers. The agency will make reservations for air travel, hotel and car rental. Their website will offer advice as to the best hotels and restaurants in a particular location. Ideally, they would be able to compete with PriceLine and Expedia. Their website is academytravel2008.com.

Straight 2 the Point is the concept of Dominique Revis, Jazzlyn Gatlin, Mary Lee Thornton and Shamaria Anthony from Marshall. Straight 2 the Point will be an upscale beauty salon that will focus on the individual needs of their customers. The girls presented their detailed plan for making a profit after one year in business. Recognizing the importance of giving back, the girls intend to donate all unwanted hair to organizations serving cancer patients to make wigs.

Kendall Rouse described her plan for **Pretty Pens**. Her concept is an arrangement of pens with an artificial flower attached to each. An arrangement would have four to six pens. The flower would add a floral touch to the necessary writing pen. Rouse is a student at Muir and is planning to attend Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia in the Fall.

Deon Shorter from Muir discussed his plan to offer breakfast sandwiches to the students, faculty and staff at Muir. According to Shorter, many teachers and students do not eat an



Straight 2 the Point Hair Salon — (l to r) Mary Lee-Thornton, Shamaria Anthony, Vernetra Gavin, Lead Teacher Computer Careers Academy-Marshall HS, Jazzlyn Gatlin, and Domonique Revis

The Business Future Looks Bright *continued*



(l to r) Lon Weind,-Entreneurship Teacher-Business & Finance Academy-Muir HS, Kendall Rouse - Pretty Pens, Mercedes Washington - Delectable Pieces of Heaven, and Deon Shorter- Breakfast Boyz

adequate breakfast before coming to school. He and his partner plan to deliver a fresh hot bagel sandwich and hot coffee each morning.

Mercedes Washington presented Delectable Pieces of Heaven. Her plan is to sell high quality brownies to students and faculty at John Muir. Washington learned her baking skills from her mother. She plans to attend Cal Poly Pomona and major in computer management.

These students made great presentations and showed genuine enthusiasm for their business plans. It is a tribute to Dewey Merrill that this program continues to attract high quality students interested in becoming independent business owners.

A Special Mother's Day for Kids in Foster Care

by Judith A Filangeri, Rotary Club of Las Vegas Northwest

Mother's Day is often especially hard for kids in foster care. The Rotary Club of Las Vegas Northwest, whose mission is to assist disadvantaged women and children in the greater Las



(l to r) Joe Germain, President of Las Vegas Northwest Rotary Club, Dr. Stephanie Holland, Founder of Child Focus, Jim Cady, President Elect of Las Vegas Northwest Rotary Club.

Vegas and world communities, presented a check for \$5,000 to Child Focus at the Fifth Annual Hat's Off to Child Focus Mother's Day Tea. Child Focus is a non-profit agency that provides resources and services which enrich the lives of children living in foster care and creates opportunities for each child to develop the individual strengths and abilities that will help prepare them for responsible adulthood.