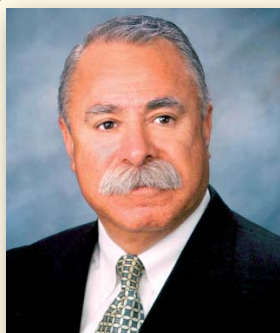




“Caravan of Dreams”



the Highlighter

The Official Monthly Newsletter of Rotary District 5300

Eugene J. Hernandez, Governor 2008 - 2009

Volume 82, Issue 4

A Rich History....

Fun, Food, and Fellowship

October is “Vocational Service” Month in the Rotary International calendar which gives us an opportunity to highlight the basis on which the philosophy of Rotary is rooted – combining sound ethical business practices with fellowship and fun. A little known fact is that one of the original proposed names for Rotary was the “Fun, Food, and Fellowship Club.”

The reciprocal exchange of business was a central theme of early Rotary. Indeed, one of the most important club officers was the statistician. Whenever, a member gave business to, or received an order from, another member, he wrote the details on a postcard and mailed it to the statistician. Detailed reports were maintained and the results reported regularly at club meetings. Yes, it would help each member’s business. Yes, it made sense to trade with people of integrity whom one knew personally. But the best reason was that these were people who enjoyed each other’s company.

These concepts were so fundamental to the early Rotarians that, when Paul Harris drafted the first constitution and by-laws of Rotary in 1905 and adopted them in 1906, they contained only two Objects:

1. “The promotion of the business interests of its members.
2. The promotion of good fellowship and other desiderata (necessities) ordinarily incident to social clubs.”

By the time the National Association of Rotary Clubs held its first convention in 1910, the networking emphasis had begun shifting. The majority of clubs told the newly formed Civic Committee that “Rotary should move from being a booster club to improving their communities.” In 1910, Arthur Frederick Sheldon introduced “profit” in a new



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light when he told the first convention in Chicago: “He profits most who serves his fellows best.” A year later, he modified the statement to, “He Profits Most Who Serves Best.” This would become Rotary’s slogan. The Code of Ethics would soon follow in 1912 and the Four-Way Test in 1943.

Vocational Service remains at the heart of Rotary. Today, our District honors our rich Rotary heritage with the annual Four-Way Speech Contest, the Dan Stover Music Competition, the Group Study Exchange (GSE) program, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) Camp, Interact Symposium Camp, Teen Leadership Camp (TLC), George Hensel Ethics Essay Contest, ROTARACT (Rotary in Action), Interact/Mideract (Junior Interact)/Kideract Clubs, and the Ambassadorial Scholar and Youth Exchange programs, to name just a few.

Virtually, all our 5300 District Clubs are involved in one or more of these programs. Know the joy of “Service Above Self” and become involved in your club’s Vocational Service programs.

Apple Valley to Host Sanctioned Chili Cook-Off

by **Kathie Martin, PR Chair**

It’s going to be a chili day in the High Desert as the Rotary Club of Apple Valley hosts the 7th Annual Wannatouchama Chili Regional Cook-Off on Saturday, October 25. Over 40 professional cooks will compete in this International Chili Society sanctioned cook-off, with the winner qualifying for the World Championships in 2009.

The public is invited to taste and shop their way through booths of chili cooks and vendors. Live entertainment, a large bounce house and lots of opportunities for prizes and fun make this a great event for all ages. Additional food vendors will be on hand, as well as a beer garden. Cost is \$5 per adult, with kids 12 and under free. Paid admission includes unlimited tasting, with ballots to vote for the People’s Choice, Best Restaurant and Best Rotary Club Chili.

The Chili Cook-Off will be held at Lions Park on Outer Highway 18, between Dale Evans Parkway and Flathead. Gates are open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The cook-off has continued to grow in prestige in the chili world, attracting world-champion cooks and the finest judges.

“Chili cook-offs are serious business, wrapped up in a whole lot of fun,” said Tony Inglese, member and past president of the Apple Valley Rotary. He should know, as Inglese is also a professional chili cook, with many top awards under his apron.

With stringent chili preparation rules and cash prizes topping out at \$750 cash, chili



Father-son chili cooking dynamos and Apple Valley Rotarians, Randy and Carl Coleman, relax after a day of chopping, stirring and dishing it out.

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recipes are closely guarded secrets. However, the camaraderie and festive atmosphere at a cook-off is infectious for all who attend. Besides the professional cooks, however, the Rotary Club of Apple Valley welcomes all takers in a Battle of the Rotary Clubs Cook- Off as well!

The Wannatouchama Chili Cook-Off is the largest annual fund-raiser for the Apple Valley Rotary Club, last year surpassing \$100,000 in a running total. All funds are used to support school children in the community. These include giving a reading book to every Kindergartner in the district, as well as a dictionary to every third-grader. The Club also gives over \$10,000 annually to local teachers through a mini-grant program. Major sponsors of the event include Accent Fence, Newton's Outpost Café, Time Warner Cablevision and KATJ.

For more information call Kathie Martin, Chili Cook-Off Chairperson, at (760)403-5148.

Apple Valley rewards Service Above Self

by **Kathie Martin, Public Relations Chair**

It was all over The Daily Press and the talk of the homeless shelter. Newspapers around the country were even calling. The only person who wanted nothing to do with it was "Chris"...the reluctant hero of a heart-warming story.

Chris, homeless, between jobs and suffering health problems, found a purse containing \$1000 - more than enough for the first month's rent he needed to get him and his family

into an apartment. How many in his position would have pocketed the cash and used it to dig himself out of his own hole? Not Chris. He tracked down the woman and returned the cash, refusing any reward.

When Apple Valley Rotarian, Laura Whitehead, read of this real-life example of "Service Above Self," she called the shelter to find out how our club could help him out. Again refusing any personal assistance, Chris suggested we hold a barbecue at the shelter for the other residents, saying most days they eat only soup or spaghetti.

As we already hold a "burgers and dogs" barbecue once a month, we decided to kick it up a notch. Steaks, chicken, corn on the cob, baked potatoes and home-made ice cream had the shelter residents claiming it was the best meal



Apple Valley Rotarians Rick Hauf, Niru Vangala, Matt and Laura Whitehead take a break in the High Desert Homeless Services kitchen during the barbecue.

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they ever had. Many thanks to Laura for getting the ball rolling, along with Darryl Evey, Skip Canter, Raghada Khoury, Donald “Doc Yoc” Yochem, Niru Vangala, Matt Whitehead, Neal and Elizabeth Walker and Rick and Izabella Hauf for cooking, serving and helping out.

Alhambra Rotary 31st Annual \$20,000 Reverse Raffle on November 15

by **Bill Kinman**

All District 5300 Rotary members are invited to attend the Rotary Club of Alhambra’s “31st Annual \$20,000 Reverse Raffle,” to be held in Alhambra’s Almansor Court Lake View Room, on Saturday, November 15 at 6:30 p.m.

FACT CHECK: It’s the 31st Annual Reverse Raffle, but the grand prize – awarded to the person holding the very last ticket (of 300 total tickets) drawn – is now \$20,000 (previously a meager \$10,000!).

We know that every club in the District holds its own fundraiser(s), but this is Alhambra’s “one-and-only,” the granddaddy of them all – a fundraiser, a social, a sumptuous dinner, “a grand night for singing,” – a night to cheer on the raffle winners, many of whom will be in the hall, but with extra-special thoughts for the winners in our community –

- . . . the individuals (who will sleep with full stomachs because of the raffle);
- . . . the organizations (i.e., the library, the schools, etc., who will serve their constituencies better because of the raffle); and
- . . . the agencies (i.e., YMCA, Boy Scouts, etc., who will improve the lives of their participants because of the raffle).

Yes, it’s a mission to serve – and what Rotarian could refuse that kind of an invitation?

But, just to make the event sweeter, Alhambra Rotarians are adding a Silent Art Auction to the evening’s festivities – you read about it last month – to raise funds to meet the Gates Foundation grant to eliminate polio from the face of the earth. The Silent Art Auction is separate from the raffle, but held the same night and at the same place for convenience sake – and it’s just one of the activities that Alhambra is participating in to raise PolioPlus funds.

Our favorite weekly effort is to “feed the pig” – a pretty, translucent piggy bank, conveniently set out where the lunch money is collected and, rather than stuffing the lunch change into our wallets, what better way to invest it than to feed the pig, and end polio (our pig, by the way, is lipstickless).

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You're invited to attend Alhambra Rotary, any Tuesday, and help feed the pig, but you're especially invited to attend our Reverse Raffle evening, complete with silent art auction – you'll enjoy yourself while serving others.

Arcadia Rotarian Secures Grant for New Zealand Tribe

by **Anne Donofrio-Holter**

Arcadia Rotarian, Brad Miller, has spearheaded a Rotary Foundation matching grant to create a Maori Carving Vocational Center in New Zealand.

For the Maori people, there is no written language. History is passed down through the arts via song, story, dance, crafts, weaving and traditional carving of wood, bone and greenstone (jade).

"Last year, I took a group of adults and students from my daughter's high school to New Zealand for a 12-day visit and wanted to avoid the typical tourist experiences," said Miller, a New Zealand native. "We were blessed with the opportunity to be the first paying overnight guests at Tamatea Marae on the Hokianga Harbor, an area rich in Maori history."

Void of television, radio and electronics, the Maori kids were fascinated by their counterparts' iPods, as were the Americans fascinated by the traditional Maori lifestyle.



Barn that will house the new Maori Carving Vocational Center in New Zealand.

"Of the 6,500 people in the Hokianga area, 70% are Maori," said Miller. "We learned about the history of the tribes in the area and saw the meeting house decorated with their carvings." Miller asked for a demonstration of the carving technique, something he remembers seeing as a child. "I was told that the carving equipment was broken and had been sold off," said Miller. "With the nearest carving center eight hours away, I was devastated knowing they would lose a critical part of their culture if it was not passed down."

When Miller returned to the United States he inquired as to how Rotary might help. Through diligence and determination, Miller was able to secure the funds needed not only to purchase new equipment but, with the assistance of Rotary District 5300 Foundation Chair, Bob Novell, to establish a vocational carving center to teach the art.

As buildings are not included in matching grants, Miller's next hurdle was to secure a place to house the equipment and teach the art. "The Maori elders authorized the use of

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an unused barn on their property, but it needed refurbishing," said Miller. "After securing local funds, several New Zealand Rotary club members took the lead and, in July, repaired and insulated the building." Miller will be attending a dedication ceremony of the new carving center in November.

In addition to the Maori people having a place to pass on their craft, the local polytechnic has authorized the first Maori carving class open to the public with a paid instructor set for 2009.

"The primary purpose in securing the grant was to ensure that this native art form is not lost but is passed on to the next generation," said Miller. "While being trained, young artisans at Tamatea Marae will be able to demonstrate the craft to visitors as well as eventually develop souvenir items for sale. The elders hope the youth will have more reason to stay on their tribal lands, retain their culture and improve socioeconomically - they are presently below the rest of the country."



Teaching the Haka dance to the visitors

How Sweet It Is to Be in Rotaract

by **Amanda Hurst**

The Las Vegas Rotaract has been very busy spreading the word about their club. On Tuesday August 26th and Wednesday August 27th, the Las Vegas Rotaract hosted two informational sessions for students on the UNLV campus. The purpose of the informational sessions was to share information about the many service projects the club has been involved with in the past year and a half and how prospective members can join. The future plan for Rotaract is to visit the College of Southern Nevada as well as Nevada State College with information on the Las Vegas Rotaract in order to get more community members.

In the same week as the informational sessions, the Las Vegas Rotaract also hosted their first blood drive with the United Blood Services! The blood drive took place on the UNLV campus during the UNLV Premier Event on Thursday August 28th. This is an annual tradition for all current UNLV students and was also the first time that any organization had sponsored a blood drive at the premier event! The total number of donors was eighteen out of maximum possibility of nineteen blood donors. Those who donated blood received a United Blood Services t-shirt and a voucher for free ice cream from Coldstone Creamery. In an effort to get more members and people interested in community service,

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the Rotaract club participated in an involvement fair. This was a two day event where any on-campus and off-campus organization set up booths for to provide general information about themselves. The Las Vegas Rotaract had many people stop by and ask what they are all about. The Rotaractors were proud to share information about the projects they have been involved with as well as to encourage people to receive e-mails for the dates and descriptions of upcoming events and meetings.

Not only has the Las Vegas Rotaract been busy with informational sessions and blood drives, but they also hosted a dessert social on Wednesday September 17th titled 'How Sweet It Is to Be in Rotaract'. In place of having a general meeting, the members opted to have desserts such as ice cream, brownies, cookies, and cakes and make it an informal meeting/informational session for anybody and everybody. Similarly to the informational sessions, the club had brochures, membership applications, and schedules of upcoming community service dates readily available for all who attended. Everybody left with fuller bellies and information on how they can get involved with the club.

Besides being busy with recruitment, the Las Vegas Rotaract has been planning a possible fundraising competition and the logistics of how they are going to give to PolioPlus. The hard work that the club has been putting in is paying off rather nicely as they have been receiving worthy recognition in the community and on the UNLV campus. The next few months may be busy for the club but will turn into great payoffs in the end.



Left to Right: Past President Rachel, Club Service Chair Ed & President Amanda

The Rotary Foundation Touching Lives in South Africa

by Michael Gordon, submitted by Robert Novell, District Foundation Chair

Over the summer I had to go back to South Africa to get a new student visa. My host counselor, Karen Whisenhunt, together with the rest of the Las Vegas Rotary Club, thought that it would be a good idea to expand on the recent Literacy-for-All project in Cape Town. The club as well as other clubs in District 5300 participated in a \$54,000

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matching grant project earlier in the year. This project took the form of a mini-grant and was initiated by the Rotary Club of Austin-Oak Hill who gave \$600 for their ambassadorial scholar currently living in Cape Town. This amount was matched by the Las Vegas Rotary Club with the directive to spend the money on any literacy project of our choosing.

My first stop after visiting my “sponsor” club, the Bellville Rotary Club, was to see how the Literacy-for-All project was doing. We visited two schools in one of the townships outside Cape Town. We first visited a kindergarten that was started by another Rotary club in Cape

Town. The four teachers were each given teachers manuals and enough books for each of the students. In thanking us for the donation, one of the teachers asked if it would be possible for us to bring Xhosa Children’s Bibles in the future. She said that the school didn’t have enough money for books, but that she wanted to teach her class morals and ethics from the start. The following day I bought four Xhosa Children’s Bibles as well as other Bible stories in Xhosa with the \$600.

After the kindergarten, we visited the Sophakama Primary School where the kids received the Literacy-for-All books a month before. We sat in during one the classes and heard and saw the kids read from “our” books. Everyone could read after only six months of school!

We left Sophakama during breaktime and, after a very inspirational morning, this was where my heart broke. We first saw kids running to form a line next to a pot of soup. The headmaster told us that these were the kids who could not afford food. The local government supplies the ingredients and every day a child gets a cup of soup and two slices of bread.

On our way to the car, we saw another line with kids who also seemed to be getting something. Further inquiries to the headmaster revealed that these were the kids who had money to pay for food. They had to pay R2 (about 30 cents US) every day to get a cup of coffee, two slices of bread, a piece of fruit and

three chicken feet!! It totally blew my mind and made me realize how extremely blessed, fortunate and “rich” I was. I can enjoy a steak or some type of meat at least once of month, while chicken feet was their only protein.

I decided to buy Afrikaans-English dictionaries with the rest of the \$600. My reasoning



Bowl of chicken feet



Ronwe Primary School with Michael Gordon

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behind that was that when I was in grade 6, a man who I'd never seen before came to our school and gave each of us an Afrikaans-English dictionary. He told us of faraway countries and that if we ever wanted to see those countries, we had to learn English and do well in school. I guess he could have been a Rotarian, I'll never know.

That episode had such an impact on my life that I wanted to do the same for a new generation of kids. Picking a school was the hardest part, but I wanted to make sure that every kid in the class received a dictionary.

Finally, I decided on Ronwe Primary School in Paarl. It is a very small, rural school that my church is involved with and every learner in grade 6 and 7 were able to receive a dictionary through the generosity of the Las Vegas Rotary Club.



Grades 6 and 7 proudly holding dictionaries



Children in line for soup

Rotary's Plants and Princesses' Adventure

*submitted by **Greg Custer***

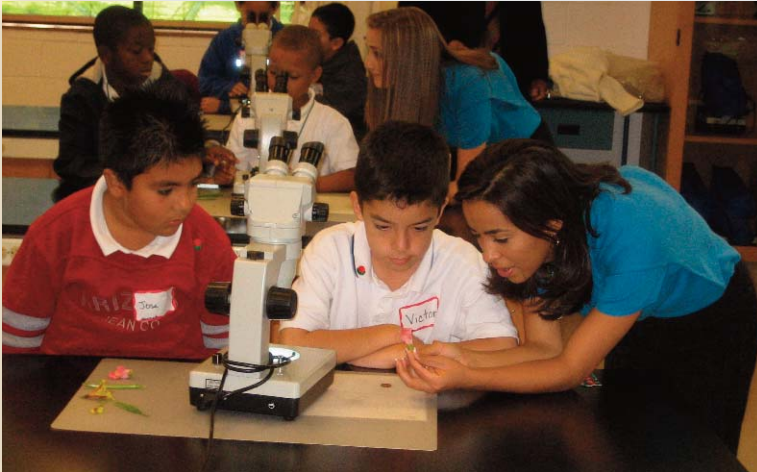
Rotary's Plants and Princesses' Adventure is an unique event to introduce The Tournament of Roses Queen and Court to the students of Longfellow Elementary of The Pasadena Unified School District. The Students will have the opportunity to interact with The Court as they enjoy three unique sessions designed specifically for their age. These sessions will be both fun and educational as they "accidentally" learn about plants. By interacting with the Court and building a 'Rose Parade Float' the students will learn that they are members of the community that is Southern California and Pasadena, and that Pasadena is a special place to call home. Most of all, education, the parade, becoming a Tournament Princess,

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and community involvement is very real to every citizen.

The event will conclude with The Rotary Clubs of San Marino, Montebello, South Pasadena, and East LA holding a joint meeting with the Royal Court as the program. (Other clubs are considering their invitation at the time this was written). The joint meeting will be held on November 4th at 12:00pm at the Huntington Library's Friends Hall. All Rotarians are welcome by RSVP to gcuster@whittiertrust.com.



Longfellow Elementary Students studying parts of a flower under a microscope with the help of the Court.

This is the third year that these clubs have gotten together to present an educational program to the students and enjoy the company of the Queen and her Court. The morning will start with the educational program to benefit the entire 3rd grade class of Longfellow Elementary. Approximately 100 students will rotate through the 3 separate sessions where science and the fun of learning will be explored. One session will focus on plant science; another exciting program of scary plants will intrigue and gross out the students in a dark theater direct with a

mad scientist played by The Huntington's own and Rotarian, Dr. Jim Folsom. Lastly, each student will build their own Rose Parade Float using, appropriately, natural products and a pine wood derby car as the base with The Tournament of Roses Queen and Court there to assist the students and award a prize to each of them.

Afterwards, the Queen and her Court will present a program to the Rotarians at the joint meeting. These young women will impress everyone with their intelligence and poise.

All Rotarians are welcome to attend either portion of the event. Free admission to The Huntington will be offered to each Rotarian and their Guests. The cost for the lunch meeting is \$20.



Longfellow Elementary Students building Rose Parade Float with the help of the Court.

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Montebello Rotary Inducts Former GSE Team Member

by **Anne Donofrio-Holter**

Montebello Director of Transportation and former GSE (Group Study Exchange) team member, Aurora Jackson, was inducted into the Montebello Rotary Club earlier this month.

"My experiences abroad with the GSE team surpassed my greatest expectations and opened my eyes to the new role I wanted to play as a young professional in my community," said Jackson.

Along with team leader and now District 5300 Governor, Gene Hernandez, Jackson visited Central Europe in the spring of 2006.

"While there, I was introduced to the wonderful work Rotarians perform within their communities and worldwide," said Jackson. "The trip inspired my teammates and me to gain a selfless perspective to the needs of our community as well as worldwide causes."

Jackson was also impressed by the generosity and brother/sisterhood that exists among Rotarians around the world.



GSE Team Members (left to right) Kelley Roberts, Liz Molina, GSE Team Leader, DG Gene Hernandez, Aurora Jackson, and Rob Curtiss

Once back home, Jackson and the team made presentations to over 25 clubs in District 5300.

After being named Director of Transportation, she was invited to attend a Montebello Rotary Club meeting.

"A few years ago, I was honored to represent the Montebello Rotary Club on that GSE trip and earlier this month, joyfully inducted into the club."



DG Gene Hernandez, Jackson (center) and GSE Team Members overlooking the city of Graz, Austria

Remember....District Lefler Matching Grants Available

"Lefler" Matching Grants are now available from the District 5300 Foundation.

Emphasis: Youth and Education Projects/Programs

Deadline: November 1, 2008 (flexible)

Applications are available on the District Website at www.district5300.org

For further information, call or email:

Bob Eichel (626) 352-3800 bobeichelcpa@aol.com

Conrad Von Bibra (626) 441-2229 bibra@compuserve.com

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Members of the Rotary Club of Industry Hills in partnership with the Mary Boutwell Memorial Fund and the New Horizons Caregiver Group give out 350 backpacks to elementary school students in Hacienda La Puente and Bassett Unified School Districts.



Rotarians, Pam Heintz and Bob O'Connor participate in the Hacienda Heights 4th of July Parade