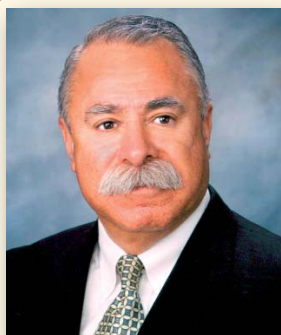




“Caravan of Dreams”



the Highlighter

The Official Monthly Newsletter of Rotary District 5300

Eugene J. Hernandez, Governor 2008 - 2009

Volume 82, Issue 2

“Each One Reach One”

A Rotarian’s Call to Action

August is Membership Month in the Rotary International calendar which gives us an opportunity to focus on the lifeblood of Rotary. If membership is the lifeblood of Rotary, recent data indicates we are in serious need of a transfusion. I believe there are three key ways to enhance club membership.

The first call to action is the “Each One Reach One” theme. It is incumbent upon each of us to invite potential new members to join our Rotary clubs. The only way to become a Rotarian is to be invited. This then becomes a proactive responsibility of each member to ask friends and business associates to consider an opportunity to serve their communities and the world at large. Begin by a simple invitation to join you for lunch at a club meeting or help on a community project like PolioPlus awareness or Project Corazon.

The second call to action is to cultivate the many Rotarian seeds we have planted in Rotary Club soil. Just like a farmer who tends to his fields, carefully weeding, watering and nurturing in order to harvest a bountiful crop, we must tend to the needs of our existing members, both new and seasoned. This will require serious reflection on the way we do business today. Is our club atmosphere friendly, inviting, and caring? Are the programs interesting and stimulating? Do we start and end on time, respecting busy schedules? Do we meet at a location that is conducive to conducting a professional Rotary business meeting? Give our members a reason to return each week.

The third call to action is Club Extension or establishing new clubs. Recognizing the diversity of our communities, both ethnically and generationally, a ‘one size fits all’ club approach may need to be re-evaluated. A particularly successful strategy has been the



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concept of “New Generations Clubs.” This is an approach that targets younger members of our communities who are community-project focused and opt for an abbreviated version of a traditional Rotary club meeting. Visit the La Jolla New Generations Club’s website (www.ljnewgenrotary.org) to see the energy, vitality, and enthusiasm this type of club can generate. District 5300 is in the process of establishing a New Generations Club in the Upland foothills area.

My call to action for each of you is to share your Rotary story with friends, family, and business associates, including fellow Rotarians. I would specifically challenge those seasoned Rotarians who have never invited a community member to attend and/or join their Rotary club to do so this month. Don’t let Rotary be the best kept secret; let each one reach one.

ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE

by **Linda Logan**

Have you ever heard of the Make-A-Wish Foundation? Make-A-Wish is an organization making dreams come true for thousands of children each year. Well, Rotary has its own version, and it is one of our best kept secrets!

ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE is an opportunity for you to learn about another culture, learn another language, and gain a deep understanding of the world first hand. Each year, thousands of young students between 15-½ and 18 travel abroad to live another life, immerse into another culture and language, and learn first hand about the world. This student COULD be your son or daughter, niece, nephew, or grandchild! Interact Clubs, churches, youth groups, and your neighbors are all great places to find participants for the Rotary Youth Exchange Program.

But wait... in order for this to work, the student needs a place to stay! Yes, it is in private homes. Every student will stay with up to three host families, becoming a part of each family, and a sibling to any children in the home.

Rotary offers a short term (3 week) and a long term (one year) program. The short term program is a one-to-one program. A student goes abroad, then returns with their host sibling, and the two stay together for another 3 weeks. The deadline for the short term application is January 31. The long term program works a little differently - you are not required to host if your student participates. The deadline for the long term application is September 30.

The cost of the short term exchange program is \$2,300.00. The cost of the long term program is \$4,200.00. These prices include airline tickets (open ended), visas, health insurance, and orientations.

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Many of us are skittish about sharing our homes, however, we have raised teens, or have children, although this is not a requirement. It is second nature. The students must abide by rules set forth by Rotary International, and District 5300. Like this author, you could also have the ability to visit any continent in the world, and stay in a family environment. Not everyone is so fortunate!

We are looking for host families to host long term students this year and next year. Please help make a student's wish come true...many students would love to come to our district... become a host parent!

For more information please visit <http://district5300.org/youthexchange/index.html> or call Linda Logan at 626-332-2978 Cell: 626-831-3062. I am also available to present a program for your club.

Montebello Rotary Club Sponsors Reading for Fun Book Fair

by **Anne Donofrio-Holter**

The Montebello Rotary Club, spearheaded by Phyllis Murakawa, sponsored a Reading for Fun book fair earlier this month at Grant Rea Park to reward students from La Merced



Members of Montebello Rotary Club participate in book fair

Elementary School and Montebello Christian School for books they read in class and on their own.

"In order to help promote post high school education, the Montebello Rotary Club wanted to start a program to encourage reading for students in their formative years," said Murakawa.

The program consisted of reading six books and writing six book reports judged by a committee made up of Montebello Rotarians.

"The program rewards those students who followed directions and completed the program

and allows for recognition of individual achievement," Murakawa said.

Each student completing the program qualified to receive five new books which they selected at the book fair. They were also treated to hot dogs and free time in the park's batting cages.

"If students pass through the elementary school level without learning how to read, each year they continue to fall behind," said Murakawa. "Students need a solid foundation of reading and comprehension to achieve their personal best."

Murakawa hopes for even more participation in next year's program.

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Las Vegas West Rotary Deals a Winning Hand!

It was one of those vignettes of life that happens only because Rotary is a caring organization made up of insightful and loving individuals.

The scene was a lunch meeting of a Rotary club. It could have been a Rotary club anywhere in the world.

But this Rotary club is in Las Vegas, a city of neon lights and glamour, money and the noisy constant of slot machines. It is a city of winners. It is a city of losers broken on the wheel of fortune.

As lucky gamblers count their cash, too many unfortunates walk the boulevards of lost hope in Las Vegas, victims of bad luck, of bad health, of alcoholism, of drug abuse, of shattered innocence.

One such was Martin Wiser, living hand to mouth for years on the streets of Las Vegas after losing his job and his home and seeking solace in the temptations of the bottle.

Martin is safe now, on the road back to health and living in assisted accommodation with caring people who watch over him. It is all thanks to the Rotary Club of Las Vegas West and one of its members – Tom Novotny, now district-governor elect for District 5300.

Martin's story closed a chapter and opened another with a poignant scene at the lunch meeting of the Rotary Club of Las Vegas West on Tuesday, June 10 at Canyon Gate Country Club.

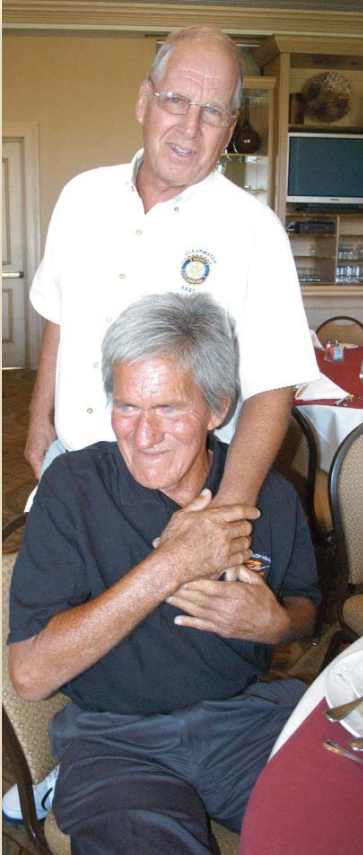
At that meeting, Martin met his Rotarian brother John in a tearful reunion for the first time in 40 years.

The story began a few months earlier amid the squalor and degradation of life for the homeless in Las Vegas.

From the comfort of their car, a young couple spotted a figure clad in rags dragging himself along the street on his damaged legs because of his broken knee and hip. Molly Blessey and Aaron Crowley stopped to help.

Martin Wiser told them some of his life story and how he had ended up on the streets. But it wasn't always that way, he said. A long time ago, he remembered, he had a brother. That brother, John, was a member of a Rotary club in Florida, he told the couple.

With little other than that to go on, the couple found John Wiser in Clearwater, Fla. John, unable at the time to come to Vegas to aid his brother, sought help from District 6950. The district got in touch with District 5300, which contacted Novotny and told him about Martin's plight.



John Wiser cheers his brother Martin, seated, just moments after the tearful reunion when Tom Novotny announced the brothers both were in the room. (Photo by Bernard Hunt)

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Novotny, accompanied by his wife, Robin, trekked the streets of Vegas in search of Martin. A few weeks later, they found him hauling himself along Charleston Boulevard.

“Hi,” Novotny told Martin. “I’ve come to help you.”

“I don’t need help,” Martin replied. “Rotary is coming to help me.”

Novotny answered: “I’m from Rotary.”

Tom and Robin gave Martin clothes, toiletries, bedding and food and told him they would find him help.

Once again, it was Rotary contacts that came to the rescue. Novotny spoke with former Las Vegas West Rotary President Mike Sexton, who was immediate past president of the aid group Help of Southern Nevada.

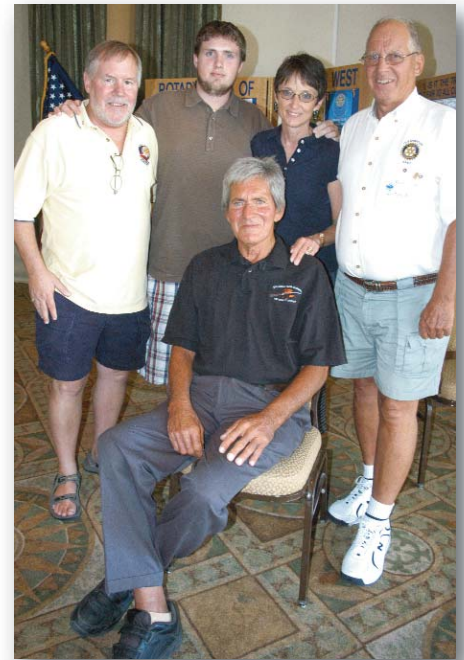
With assistance gained from Help of Southern Nevada, an organization dedicated to restoring the dispossessed to homes, health and sanity, Martin was put back on his feet.

Novotny then began behind-the-scenes movements that led to John's flight to Las Vegas for the reunion.

Unknown to Martin, who thought he was simply attending a Rotary lunch with a couple of guys from Help of Southern Nevada, John sat at a back table waiting for the moment when he would surprise his brother.

The two tearfully embraced and remembered their boyhoods and discussed how their lives had taken them on such very different paths.

Martin has had surgery on his legs, though still uses a wheelchair, has taken an anti-alcohol pledge and is gaining weight and health in his own apartment. The folks at Help of Southern Nevada keep a close watch on his progress.



Tom and Robin Novotny and their son pose with the Wiser brothers, John and Martin, after their joyous reunion. John, of the Rotary Club of Clearwater East, Florida, stayed at the Novotny home when he came to Las Vegas to see Martin for the first time in 40 years. (Photo by Bernard Hunt)

Rotaract Welcomes 08-09 President and President-Elect

John C Maxwell said that “A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.” The Las Vegas Rotaract is doing just that this year as the 08-09 President and President-Elect are already demonstrating numerous ways to make their Rotaract club stronger.

Amanda Hurst is a senior at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. For her year as President, Amanda has goals of raising \$1,000 for Polioplus as well as raise \$500 for malaria nets in Papua New Guinea. Amanda is taking the RI theme ‘Make Dreams Real’ to heart as she has

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been busy making her dreams real of where she wants to see the Las Vegas Rotaract go. One is to get the word out about Rotaract and the many great things they do. This includes informational sessions for potential new members at UNLV, Nevada State, and the Community College of Southern Nevada as well as guest speaking at the local Las Vegas Rotary clubs.

Amanda is also the Vice President of the UNLV Chapter of the National Residence Hall Honorary and a third year Resident Assistant in Campus Housing. Amanda values love, helping others, faith, and her family; especially her two much younger siblings. After completing her undergraduate work, Amanda hopes to attend graduate school on the East Coast to continue with Rotaract and pursue a degree in Criminology or Sociology with dreams of working in the juvenile justice system.



Amanda Hurst, President

Nikki Pintar is the incoming President-Elect of the Las Vegas Rotaract. A junior, majoring in Nursing at the University of Nevada Las Vegas, Nikki is excited about what the upcoming year will bring. Nikki was born and raised in Ely, Nevada, a small town about four hours away from Las Vegas. Some of her favorite things to do include camping, fishing, and taking road trips with her friends. Eventually, Nikki would like to become a member of the Peace Corps and travel to Africa to help with the AIDS epidemic.

Her small town background didn't stop her from getting her whole town together in support of the Ronald McDonald House pop tab program that the Las Vegas Rotaract adopted as a project. While away on break, Nikki collected thousands of pop tabs and returned to Las Vegas to donate them to the Ronald McDonald House of Greater Las Vegas. Nikki is also a charter member of the Las Vegas Rotaract and is in full support of the upcoming fundraisers and many other ideas that seem to be pouring out of the club members. Some of these ideas include Rotaract buttons and the possibility of a coordinating a blood drive with the UNLV Circle K.

As we can see with the leadership in Rotaract, the club has a promising future ahead of them. These two ladies in particular are proving that a little motivation goes a long way. "Productivity is never an accident. It is always the result of a commitment to excellence, intelligent planning, and focused effort." Paul J Meyers

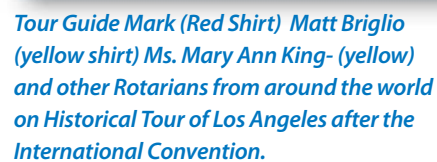
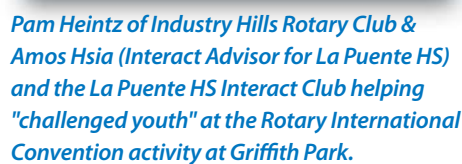
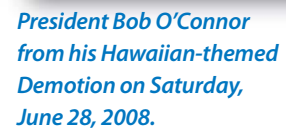
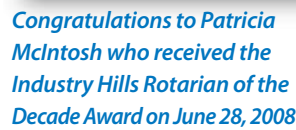


Nikki Pintar, President-Elect



*Amanda Hurst (President),
Nikki Pintar (P-Elect)*

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Rick Ronquillo (left), Vice Principal Interact Advisor for Bassett High School, was inducted as an Honorary Rotarian, at an Industry Hills Rotary Club meeting, for work with Interact Club at La Puente High School.



Amos Hsia (left) Teacher/ La Puente High School Interact Advisor was inducted as an Honorary Rotarian, at an Industry Hills Rotary Club meeting, for work with Interact Club at La Puente High School.

Transitions, Recognitions and Celebrations



Rotary Club of South Pasadena outgoing President Althea Bassett (AKA The Queen) presenting Sara Munshin (left) with the Rotarian of the Year Award.



On July 2nd, along with over 50 Rotarians and family members, Tom Lake and Kathy Watson celebrate the Rotary Club of South Pasadena's 70th Anniversary, as incoming President Tim Carruth blows out the candles on the cake.



The Rotary Foundation (TRF) Monthly Report

by **Bob Novell**

A new year starts for Rotary on July 1 and we can look forward to all of the programs that The Rotary Foundation offers to our Clubs to provide them with resources to do good in the world.

GROUP STUDY EXCHANGE

During the summer months, we will begin the process of choosing a Rotarian to lead our Group Study Exchange team to District 2430 in Turkey in Spring 2009. We will be selecting four young non-Rotarian professionals who will be part of our outbound team who will visit Turkey. The GSE program is one of our international Foundation programs which provides an opportunity to learn about one's profession as it is performed in another country, learn about the culture of another country, and share a little of who we are as Americans with our Turkish hosts. At the same time, the Turkish District 2430 GSE team will be going through the same process as they prepare to come to District 5300. Larry Skaggs from the Green Valley – Henderson Rotary Club chairs our GSE program.

FOUNDATION TRAINING IN ADVANCED GIFTING TECHNIQUES

Two Saturday-morning only seminars (Etiwanda Gardens on August 2 and Las Vegas on August 9) will be presented on gifting opportunities for Rotarians to the Rotary Foundation. District 5300 has a proud history of being one of the top Districts in the world in supporting the Foundation. Our consistent support has also meant that 50% of our annual gifts to the Foundation are returned in subsequent years to the District to be used for educational and humanitarian programs. These seminars will be working seminars regarding the various ways that we can support the Foundation with our gifts. Ted Henderson (Las Vegas Southwest), and Tim Siu and Walter Tang from our Alhambra Club head up our giving efforts at the District level.

POLIO PLUS

Our new Rotary year also begins with a commitment to support the Polio Plus program, our final effort to eliminate polio. Rotarians in the District will be asked to donate \$50 per year for the next three years to complete the commitment that Rotary

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made over 20 years ago to free the world of this disease. PDG Margaret Cooker from the Victorville Rotary Club will lead this effort.

AMBASSADORIAL SCHOLARS

Our five Ambassadorial Scholars will soon be departing for their overseas academic assignments to study for one year, learn about the culture of their host country, and act as a young Ambassador from America.

MATCHING GRANTS (International and District simplified)

Yvonne Flint (Arcadia Rotary Club) will chair this year's \$35,000 DSG program while George Newton (Apple Valley Rotary Club) and Clive Houston-Brown (Pomona Rotary Club) will chair our \$90,000 international matching grant program. Both of these matching grants programs are expected to give our Rotary Clubs the resources to do good things at the local and international level.