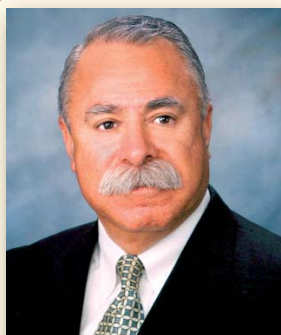




“Caravan of Dreams”



the Highlighter

The Official Monthly Newsletter of Rotary District 5300

Eugene J. Hernandez, Governor 2008 - 2009

Volume 82, Issue 1

Letter from Governor Gene:

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

When Past Rotary International President, Clem Renouf, made his acceptance speech at the 1977 International Convention, he said, “I am here because Rotary takes ordinary people and gives them extraordinary opportunities to do more with their lives than they ever dreamed possible. I am here because Rotary cares about people.” My selection as District 5300’s chief servant this rotary year will afford me an extraordinary opportunity to work with dedicated Past District Governors, visionary Club Presidents and dynamic Rotarians. My goal is to collectively inspire our clubs to achieve what they never dreamed possible - to *Make Dreams Real*, this year’s International Theme, selected by R.I. President D.K. Lee.

The theme, *Make Dreams Real*, is rooted in the number 30,000 – the number of children under the age of five who die every day from preventable causes. In 2008-09, Rotary will keep the service emphasis where we have in the past and where our experience lies: water, health and hunger, and literacy. But this year, President Lee has asked that we focus our efforts in each of these areas on children, and on reducing the terrible rate of child mortality in our world.

I truly believe that there is no greater honor, no higher calling than the extraordinary opportunity to serve humankind. As Rotarians, we have that opportunity every day to serve our communities. I have done that for 35 years as a police officer. I will continue this journey through the activities and programs of the most energetic Rotary District in the world - District 5300. It is a humbling experience and distinct honor to make a difference, to establish solid friendships and permanent partnerships, to *Make Dreams Real* for our



continued on next page



children, for our respective communities, and for our world. We will continue to promote global peace, goodwill and understanding, and to aggressively work towards polio eradication. Raising polio awareness in our communities and the funds to meet the *Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation 1 Million Dollar PolioPlus* challenge will be our District priority. I have seen firsthand the power of positive change brought about by committed Rotarians and I encourage you all to share that commitment with your communities by telling the Rotary story.

Building on the successes of our past District Leadership, we will continue to emphasize District involvement with the “Super Build” homes in Mexico, through Project Corazon. This past year, over 160 District Rotarians, partners and youth built or remodeled five homes in one day. Rotarians change lives! We will continue our commitment to mentor and develop leadership skills in our youth through quality programs such as Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), Teen Leadership Camp (TLC), and the Interact Symposium. I encourage all clubs to participate in the George Hensel Essay, Dan Stover Music, and the 4 Way Speech contests.

We will conclude our *Caravan of Dreams*’ year with a gathering at the oasis known as the J.W. Marriott Desert Springs Resort and Spa in scenic Desert Springs, CA. Join me in celebrating your club’s successes and accomplishments in true desert sheik fashion on May 28-31, 2009.

Those of us who have just returned from the Rotary International Convention in Los Angeles have truly seen the internationality of our organization and the many projects that inspire positive changes in the world. This was also an opportunity to make new friends and renew old acquaintances from around the world. This was a time to showcase the best America has to offer.

I encourage each Rotarian in District 5300 to join Louise and me as we continue our *Caravan of Dreams* to the 2009 Rotary International Convention in Birmingham, England, June 21-24, 2009. I assure you this will be an adventure to remember.

The poet, D.H. Lawrence, writes: “*All people dream, but not equally. Those who dream by night in the dusty recesses of their mind, wake in the morning to find that it was vanity. But the dreamers of the day are dangerous people, for they dream their dreams with open eyes, and make them come true.*” Rotary is a lifestyle choice, a choice of sharing, caring, and giving. Rotarians choose lifestyles that will *Make Dreams Real*.

Eugene J. Hernandez

Governor 2008-09

continued on next page



Rotary Club of Alhambra presents grants totaling \$3,200 to Century (an alternative) High School Graduates for continuing educational endeavors *by Bill Kinman*

Rotary Club of Alhambra President, Dave Daley, capped off his year of service by presenting \$400 educational grants to eight graduating seniors from Century High School, Alhambra's alternative high school. Each student participated in an interview with Rotarians, and "earned" their awards for future studies at the school of their choice.

Alhambra Rotary had, earlier in the year, "adopted" Century High School, and conducted a Shadow Day, during which students spent time with Rotarians at their places of business, learning more about the work involved in various professions.

The graduation ceremony was held at the San Gabriel Civic Auditorium, and some 100 students – a record – earned their diplomas and walked across the stage. Past District Governor Christine Montan, who developed the program for the Rotary/Century relationship, accompanied President Dave to the graduation, and shared the pride of the deserving, honored students as they received their awards.

Rotary Club of Alhambra presents 700 children's books to the new Alhambra Civic Center Library

by Bill Kinman

Over the past nine years, the Rotary Club of Alhambra has donated books, worth over \$15,000, to individual schools within the Alhambra Unified School District. This year 700

children's books, worth approximately \$1,200, were donated to the Children's Room of the new Alhambra Civic Center Library – they will be a part of the opening day children's collection when the library opens later this summer.

These donations have been made under the "Reading by 9" program, sponsored by the Los Angeles Times, and is a part of their child literacy initiative. The donation is a complementary effort toward improved community literacy, alongside the club's donation of \$75,000 to the new library for their Literacy Center.



Nancy Hoven (second from left), Library Services Manager for the Alhambra Public Library, receives a selection of the 700 children's books that the Rotary Club of Alhambra is donating to the new Civic Center Library. Making the presentation, from left, are Rotary Service Project Chair Kerry Blosten, "Reading by 9" Chair Mark Paulson, and Treasurer (and "Reading by 9" committee member) Sharon Gibbs.

continued on next page



RI FELLOWSHIP CONTINUES IN LAS VEGAS: Las Vegas Hosts Italian Rotarians

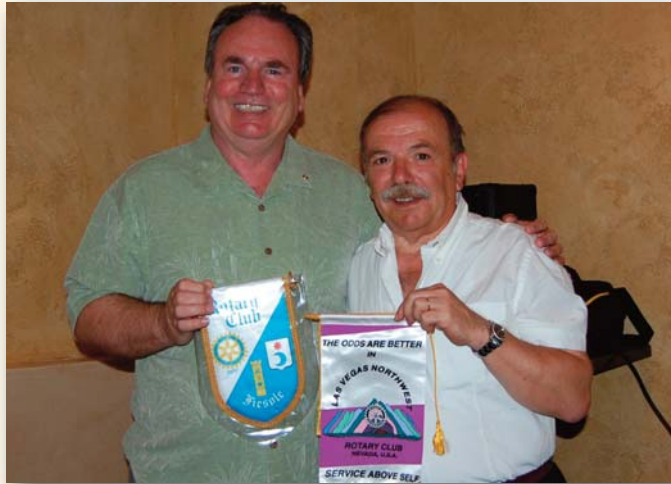
by **Joe Germain, President, Las Vegas Northwest Rotary**

In August of last year, Arrigo Rispoli of the Rotary Club of Fiesole, Italy, blasted an e-mail to Southern Nevada Rotary Club presidents. He was President of the District 2070 committee for the promotion of the RI Convention in Los Angeles. As part of his duties, he was planning a U.S. tour for a large group from all over Italy to include Las Vegas. He was looking to

arrange a luncheon with local Rotarians in Vegas during their visit.

Joe Germain, President of the Northwest Las Vegas Rotary Club, began communicating with him and the two began working out details. Arrigo was not looking to attend a regular meeting, but to just share a meal with other Rotarians, exchange banners and enjoy meeting others outside of the convention setting.

After months of communiqués and organizing on both continents, Italians from seventeen clubs in four districts met with members of eight



Arrigo Rispoli, Rotary Club of Fiesole, Italy (right) and President Joe Germain, Rotary Club of Las Vegas Northwest, exchange banners in a gesture of Rotary fellowship.

Southern Nevada clubs from District 5300 at Pampas Grille in Planet Hollywood. The food was wonderful and the fellowship was even better. Two Italian District Governors, Gian Carlo Bassi of District 2070 and Salvatore Sarpitro of District 2110 were in attendance with their wives as was Tom Novotny, Governor Elect Nominee of District 5300. Italian Rotaractors were in attendance as were representatives of the brand new Centennial Hills Rotary Club in Las Vegas.

There was no formal program, just an opportunity for Rotarians from 25 clubs to have a chance to meet, break bread, exchange banners and join in Rotary friendship. Jim Cady, President Elect of the Northwest Club, had been planning a trip to Italy when the planning began for this lunch. His trip was vastly enhanced by working with Arrigo to help him with some of the travel arrangements. There was no doubt left that anyone in attendance who planned to visit Italy in the future was going to find that they had friends throughout the country.

continued on next page



ONE FOR THE RECORD! Rotary Convention book drive sets Guinness World Record

LOS ANGELES (June 18, 2008) ~ How many donated books does it take to set a world record? Answer: exactly 242,624.

That's the impressive total Rotary members scrambled to collect for the public school students of Southern California and Southern Nevada this week during the Rotary International Convention, which concludes today. Danny Girton Jr., an adjudicator for Guinness

World's Records, has confirmed that Rotary now owns the record for Most Books Donated in Seven Days.

"This record demonstrated careful planning, creativity and a true commitment from the heart," Girton said, noting that Guinness World Records receives more than 60,000 applications a year from individuals and groups hoping for recognition. Of those, only three percent actually set world records.

At the invitation of the Southern California and Southern Nevada Rotary clubs hosting the



Ingo Werk (far right) stands proudly next to Rotary International President, Wilf Wilkinson, as they celebrate the Guinness World Record of "Most Books Donated in Seven Days."

convention, many of the nearly 20,000 registrants from more than 140 countries brought children's books representing their home cultures and languages for Rotary's Wide World of Books project. This international book drive, co-sponsored by the Los Angeles Times' Reading by 9 program, will benefit public school students in grades K-3 throughout the region, where studies show too many children read below grade level.

During the convention, a symbolic "mountain of books" in the Los Angeles Convention Center provided the backdrop for reading sessions allowing involved Rotary members, celebrities and other notables to interact with school children visiting on field trips.

"Our goal was to collect a quarter of a million books for our children," said local Rotary leader Ingo Werk, who chaired the project. "We did it, and I could not be more proud of our Rotary clubs and more grateful for the support we received from the public."

The book drive is just one example of the hundreds of literacy-related projects supported by Rotary clubs worldwide. The Rotary convention is the humanitarian service organization's most important meeting of the year, giving members from around the world an opportunity to plan service projects, share success stories and renew acquaintances.

continued on next page



DISTRICT 5300 HOSTS THE WORLD AT HOST HOSPITALITY NIGHT EVENTS ACROSS THE SOUTHLAND

Christine Montan, Past District Governor 2006-07 Regional Vice Chair

Many, many thanks are due to the hosting Rotary clubs and individuals in District 5300 who worked so long and so hard to make the LA 2008 International Convention Home Host Hospitality Night such a success! As a District, we had more than 1000 guests at 22 different events ranging from picnics in the ballpark, backyard BBQs, tours of significant historic sites and museums, subway tours, elegant dinner parties, garden parties and unique restaurants.

We had thirty-three of our 62 clubs engaged in the process: Alhambra, San Gabriel, Altadena, Arcadia, Arcadia Sunrise, Monrovia, Duarte, Sierra Madre, Claremont, Claremont Sunrise, Covina and Covina Sunrise, El Monte/South El Monte and Five Points, Glendora, Industry Hills and Azusa, Montebello, Pico Rivera, East Los Angeles, Monterey Park, Pasadena, Pasadena Sunrise, Pomona, Rancho del Chino, Chino, Rancho Cucamonga and Rancho Cucamonga Sunrise, San Marino, South Pasadena, Upland, Walnut Valley and West Covina.

Many sincere thanks to the Board of Directors who funded the events, to the Committee members in each club who planned the events down to the last detail, and to those who attended, adding to the experience for the guests with their fellowship. A special appreciation goes out to Mary Ann Lutz (Monrovia) and Mary Ann Kistler (San Dimas) for their tireless work with the clubs and on the Host Hospitality Committee for the past eighteen months!

I don't know that I've ever had a more challenging assignment in Rotary with many and varied obstacles to overcome. The Committee worked with nearly 100 different events and venues in 6 Districts, with hundreds of Rotarians hosting nearly 4500 international guests. To those clubs to whom I asked for patience and understanding – thanks for providing it!

News from Rancho Cucamonga Rotary Club

by **Tamara C. Martin**

International Convention was no doubt beyond-words wonderful, as we read this newsletter, and I am certainly sorry I missed it. 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 highly recommend it. In fact, as a past-president's widow, I can personally vouch for the fact that ANY type of convention Rotary puts on – of any size - is worth its weight in gold.

The All-City Track Meet held May 17th at Chaffey College was a huge success, even in

continued on next page



the scorching heat! Coach Richard McAllister and his “team” did a splendid job. Pictures to follow next month!

Our 12th Annual Rotary Club of Rancho Cucamonga’s Golf Classic was held on June 9th at Arrowhead Country Club in San Bernardino and it was a huge success. Hopefully we’ll have pictures to share by the next newsletter deadline. This was our biggest fund-raiser of the year, and we had a blast. We had lots of great prizes, awards and fabulous food – the banquet was memorable.

“Demotion” for our Club President, Bill Roman, was June 24th at 6 p.m. at Etiwanda Gardens. We thanked Bill for his year of tremendous service, and sent him out on a big note. Pictures to follow!

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

A Short History of Our 4-Way Test

Lest We Forget

Presented by Altadena Rotarian, John Guerrini, as part of Altadena's annual program honoring JROTC students from Blair, Muir and Pasadena High Schools and Academic Achievement students from Muir High School and Eliot Middle School.

Every member of Rotary knows the 4-Way Test of Rotary states: Of the things we think, say or do...

Is it the TRUTH?

Is it FAIR to all concerned?

Will it build GOODWILL and better FRIENDSHIPS?

Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

This simple and straightforward 4-Way Test was written by Chicago Rotarian, Herbert J. Taylor, in 1932. It is not necessarily a catechism but rather a purely subjective form of self-analysis. Truth is, of course, relative. The test was primarily written for his bankrupt company, Club Aluminum. Herb actually gave up his job in packaged groceries; house to house sales (his classification in #1 club) in order to join 250 other employees onboard the so-called sinking ship.

Rotarian Herb retold the concept of the test in his own words: “To win our way out of this situation, I reasoned we must be morally and ethically strong. I knew that in right there was might. I felt that if we could get our employees to think right they would do right. We needed some sort of ethical yardstick that everybody in the company could memorize and

continued on next page



apply to what we thought, said, and did in our relations to others. So one morning, I leaned over on my desk, rested my head in my hands. In a few moments, I reached for a white paper card and wrote down that which had come to me – in twenty-four words.”

When a company advertisement was placed before Herb, declaring his aluminum product as “the greatest cooking ware in the world,” Herb simply stated “We can’t prove that.” The advertisement was rewritten ... simply stating the facts.

Herb’s heads of departments belonged to different religions, and all found no incompatibility with their respective faiths. Thus, the test was “for any man to take as arises.”

The most significant and practical example of the test in action concerned an incident involving a printing contract. One local printer won an order from Herb’s company beating all other tenders. The printer, however, soon realized that he had underestimated his quote by \$500.00. Legally, Club Aluminum could ignore the printer’s appeals and compel him to fulfill his side of the contract. Club Aluminum was deeply in debt and had acted in good faith, but Herb asked his board to reconsider and pay the printer the extra \$500.00. “Remember the second line of the test?” - “Is it fair to all concerned?” Club Aluminum’s future grew brighter and brighter and, in five years, had pulled itself out of the red. Perhaps the test had real, practical benefits.

The Rotary club of Chicago first learned of the test in 1939. Herb’s enthusiasm was described as contagious, and members quickly and with fervor took up the 4-Way Test, embraced it and spread the word.

Japanese Rotarians used to have the 2-word test embossed onto umbrellas at railway stations’ waiting rooms. Very few ever disappeared. Countless Rotarians have placed the test in their workplace in order to remind themselves and others of Rotary values. Yet this brings us back to the beginning ... the 4-Way Test is an entirely subjective analysis with no prescriptive answers. Rotary International officially adopted the 4-Way Test in January of 1943. Herbert J. Taylor would additionally serve the movement as RI President in 1954-55.

Altadena Rotary & Boy Scout Troop 4 Honor Our Fallen Heroes. *Flags fly on Lake Avenue*

by *Jacque Foreman, Sparks Editor*

It's 8 a.m. on Monday, May 26, 2008. When I arrived at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, Altadena Rotarian, Carlton Gustafson, was waiting. Shortly, the Scouts from Boy Scout Troop 4 began to arrive. Rotarians Ron Morris, David Smith, Ed Jasnow, David

continued on next page



Steinbacher and Mike Zoeller arrived in time to help take the flags from storage and put them in the truck beds, so they could be placed along Lake Avenue. Jasnow brought his son-in-law, Mike Peralta, and his grandson, Ethan. Steinbacher

brought his two young girls, Stephany and North. Zoeller brought his wife, Carol. I'm here taking the pictures.

After the flags were put in the truck beds, one group of Boy Scouts walked up Lake Avenue from Woodbury to Altadena Drive, and another group walked south from Altadena Drive to Woodbury. Approximately 90 flags were put out along the street.

In the evening, before sunset of course, the flags

are brought back, carefully re-furled and placed in their storage box to wait until the next time we put them out. We put them out at least three times a year: Memorial Day, July 4th, Veteran's Day, and sometimes on June 14th, Flag Day.



Rotarian Ed Jasnow helping his grandson, Ethan Peralta, carry flags to trucks for distribution.



Boy Scouts carrying flags that will be placed in holes in the sidewalk on each side of Lake Avenue or into special holders pounded into the lawn area in front of Eliot Middle School.



In the evening, the flags are collected and carefully re-furled.

Takes Your Breath Away

by **Brian Hayes, Director Club Service II, Altadena Rotary**

The May 29 edition of The Los Angeles Times related the moving story of Dianne Odell, 61, who had spent most of her life encased in an iron lung. A devastating thunderstorm knocked out power to their Jackson, Tennessee neighborhood. When her caregivers were unable to start a back-up generator, they could do nothing but stand by helplessly as Dianne took her last tortuous breath.

Odell was three years old in 1950 when she contracted polio. It would be a mere five years later that Dr. Jonas Salk perfected the polio vaccine, but that was five years too late for Odell. She was paralyzed from the neck down and only able to breathe through the mechanical apparatus that raised and lowered the air pressure, causing her lungs to expand and contract.

In spite of her disabled body, Odell's mind was sharp. She managed to graduate from high school using a closed-circuit television system. She briefly attended college. Using a

continued on next page



voice-activated computer, she wrote a children's book about a tiny star that wanted to be a wishing star.

In 1952, there were 57,628 cases of polio recorded in the United States. Last year, there were only 1,300 cases of polio diagnosed worldwide. We've come a long way since Dianne Odell was a child, and Rotary has a great deal to do with that. In 1985, Rotary International launched PolioPlus, an initiative designed to eliminate the threat of polio. To date, Rotary has raised over \$700 million and helped to immunize and educate hundreds of millions of children and families around the world. Who could have imagined that in six decades, one of the most devastating illnesses could be wiped off the face of the earth? It hasn't happened yet, but it could.

As of 2006, polio was still endemic in only four countries worldwide: Afghanistan, India, Nigeria and Pakistan. Poor public health systems, war, unstable governments and cultural challenges are the obstacles that inhibit efforts to immunize children from these countries.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has issued a challenge to Rotary International. For every dollar raised by Rotarians worldwide, the Foundation will match it dollar-for-dollar up to \$100 million. These resources will be used to carry out strategies to eradicate polio in the last few countries where it is still a danger. Your participation in Rotary makes each of us part of an incredible, life-saving team. If you are moved to do more, please visit www.rotary.org/endpolio.

If anyone asks you what Rotary does, think about polio and tell them what Rotary has done!

Altadena Rotary Honors ROTC (Jr) With Kudos and Cash

by John Frykenberg, Altadena Rotarian, reviewing the program for May 29, 2008

Two Navy, two Army, two Air Force, two High School Academics, two 8th Graders were saluted in this annual Altadena Rotary Event. Feted and patted by emcee, John Guerrini, with parents, teachers, military hierarchy in attendance, recognition was more than symbolic with the issuance of \$1000 checks to recipients (8th Graders got only \$500). Do you think they love us? Do you think folks will remember Rotary? Really big deal! I'll bet they do!



Color Presentation by Pasadena High School, Navy JROTC.

Forever memories in name of American Legion Military Excellence (ALME):

Our Honorees

Jessica Murillo-Garcia - \$1000 ALME John Muir High School, Air Force JROTC

Karie Villanueva - \$1000 ALME John Muir High School, Air Force JROTC

Elizabeth Lopez - \$1000 ALME Pasadena High School, Navy JROTC

continued on next page



Peter Zlotorowicz - \$1000 ALME Pasadena High School, Navy JROTC

Sari Peralta - \$1000 ALME Blair High School, Army JROTC

Marco Torres - \$1000 ALME Blair High School, Army JROTC

Jessica Dominguez - \$1000 ALME Muir High School, Scholastic Achievement

Diego Zeledon - \$1000 ALME Muir High School, Scholastic Achievement

William Klein - \$500 ALME Elliot Elementary School, Scholastic Achievement

Adriana Luna - \$500 ALME Elliot Elementary School, Scholastic Achievement

Our Appreciation



Altadena Rotary saluting the flag as presented by Pasadena High School Navy JROTC

Imagine kids and young adults who don't hate the military; kids and young adults who don't trash the flag, trip out on orange flavored MSG or oogle at the hotties burning perfectly good rubber in the Los Angeles River. Ah, the vicissitudes of puberty! Don't you just love their passion? ... I do!

I read a story recently about the teacher who removed all the chairs and desks from her room and told her students they couldn't get them back until they explained why they deserved them. When no one came up with an acceptable reason, she made her students sit on the empty floor. She then had a group of soldiers (veterans) carry in and set up the desks and chairs.

She pointed out to her charges that they could jolly well thank these veterans for the privilege of having

the freedom to attend a public school, worship as they pleased and express themselves without fear of reprisal in an open and free country. Apparently the story is true. Point made.

Freedom is not free. It is bought and paid for at the cost of blood from one generation to the next. Freedom is taken for granted until it is taken away. Freedom is not always appreciated, as our memories fade and history repeats itself and dictatorship is re-born.

Frankly, democracy does not have a good track record in the history of the world. It failed in Athens. Rome tried it for 400 years before acclaiming Caesar as emperor. China does not much like the idea of too much power in the hands of the people.

What to say? There is that longing in the human soul to be free, to create and to do without the permission of Big Brother watching. It can be argued that God has given us freedom of choice and the freedom to suffer the consequences if we choose badly. It is gratifying to see young people who are willing to protect the dream, to make sacrifices for all of us and to embrace our armed services without whom we would surely all be speaking German or Japanese today.

Thanks guys and girls. We honor you for your achievement in JROTC and just for your outstanding scholastic performance and commitment to excellence.



Jessica Murillo-Garcia receives the first of many awards given in the name of American Legion Military Excellence. She is with the Muir High School Air Force JROTC

continued on next page



Rotary Club of San Marino builds a “Mountain of Books” for Southern California Schools

Working with Valentine & Carver Elementary School students, the Rotary Club of San Marino has collected over 1,500 new and slightly-used K-3rd grade books to be contributed to Rotary International’s “Mountain of Books” commemorative service project at Rotary’s annual convention being held this year in Los Angeles from June 13th through 18th. Local business owners and San Marino Rotarians, Charlie Rasmussen of San Marino Tree Care and Debbie Priester of Titan Travel, have spearheaded the project. The books, appropriate for grades K through 3 and representing many languages, are currently being gathered for delivery to the Los Angeles Convention Center and are on display on the balcony in the Crowell Public Library. They will be delivered during the week of the Rotary International Convention in mid-June and added to the “mountain of books” brought to the convention by the estimated 30,000 Rotarians who will be attending the convention from around the world. Rotary International has set its sights on The Guinness Book of World Records for the largest collection of books gathered at one time and in one location.

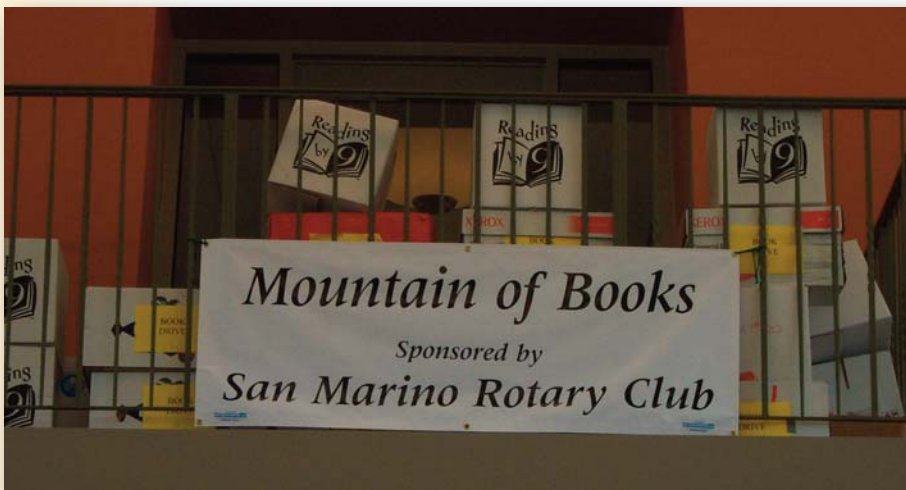
The culmination of the drive will occur after the convention when the books are distributed to needy elementary schools throughout greater Southern California as part of Rotary’s “Reading by Nine” program. Reading by Nine, headed in the San Marino Club by Will Bortz, is one of the many worthwhile Rotary programs in which the club

participates. Each year, the program distributes books to less advantaged grammar schools in the western San Gabriel Valley.

Rotary Club of San Marino has been a part of the community since 1929. Each year, the service organization supports numerous good works locally and internationally.

The Rotary Club has 113 active

members who meet for lunch every Thursday at Community Presbyterian Church in San Marino. Requests for information about the San Marino Club and its programs can be directed to the club’s president, Fred Sohl, at 626-441-4531.



continued on next page



Montebello Rotary Sponsors Children's Vision Screening

by **Anne Donofrio-Holter**

Last month, members of the Montebello Rotary Club held an eye screening for 227 Greenwood Elementary School first and second graders.

"I think it's wonderful for the Montebello Rotarians to take time from their busy schedules to come to our campus and screen our students," said one teacher. "Children cannot do their best school work if they have problems seeing."

Rotarian Pete Adriance said, "This is a great program that not only combines the



fellowship of working alongside club members but helps identify those children with eye problems that may have continued to go undetected. The Montebello Rotary Club has conducted these eye screenings at local schools for the past 30 years."

Of the children tested, 97 failed with 63 borderline. School officials can

now notify the parents of those that failed, emphasizing the need for follow-up eye care. In addition, club members presented a check to the school for \$600 for the purchase of area rugs for the students. One Greenwood Elementary teacher said, "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. Our students are very excited and looking forward to receiving them." Greenwood Elementary School representatives went on to thank the club for its ongoing support of the school.

LAS VEGAS ROTARACTORS EXPERIENCE THE WIDE WORLD OF ROTARY

by **Amanda Hurst, President-Elect, Las Vegas Rotaract**

The Las Vegas Rotaract Club was lucky enough to be able to send four Rotaractors to the 2008 Rotary International Convention in Los Angeles! Those attending were Founding President, Michael Gordon, President-Elect Amanda Hurst, President-Elect Nominee, Nikki Pintar, and Director, Ed Haliwell. The Rotaractors had a busy week as the Rotaract Pre-Convention started on Thursday, June 12th, and lasted until Saturday, June 14th!

During the Rotaract Pre-Convention, the Las Vegas Rotaract had two members present at workshops for fellow Rotaractors to attend. Michael Gordon presented on the topic of

continued on next page



Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarships and the many opportunities he had during his year as an Ambassador for South Africa. Amanda Hurst presented material on club officers, membership, and planning for the upcoming Rotary year. Both did a great job and represented Las Vegas well.

Upon completion of the Pre-Convention, the Rotaractors also stayed the extra three days for the Rotary International Convention that ended on June 18th. The Rotaractors were able to attend the many plenary sessions and workshops, and were able to gain more of an appreciation for the wide world of Rotary. Even though the information may not have been directly geared towards Rotaract, they were still able to gain useful information and

enjoy themselves as they were able to network with thousands of Rotarians from around the world. President-Elect, Amanda Hurst, gained useful insight on upcoming goals, plans for fundraising, and her vision for the club for her 2008-2009 Presidency year.

Helping set the Guinness World Record, the fundraiser that the Las Vegas Rotaract coordinated, brought 2,800 out of the 242,000 books collected to the convention and also helped the Las Vegas Rotaract

gain a small amount of funding for the upcoming Rotary year. Overall, the Rotaractors felt very fortunate to experience an International Convention and thank the many people that helped make sure they didn't miss the opportunity! Thank you District 5300 for believing in us and doing all that you do for our club.



(From left) Michael Gordon, Amanda Hurst, Nikki Pintar, and Ed Haliwell.



continued on next page



The Rotary Foundation (TRF) Monthly Report

Our Rotary Foundation year comes to an end and what a year it has been as the Foundation has worked with the District 5300 Rotarians to positively impact the lives of others. Just a few of things that we will remember about the Foundation year just finishing are as follows:

CLUB FOUNDATION CHAIRS, DISTRICT FOUNDATION TEAM MEMBERS, DISTRICT AGS / EX. AG'S, DG (present and past). Nothing could have been done this year in terms of the Foundation without the involvement, support, encouragement of this critical group. It has been an exciting year of continuing with what has worked well (our solid work from past years) but being willing to innovate and try some new things. One of our themes this year has been that The Rotary Foundation is really **Our** Rotary Foundation, and we should be trying to use the resources of the Foundation to help make our Clubs stronger as we do some good in the world.

GROUP STUDY EXCHANGE. We were again fortunate to have both a good incoming and outgoing GSE team for our exchange with District 9790 in Australia. There are literally dozens of people in both Districts who are involved in coordinating the home stays, planning the vocational and Club visits, and insuring that the team members benefit from the experience of visiting another country. Our GSE Chair Pam Hayes (Covina) and GSE team leader Larry Skaggs (Green Valley – Henderson) are the most visible leaders in this effort by the many people who help.

AMBASSADORIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM. This year we had 17 applicants (up significantly from the last few years) apply for five scholarships for this one-year scholarship program in 2009-10. The applicant pool was particularly strong, and it was insightful to see how almost all of the applicants had spent significant time periods overseas studying, but also in many cases doing community service. Chip Ossman (Pasadena Sunrise) chaired this committee of roughly ten people and we experimented with doing two remote interviews with applicants who were currently overseas. Our current Ambassadorial Scholars are presently in Turkey, Uruguay, and India, and will be soon finishing their studies. Later this summer, our five 2008-09 Ambassadorial Scholars will be heading out for their academic assignments.

DISTRICT SIMPLIFIED GRANTS (DSG). Sylvia Whitlock (Claremont) chaired the DSG program this year. Eighteen clubs (a new record) applied for and were granted funds for in many cases, some new and innovative project in their local community. It was a good year and we expect that this year's experience will encourage more Clubs next year to apply for a DSG.

continued on next page



INTERNATIONAL MATCHING GRANTS (MG). Last August roughly 90 Rotarians attended two “Show Me the Money” training seminars dealing with humanitarian grants (primarily MG and DSG). The theme in this case was that we have matching funds set aside for Clubs to do humanitarian grants both locally and overseas, let’s use it to do some good in the world. We also wanted to encourage our Rotarians to use the website www.MatchingGrants.org to post, fund, and write their grant application. Nearly, 40 Clubs (this is a new record) participated in matching grants this year, and the willingness of our Clubs to help and work with each other was remarkable. It was good year for the Clubs who worked on a matching grant, and it was good for people in other parts of the world who benefited from our efforts. Special kudos go to grant chair Conrad von Bibra (South Pasadena), assistant grant chair George Newton (Apple Valley), and matchmaker extraordinaire and our go-to District 5300 water guy, Clive Houston-Brown (Pomona) for all of the good work that they undertook in this area.

GIVING. The contributions are still coming and it looks as though total giving (annual program fund, restricted, permanent fund) for the District will be just under \$700,000 this year. More details will follow next month, but in the meantime, our Club Foundation Chairs have again done a wonderful job.