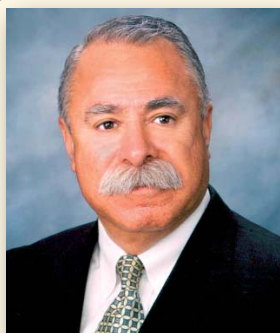




“Caravan of Dreams”



the Highlighter

The Official Monthly Newsletter of Rotary District 5300

Eugene J. Hernandez, Governor 2008 - 2009

Volume 82, Issue 8



World Understanding and Peace: A Proud Rotary Tradition

February is “World Understanding and Peace” Month in the Rotary International calendar. As we reflect on this past Rotary year and embrace the New Year, we see a world in clear need of Rotary and the Rotary philosophy of world peace through understanding. Over the years, some have questioned Rotary’s emphasis on international service, especially between citizens of hostile nations. Rotary has answered by pointing out that the goal of all Rotarians is to advance world peace and understanding between all people, and the work of individual Rotarians in international service is the fuel that powers that engine.

There have been many occasions during wars or border skirmishes when Rotarians of

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both sides of the conflict have worked for resolution of the dispute. Rotarians from Argentina and Chile helped broker an end to the longstanding border dispute between their countries in 1936. The Rotary Club of Buenos Aires took the cannons that had been facing one another and melted them down, ordering that the iron be recast into a statue of Jesus. When they erected the enormous image on the border, high in the Andes, their friends from the Chilean Rotary clubs placed a plaque on it that reads, “May these mountains crumble into dust before Argentines and Chileans shall break this peace.”

In April of 1945, Rotary was in the forefront of arguably one of the most important meetings of the 20th century: the finalizing of the charter of the United Nations in San Francisco.

The UN Charter Conference was the ultimate meeting of world leaders. They gathered to establish how future international disputes would be resolved. Governments sent only their highest-ranking ministers, their very brightest minds to San Francisco.

Rotary was invited to attend as one of the observer organizations. There being few UN staff at that time, the 23 Rotarian observers guided agendas, performed translations, suggested wording for resolutions, and helped resolve disputes between delegates. Rotary provided 11 official observers to the U.S. delegation alone – only one other organization had more than three.

In continuance of our proud tradition of promoting World Understanding and Peace, District 5300 is hosting our 14th Annual Rotary International Peace Conference on Saturday, March 21, 2009, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. This year’s theme is “Globalization – Challenges and Opportunities.” We have been fortunate to have our efforts spearheaded by Past District Governor Garbis Der Yeghian. Please join us and a world class group of presenters for meaningful dialog and fellowship at the Richard Nixon Birthplace and Library in Yorba Linda. Registration includes a self-guided tour of the world famous library, birthplace, and museum. Registration and information can be found on the District website at www.district5300.org.

In conclusion, I encourage our clubs to arrange activities that can bring better understanding among people of differing political, religious, or cultural viewpoints. Please plan on attending the District Peace Conference with fellow club members from our District for a day of enlightenment, fellowship, and fun. The journey towards peace starts with a first step of commitment.

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The Twelve Days of Christmas

*as envisioned and told by wine connoisseur, **John Guerrini, Altadena***

On The First Day of Christmas, my true love gave to me . . . a 1995 Dom Perignon Cuvee Champagne.

Ok, so I've had it in my cellar for six years. A friend gave it to me in the year 2002 as a thank you for helping out one of his friends with a very small legal matter. When I didn't charge him for the advice, my friend insisted that I be paid something for my effort. Of course, who am I to ever refuse a great bottle such as The Dom?!?! So fast forward to this week, yes this very week in 2008. I, and three of my wine freak friends, organized a dinner

at Smitty's in Pasadena, where we each brought a bottle of wine to share. I decided it was time to awaken this thirteen-year old champagne. I also brought a very nice 1986 Cos d'Estournel (Bordeaux). OK, so I brought two – I cheated. But I digress. The chef was kind enough to prepare ahi rolled in a thin phyllo dough, seared just so, and drizzled with ginger and lime reduction. I can't think of anything that would pair better with my Dom. Who is Dom, you ask? Dom Pérignon, of course, the 17th-century Benedictine monk generally credited with putting the bubbles into champagne. When it was launched in 1936, the Cuvée Dom Pérignon was the first prestige champagne to appear on the market. If you have had the pleasure of partaking, you already know what the fuss is about. If you have not ... well, then you may have to come to

one of my wine dinners. Taste it, and you will see as the four of us did earlier this week – the very quintessence of champagne is corked up in each bottle of Dom Cuvee. But that is just the beginning. We do have eleven days to go.

On the Second Day of Christmas, my true love gave to me . . . a 1999 Three Dog Cabernet.

Ok, not really. It was a few months ago. I was in San Jose for a mediation on a Wednesday. So I did what any good wine lover (we're called oenophiles, by the way) would do – I flew up the day before so that I could go to one of my favorite restaurants in the world – Alexander's Steakhouse in Cupertino. There are steakhouses – and there are steakhouses. Alexander's brings new meaning to the word. And the wine list is something that I literally could bring to bed with me for bedtime stories. Some people get excited about football – I get excited about

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Dom Perignon Cuvee Champagne Label



Three Dog Cabernet



wine lists. I mean, really, who doesn't lose sleep over filet mignon with seared foie gras? Or a twenty-four ounce (yes, you read that correctly), dry aged T-bone with candied applewood bacon and gobs of roasted garlic cloves. Or a two-pound porterhouse with Point Reyes blue cheese and (if you dare) Tabasco butter. Someone stop me. I sat down with my friends and reviewed my newest bestest friend – Alexander's wine list. Thankfully, Eric the sommelier (that's the guy who is in charge of the wine program – he can range from being completely down to earth and helpful to a complete snob and totally worthless) came over, and I asked him if there were any good bargains that he felt stood out. (Eric is the helpful sort of sommelier.) He steered me to the 1999 Three Dog Cabernet. Intrigued; I had never heard of it, and I do a fair amount of reading about wine. He explained that it was a small production from a small winery in Santa Cruz – not exactly the hotbed of wine production. I was floored when I first tasted the Three Dog – it was approachable but had the structure of a first tier Cabernet from Napa or Sonoma. After it had been in the glass for an hour, it opened up with the typical fruit of ripe black currants and red cherries. Later, herbs and oak came through. We each ordered different steak dishes, and two bottles of Three Dog later, were in love with the wine. When I returned to Altadena, I managed to track down the winemaker, and, after some cajoling, talked my way into a case of this near-perfect juice. Several bottles still sleep soundly in my cellar.

On the Third Day of Christmas, my true love gave to me . . . a 2003 Bonaccorsi Star Lane Vineyard Syrah.

Ok, not. I finished up this release long ago. But I have to tell you about it because Bonaccorsi is one of my favorite producers, not just of wine, but also memories. See, for me, so much of wine is about old memories – and making new memories. The Bonaccorsi story goes back to when I was a lawyer in Century City. At lunch at Spago one day with a good friend (and fellow wine aficionado), the sommelier (also the helpful kind!) introduced us to a

bottle of Bonaccorsi, explaining that Michael Bonaccorsi had once been the sommelier at Spago. Michael left to start his winery and then suddenly died. His family continues to operate the winery, and the production continues to amaze me. If you have not tried Syrah, you



Bonaccorsi Star Lane Vineyard Syrah

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should know that it pairs well with turkey, ham, and any meat that is gamey. It's a very unique grape in that it has a huge fruity head but also generally has structure and spice, so that it can stand up to the biggest and baddest meats. It's a wine with attitude. But don't get the cheap stuff — spend fifty or sixty dollars and treat yourself to the good stuff. Bonaccorsi, if you can find it, is the good stuff. The wine is only available by mailing list, so don't drive down to Vons just yet. Of course, I've got many bottles in my cellar, but again, I'm digressing. That day many years ago at Spago, my friend and I sat at his regular table (P-18 on the patio) and enjoyed Syrah with Wolfgang Puck's spicy beef goulash (which he claims is a childhood favorite). I don't know if Wolfgang enjoyed Syrah with his goulash as a child, but if he did, his childhood was far superior to mine.

On the Fourth Day of Christmas, my true love gave to me . . . a 2006 XYZinfandel.

(And no, that's not a typo.) Now just so you don't start to think that all the bottles I buy are too costly, I have to share this one with you. XYZin is a very unassuming wine but full of surprises, sort of like that girl in my high school chemistry class — she was so shy, demure, but wow, when you got her alone — ok, that's what they call, TMI, right? Back to the XYZin. A year ago, I was at Disneyland with my kids. I know, big surprise there. We were having lunch at the Trattoria, a very nice (I kid you not) little restaurant in the California Adventure section of the resort. It overlooks the same path taken by the Main Street Electrical Parade, and yes, if you go eat at night, you can actually watch the parade (for a small fee — hey, it's Disney after all). So we went for lunch and ordered small bowls of pasta with simple red sauce. I ordered mine extra spicy, because that's the way I like it. They call it Arrabbiata sauce, which translates literally to angry sauce. Now, I don't typically expect the waitress at a Disneyland restaurant to know her wine, but this one did. I told her I wanted something different, and she suggested the XYZin. There are three productions — a 10, 50 and 100. The numbers refer to the age of the vines from which the grapes that went into the wine were harvested. Pretty cool, huh? Well, the stuff is cheap — \$15 for the 10, \$30 for the 50, and \$40 for the 100 — and it's some serious quality Zinfandel. Now, we are not talking White Zinfandel, that stepsister of real Zinfandel. Nor are we talking six dollar Zinfandel, which is typically overly alcoholic and way too harsh on the edges, with little fruit and too much spice. We are talking the good stuff, which, when produced during a good year, will yield wine with a head of ripe blackberry, jammy boysenberries, chewy raspberries, supple tannins, and rich, deep ruby to purple color. In a word, XYZin. I still remember like yesterday sitting on that patio wondering how in the world am I gonna get my hands on a case of this stuff? (Don't worry - I managed to do just that the day after I returned home.)

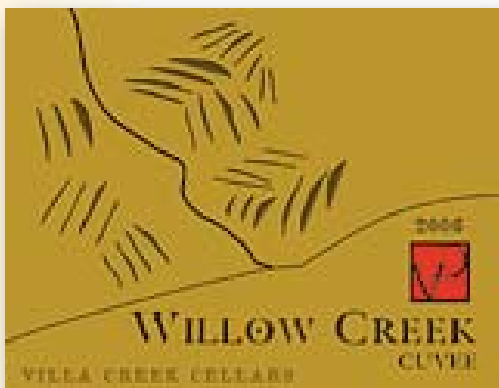
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On the Fifth Day of Christmas, my true love gave to me . . . a 2006 Coppola Black Label Claret.

Continuing on with my “it doesn’t have to cost a fortune to be good” theme, you gotta know this wine. You can get it for well under twenty bucks. I’ve seen it at Trader Joe’s as well as Cost Plus Imports and Beverages & More. If you are new to wine (or want to be new to wine), pick up a few bottles of Coppola Black Label Claret. If you are a wine aficionado, pick up a few bottles and see if you don’t agree with me that wine doesn’t have to cost a day’s pay to be really good. And don’t get hung up on the 2006 vintage — I have a bunch of the 2006 in my cellar, but I’m sure any year will do. A very nice waiter at the Whaling Station (yes, a steakhouse) in Monterey insisted that I try this wine, back when I was visiting Fishman’s Wharf last summer. I resisted, because I thought, “How good can a wine be for less than twenty bucks?” He stuck a cattle prod in my side, so I agreed to try a glass if he would stop. He brought out a bottle. The rest is history. Speaking of history: As lore goes, in 1879, Finnish explorer and adventurer Gustave Niebaum searched the Napa Valley with the goal of establishing a wine estate to rival the finest chateau of France. Many years later, Francis Ford Coppola purchased 1,500 acres of this historic property and revived Captain Niebaum’s winemaking tradition. Today, Coppola produces many varietals, and I’ve tried a few others, but my favorite remains the wonderful Claret that I discovered in picturesque Monterey Bay.

On the Sixth Day of Christmas, my true love gave to me . . . a 2005 Villa Creek Willow Creek Cuvee.



Villa Creek Willow Creek Cuvee

So here’s the story on this great bottle which led to my purchase of many, many cases of wine from this small, serious producer in Paso Robles. A few years ago, I was in Las Vegas at one of my conferences. I swear — it was all business! It had better have been — I think I wrote off the entire trip. My good friend (let’s call him Walt, to protect the innocent) insisted on buying me dinner at Aureole restaurant, the Charlie Palmer creation at Mandalay Bay. This place is clearly in the Top 20 destinations in the world for wine lovers. Upon walking in, you immediately walk down three flights of stairs, and halfway down, you realize that you are literally walking by the restaurant’s wine cellar — a forty-foot high and 14-foot square skyscraper with a frame of stainless steel fitted with laminated glass. Nearly 10,000 bottles of wine are held in the structure, sitting comfortably at a wine-perfect 55 degrees Fahrenheit and 70 percent humidity. It was apparently inspired by a scene from Mission Impossible — yes, you know the one I’m talking about.

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Girls (ok, ladies) travel up the inside of the tower on mechanical hoists to pull selections ordered by diners. And yes, the prices are at least four times retail, but hey, someone's gotta pay for the insurance on this thing! Now back to the point of my story. Walt and I asked the sommelier for a suggestion (he turned out to be the snooty – but not altogether unhelpful – variety of sommelier). He brought a bottle of Villa Creek Willow Creek Cuvee. Turns out that Willow Creek Cuvee is a blend of grapes from Denner and James Berry Vineyards, two of the most highly sought-after vineyards. It's a blend of 60% Grenache, 20% Syrah, and 20% Mourvèdre. The blend alone intrigued me. It pours and looks like a Syrah, very dark. But this was (and is) a Syrah on steroids! The nose is packed with bacon fat, earth and meat. Taste? Oh my. Spice, blackberries, coffee and cocoa. Really, who could ask for more? Ok, so I did. I got a case the next week.

On the Seventh Day of Christmas, my true love gave to me . . . a 2005 Anthony Road Martin Reinhardt Selection Riesling.

And yes, I still have some of this great wine in my cellar. Not much, but I suspect that it will be there until next summer. That's when I tend to drink my Riesling, when it's 90 degrees out, and the chairs on my porch beckon me to come sit, sip and people watch (or cop watch,



Anthony Road Winery

as the case may be – the cops tend to sit near my home and catch people speeding through the four-way stop in front of my house . . . cheap entertainment for me and my kids). For my birthday in 2006, I traveled to Rochester, New York (where? trust me, it's there ... go to New York City and then head north to Canada – can't miss it) to visit a childhood friend. We decided to celebrate my birthday weekend at the Finger Lakes, New York. I had never been, but let's just say that having now been, I can see why people put up with the stupid cold of upstate New York. The finger lakes, as they are called, are actually many, many small, long lakes that are nestled throughout the rolling hills of central upstate New York, each holding crystal clear water that glistens in the sun (even in 40-degree weather), home to wildlife, teeming with fish and birds, and surrounded by hundreds, sometimes thousands, of the greenest trees you've ever seen. It was against this backdrop that my friend David and I toured a few of the most well known wineries of the Finger Lakes, including Anthony Road. Now, I have no idea how grapes even grow up there, but Mr. Anthony (or Mr. Road,

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whoever it is) has figured out how to do it. I'm kidding. I'm kidding — Anthony Road is the name of the road where the winery is located. Seriously — it's 1020 Anthony Road, which overlooks Seneca Lake (one of the Finger Lakes) and produces an extremely limited production of Riesling. Now you have to understand that most Riesling produced in the United States is really just lemon lime soda without the carbonation — just junk! Rarely do I come across a Riesling for less than thirty bucks that punches me in the jaw and says, "Hey, look at me, mister!" This Riesling, with just a smidgen of residual sugar (about two percent), boasts in-your-face lime, white peach and grapefruit. It's crazy crisp on the finish. And like a Lay's potato chip, you can't have just one. So I bought a case and had it shipped back home.

On the Eighth Day of Christmas, my true love gave to me . . . a 2005 Kesner Chardonnay.

One of the great things about the advent of the Internet (thanks, Al Gore!) is the wine blog. There must be hundreds of wine blogs. One of my favorites is called Wine Expression. The blogger has turned me on to so many good wines. A few years ago, he told me about a new Chardonnay that was being produced by a young man, Jason Kesner. Kesner was (and still is) the vineyard manager for Hudson Vineyards. But he wanted a small label, and this was his first real production, and the stuff was supposed to be crazy good. Quantity was limited, so of course, I had to scramble to get some. Kesner was only too happy to share, and I'm so glad



Kesner Chardonnay

he did. OK, so the stuff is not cheap — about seventy bucks a bottle. But when you consider top tier Chardonnay is over a hundred bucks, you can see that I sensed a potential bargain. Let's face it — so much of wine purchasing can be a gamble. I could have ended up buying three bottles of yuck. But instead, I received three bottles of the best Chardonnay I've ever had the pleasure of drinking. Kesner's wine is made in what is known as a noninterventionist style. He picks at night, when the fruit is cool. After pressing, the juice sits in French Oak barrels, but with no more than one third of them being new. What does this matter? Ever had a typical twenty dollar California Chardonnay and tasted the overpowering oaky buttery belch? Now you know why it matters. He adds no acid, yeast or malolactic bacteria, which means that his wine ferments with the assistance of only native yeasts found in his vineyards. It's hard to find a Chardonnay that is both smooth and buttery, crisp and fruity, bright and

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clear. This is it. Thankfully, Kesner has privileged me with a spot on his distribution list ever since that fateful day. I can't wait to get my hands on his 2007 release. Sadly, I have only one bottle of the 2006 left, and his production was long ago sold out forever. That's the thing about a good wine — once it's gone, it's gone forever. Still, I'm hopeful to open up my last 2006 and the first 2007 side by side, making a toast to endings and new beginnings.

On the Ninth Day of Christmas, my true love gave to me . . . a 2003 Scholium Project Babylon.

As long as we are on wine blogs, I have to mention this wine, which I was introduced to through a wine blog. Abe Scholium is a very small production winemaker, and this guy lives, breathes, eats, and you-know-whats grapes. His wines are extremely sought-after, always sold out to his mailing list only, and very hard to get. I don't tend to get caught up in the cult type wines (1997 Screaming Eagle sells for almost \$4,000 per bottle), but if



Scholium Produces Babylon at His Winery

Scholium were a preacher, I'd be joining his church! This guy can make some serious wine. His wine is not for everyone, and certainly not for the faint of heart. My first experience with his wine was the 2003 Scholium Project Babylon, and it may very well have been his first production. The bottle is pure Petite Syrah, and it pours like a thick, inky like midnight, rich syrup. It beckons you to partake. I remember my first night well. Tasting this wine for the first time was like . . . oh, never mind, this is a G-rated article. Let's just say I won't soon forget it, and in fact, no kidding, I was in a hotel at the

time. Scholium says that the Babylon, "true to its barbarian origins, stands on the periphery of civilized wines." Oh, my. I didn't know love until I had this wine. It's dark ink, redolent of unfamiliar fruits, leather, and complex tannins, screamed out to age for another ten, even twenty years, but I had to drink in its lushness, its meatiness, its smooth fruit, caramel, vanilla, and lead (yes, lead) flavor. This wine's total production was only two and a half barrels — which produced a measly 44 cases. I still weep knowing that I'll never again have the opportunity to sit and chat with my 2003 Babylon.

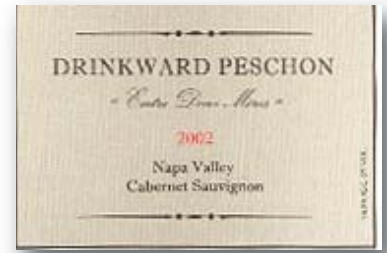
On the Tenth Day of Christmas, my true love gave to me . . . a 2004 Drinkward Peschon Cabernet.

The great wine with the funny name. Yes, it's true. The name is weird. It's actually a combination of the last names of the two women who started the label several years ago and have since garnered the attention of many wine critics — and me, of course. Their first

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vintage/release was the 2000, but I have since felt that the best in the last eight years is/was the 2004. Their one and only wine is the Entre Deux Meres, which in French translates literally to between two mothers. This is a nod to the fact that the two winemakers are two moms whose friendship was initiated by their children – and later grew through a love of wine. So anyway, these two amazing women produce a bit more than the Babylon (above), but not a whole lot more. Their entire production is not more than 500 cases. But boy oh boy, what a production it is. I remember my first time like it was yesterday. I made fresh pasta, tossed with butter from Smith Creamery, shaved lots of Parmesan Reggiano from a block, and drizzled on some truffle oil. Oh, wow, the memories are coming back as I write this! The wine is from a Calistoga vineyard, and its nose clearly gives away that fact – it's fresh, ripe and juicy. The palate is fresh berries, ginger, tobacco, and newly cut grass. It's got a really loaded spicy quality, and it stands up next to the any great Napa Cabernet and says, "In your face." I love rebels, and this wine clearly fits the bill. On the tenth day of Christmas, I hope my true love finds me 10 bottles of this amazing Cabernet.



Drinkward Peschon Cabernet Label

On The Eleventh Day of Christmas, my true love gave to me . . . a 2003 Peller Estates Vidal Blanc Icewine Private Reserve.



Peller Estates, Niagara Peninsula, Producer of Canadian Icewine

This stuff is liquid gold. Really. It's amazing. Have you ever had icewine? If you have not, go out now, do not stop to smell any flowers, and find a bottle of good icewine. That means from Inniskillin or Jackson-Triggs or, if you can find it, Peller Estates. Four years ago, I took my kids to Toronto, and, of course, I had to make a detour to the Niagara Peninsula, where the world's best ice wines are made. Now, Canadian icewine is one of the world's rarest wines. The grapes are left on the vine until ice and snow cover the vineyards, well into the winter. In the middle of the coldest nights, the grapes are picked by hand and then vinted into a wine that almost defies description, at least in the English language. So anyway,

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here we are at Peller Estates, where the winery also has a four-star restaurant on premises (did I mention I love food too?), and me and my kids are eating lunch and enjoying some amazing wine (well, I was enjoying the wine; they were enjoying some grape juice), when all of a sudden, this helicopter comes out of nowhere and lands on the lawn in front of the restaurant. Think floor-to-ceiling windows looking out on rolling hills in Niagara, everything lush and green, clear skies, and here's this helicopter roaring onto the lawn in front of my kids. Out come six people who apparently had rented the bird to take them to lunch at the winery. The pilot comes over and asks my kids if they want to see the thing up close. My kids about peed their pants with excitement. When he took off, they stood by, while he waved to them. To this day, they both remember the helicopter in Canada. Firefighters, cops, and now, helicopter pilots – my girls adore all three. OK, back to the wine. Icewine is extremely sweet and syrupy, and if you drink too much, you will get a sweet and syrupy headache! But an ounce or two is perfect. The aroma is marmalade (lemon and orange), caramelized citrus, peaches, honey, cantaloupe, ginger, and cinnamon. Wait, that's just the smell! The taste is wild, with intense, really intense honey, lemon, orange, quince, caramel, brown sugar, oh, the list goes on and on. Citrus lingers on the finish for what seems like forever. For a real treat, I saute fresh nectarines or peaches in some butter, and toss with an ounce of two of the wine. Every time I've returned to Canada, I have visited Peller Estates and walked away with a few bottles. There's only one bottle left in my cellar. It's time to return to Niagara.

On The Twelfth Day of Christmas, my true love gave to me . . . a box of 2003 Bond Matriarch Proprietary.

Confession - I actually have not opened this crate. The wine is still in its original shipping crate, with its lot number on the box. This is one of those cult wines that I swore I'd never buy. But it called to me, like a siren song, and even though I knew it would not be ready to drink for another ten years, I fell into the same place that eighth grade boys end up when they are smitten with their first love. I just babbled incoherently while shelling out obscene

amounts of cash to become one of the rare owners of a Bond wine. Bond is a legendary producer from Napa. Though I've not yet opened any of this Bond production, I have dreams about what it will be like. I dream that it will be a ripe and spicy, but supple like a newborn, offering up fresh plum, currant, licorice, cedar and tobacco.



Bond Matriarch Proprietary

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It will be lush and concentrated, almost syrupy, but not sweet. I know that this will be one to enjoy over the course of several hours. I also dream of the food that I will prepare for the momentous occasion. If you have any ideas, let me know.

And now you know that my cellar is a bit heavy on the California producers. My friends tell me to expand my horizons and try other wines and, true, there are some very good wines coming out of Chile, South Africa, New Zealand, Australia, and Portugal. Alas, I'm a California kid, and I tend to stay close to home. I have never had any use for a partridge in a pear tree or any of the other things that come with the proverbial twelve days, but I can always put a great bottle of wine to good use. Of course, great wine is meant to be enjoyed and shared. As much as I adore wine, I adore sharing it even more. I'm always up to popping a cork on a bottle with a friend or two, making new memories. In this season of sharing and caring, here's to wishing all of you twelve days of holiday cheer.

Arcadia Rotarians Hold First Turtle Stampede Fundraiser

by **Anne Donofrio-Holter**

Arcadia Rotarians, along with fellow club members from around the world, are committed to meeting a \$100 million challenge grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to eradicate polio, Rotary's top priority for over 20 years. As part of this effort, Arcadia Rotarians held their first "Turtle Stampede" at Arcadia County Park.

The brainchild of member Robert Daggett, 1,000 green turtles, similar to the familiar yellow "rubber ducky," were launched in the park's pool with over 40 members and friends in attendance.

"Each turtle was sponsored with a \$5 donation and all 1,000 were randomly

dropped into the east end of the pool at one time," said Daggett. "Members of the Arcadia High School Interact Club then herded the turtles from east to west and back again until all 1,000 turtles ended up in a bunch in the pool's northeast corner."

Interact members then waded into the pool, plucked out five turtles at random declaring them the winners, and awarded prizes to the turtles' sponsors – Dave Freeman, Mikki Porretta, Dave



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McMonigle, Don Milefchik and Bob Young.

In 1985, Rotarians took on the fight against polio and spearheaded "PolioPlus." To date, the program has raised more than \$610 million to protect more than two billion children from this crippling disease.

While great strides have been made, many still live under the threat of polio, which is why "Rotary and its global partners are committed to reaching every child with the vaccine and ending this disease worldwide."

"Everyone seemed to have a great time and we netted about \$1,600 for PolioPlus," said Daggett. "We are looking forward to next year's race."

Meet Me at the Oasis

*by **Craig Watkins, District Conference Chair***

This year's District Conference will be held on the weekend after Memorial Day, May 28 to May 31, 2009 at the J. W. Marriott Resort and Spa in Palm Desert. The theme of the conference is Caravan of Dreams and will be the culmination of District Governor Gene's peripatetic year as he has wandered the District in support of local clubs' efforts to "Make Dreams Real." Come enjoy great food, fun and fellowship with other Rotarians. DG Gene promises that it will be a "fun time and, if a conference breaks out, that's even better!" Experienced conference goers will find a fresh and exciting presentation of club accomplishments, while new members will take away a positive and more complete understanding of what it means to be a Rotarian.

The District Conference will be an exciting blend of celebration, entertainment, fun, socializing and learning. The meals will be opportunities to celebrate the accomplishment of local clubs and their presidents. The Friday evening banquet will feature the Four Way Test Speech Contest. The Saturday evening banquet will showcase the Dan Stover Music Awards. Our RI Representative Keynote Address will be delivered at the Saturday luncheon.

The plenary sessions will focus on club awards along with displays of club and district programs. Plenary sessions will begin with the presentation of awards, followed by plenty of time to interact with club and program representatives regarding exciting opportunities for service. You will also have time to visit the "Polio Pigpen" to view historic and current aspects of poliomyelitis and Rotary's efforts to eradicate it. The Plenary Session Committee is headed up by Mary Ann Lutz (maryann@lutz-co.com). Mary Ann and her committee are looking for clubs and organizations anxious and willing to share their service projects in the plenary sessions. Contact Mary Ann for details.

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While away the late afternoon and after dinner evenings at Gene's Oasis and club hospitality suites. Awards will be given for the hospitality suite and club costumes that best depict the conference theme: Caravan of Dreams. Be creative! This is an opportunity to draw your club together in a social event and to let the rest of the district see what a fun club you have. Pat Hauducoeur (hauducoeur@worldnet.att.net) is chairing the hospitality committee. Contact Pat to reserve a hospitality suite now before they are all gone!

The Conference Golf Tournament will be held at the conference site on Thursday, May 28, 2009 beginning at 11:30 a.m. Golf Chair, Gordie Norman, (normantravel@earthlink.net)



Rotary Club of Boulder City demonstrating camaraderie at the 2008 District Conference by wearing identical shirts. Everyone knew when Boulder City was in the house. Join in the competition for this year's award for District Conference Club Costume!

is promising an exciting round of golf on one of the two championship courses, followed by an Awards Banquet at 7:30 p.m. In order to encourage participation, we have kept the tournament fees at a modest \$125.00 per golfer. This includes a round of golf, golf cart, goodie bag and the banquet! Clubs are encouraged to bring a foursome and to treat their Presidents to a round of golf to celebrate a successful year.

Visit the district website

(www.district5300.org) today to register. Click on "District Conference" in the left hand column under "District 5300 Activities" to see the District Conference page and registration site. Everyone who registers prior to March 1, 2009, will be entered into a drawing for a free two-night's stay at the hotel during the conference. Five winning names will be drawn. This is approximately a \$400.00 value that includes the hotel room and resort fees, but does not include incidental room charges. Only those who register for the entire weekend will be eligible for the drawing. (A Saturday-only registration package is available but not eligible for the drawing!)

Act now to ensure your spot at this exciting District 5300 event. This has been a great Rotary year and we will have much to celebrate. Bring your family and join DG Gene and your Club Presidents for a great weekend of fun and fellowship!

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Montebello Rotarians Serve at Annual Christmas at the Cannon Program.

by **Anne Donofrio-Holter**

Over 300 volunteers, including several Montebello Rotarians, came together to serve lunch to more than 4,000 needy local residents at the 20th Annual Christmas at the Cannon program held December 24 at the Quiet Cannon.

Spearheaded by a committee made up of volunteers from community organizations including the City of Montebello, the Montebello Rotary Club, local churches and other organizations, each year people from all walks of life participate in various capacities - as food servers, table clearers, greeters, and gift wrappers.



Ralph Helm, Gabe Robles, Luis Trujillo, Anne Donofrio-Holter, Ted Jones

"This event is such a success because of great committee members and the selflessness of all the volunteers here today," said Quiet Cannon owner Bucky Dennis.

The program has turned into a major community event and has fed over 35,000 people to date. The families invited to participate are selected through local churches, schools and other organizations from Montebello and the surrounding area.

Following a buffet style lunch, those in attendance were treated to live performances by the Schurr High School (Montebello) Band, the Mid Valley Yellow Cab Mariachi Band, the Dickens Holiday Carolers, and of course, a visit from Santa Claus. At the conclusion of the event, each child went home with a special gift and each family

with a box filled with all the trimmings for a complete Christmas dinner.

"We are so grateful to everyone here today for giving our children a nice Christmas," said one young mother as she waited in line with her two small children. "Without this, they would not have had much of a Christmas this year."

"This event is a great example of love and compassion for others, as those here today work together to ensure that nobody in the community is left behind at the holidays," said Montebello Rotary President Ted Jones. "The Montebello Rotary Club is proud to be a part of this event each year."

Montebello Rotarian and Mayor Pro Tem Robert Urteaga expressed his thanks to all the volunteers that took time out of their busy holiday to help make Christmas a little brighter for those less fortunate."

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Creating Rotarians at Cowboy's Christmas

written and submitted by **Howard Winters**

Most people who have been Rotarians for a while have experienced an event that has shown them that Rotary is a lot more than having breakfast or lunch with a few friends. As Rotarians, I feel it is our responsibility to help as many of our members come to this realization as we can. Regretfully, many Rotarians have not yet had this epiphany. Centennial Hills Rotary Club of Las Vegas is a newly chartered club. We held our first meeting on April 17,

2008 and had a charter granted on June 24th, 2008. This is truly a new club as the vast majority of members were never exposed to Rotary before and the few who had been former Rotarians, had not been active in many years and were returning to the fold. These new Rotarians are still baffled by the myriad of Rotary programs and acronyms as they faithfully come to early breakfast meetings. Coupled with the fact that we are a new club and still working to develop our service projects and figure out how to raise funds in a challenging time, these new Rotarians really have a hard road to travel.



Ellie Edwards (Rotarian), Howard Winters, (Las Vegas Mayor) Oscar Goodman, Mary Claire O'Loughlin (Rotarian)



The first winner takes the smaller bike (even though parents are encouraging him towards the larger one)

Recently, we made some major inroads with 5 of our club members. As a club we look for every opportunity to meet the public in Centennial Hills and let them know about our club and its goals. On December 6th this year, we learned of an event that is held every year at Floyd Lamb State Park called Cowboy Christmas from one of our supporters – Councilman Ross. Since there is a crowd of people who attend this event every year, we arranged a booth. So five of us showed up on that crisp morning and initially as we wondered why we were up so early on a Saturday morning and waited for the event to get started, a magical thing happened – Rotary fellowship outside of the breakfast meeting. It is truly amazing how much more you learn and respect your fellow Rotarians when you get the chance to really engage them and learn about them. One of our new Rotarians

had the idea to do a raffle as a way to engage people in conversation and she obtained 4 youth BMX bicycles that we displayed at our booth. Of course, all the children were eager to drag their parents over to our booth and we sold enough tickets to actually make a few dollars on the event. Towards the end of the event another magical thing happened. A small boy who appeared to be about 8 years old approached our table very shyly and finally

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asked how much the tickets cost and if he could buy a ticket on the drawing. It was obvious that he was drawn to the larger boy's BMX bike with its gleaming new helmet. He slowly pulled out a wrinkled five dollar bill that I'm sure he had been holding on to for the entire event. He obviously had many choices of food or candy to spend his five dollars on, but he had waited almost the entire event to approach us for his bike ticket. We quickly realized that this little boy was spending his only five dollars on the chance to have something he could otherwise never have. With almost broken hearts, we issued his tickets and wished him good luck. There were many tickets in the jar so we knew his chances were slim of realizing his dream.

The event drew to a close and we were announced by the Country & Western band as the new Centennial Hills Rotary Club. It had been arranged for the band leader to draw the winning tickets. The four bicycles were lined up on the stage and there was a crowd of people. There were 2 boy's bikes and 2 girl's BMX bikes in different sizes. After the announcements the tickets were delivered to the band leader and he drew the first ticket. We had placed the first names of the ticket purchasers on the backs of each ticket sold. Secretly all five of us Rotarians were saying a prayer for the name selected to be "Kordell". It was "Bobby". A very small boy came up to the stage and with excitement selected the smaller of the boy's BMX bikes with the training wheels. His parents tried to convince him to pick the larger bike; likely mindful that he would be growing up quickly. Bobby was not to be dissuaded though and he tightly clasped his new possession. The band leader reached into the ticket jar again and drew the ticket. I swear to you that all five of us were whispering the name "Kordell" and hoping



Oscar Goodman, LV Councilman Steve Ross - Ward 6

against hope that this would be the name called. Imagine our shock when the band leader called the name "Kordell G." A woman came running up to the stage with his ticket and tears streaming down her cheeks. Through the sniffles she told us how "Kordell" was from a family that could never have given him this dream of a lifetime and how we had touched his life immeasurably. We learned that she was a social worker who had brought "Kordell" to this event to give him an outing and some positive memories.



Howard, Suzanne Winters (Rotarian), Ellie Edwards, an admiring woman with children

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As we packed up our table and gathered our things, the five of us (four completely new Rotarians and one old dog) were absolutely stunned. There was not a dry eye amongst us. We reminisced about why we were there at Floyd Lamb State Park that day. We introduced a ton of people to Rotary through our booth. That wasn't why. We generated 4 new guest speakers for our club from the guests we met. That wasn't why. We had fellowship with four other Rotarians and one spouse. That wasn't why we were there. God chose us to be there that day and used Rotary as the vehicle to touch the life of the little boy "Kordell". We may never see him again but on that day and at that moment we may have changed his



The Christmas Miracle - Kordell with new bike and helmet

life forever by showing him that no matter what your circumstances, there is hope and opportunity all around you. God selected Rotary as the vehicle to bless us and make the most profound statement about SERVICE ABOVE SELF.

The message we have to deliver to new and old Rotarians alike is simply this. If you have not had a "Rotary Moment" like this, you are not yet a Rotarian. Get involved in your club's projects and give service above self. You will be richly blessed and rewarded and you will discover the true miracle of Rotary.

Judge Soto Endorses Making A Job Workshops

by C. Ray Carlson

Twenty-eight teachers attending the **Making A Job** workshop held January 9 were delighted by the surprise appearance of Juvenile Court Judge Philip Soto. He broke away from his busy court schedule to give a ten-minute endorsement of youth entrepreneurship education that can lead to job creation for the many youth that may not otherwise have that opportunity in this crumbling economy. In addition to deterring problem youth from some day appearing before him, he urges the many that are helped to find a meaningful livelihood that will remove them from an endless cycle of crime. Soto is widely known by teachers because of the media and their students that end up in his court. The teachers were inspired by his offer to help find ways that will make a difference. He was brought to the event by Jon Brookhart, a youth advocate, who read a newspaper article written by me on Job Creation for Youth and announcing the workshop.

This second workshop, in a series of four, was held at the Community Education Center of Pasadena City College, and was provided by Dean Rick Hodge. Rosa Valdez, ROP

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Coordinator of the Pasadena Unified School District, had recruited ROP (Regional Occupation Program) teachers from her district as well as Monrovia, San Gabriel, Arcadia, and La Puente Valley Unified School Districts. Sarah Vielma, Business Occupations Coordinator of ROP for LA County, also attended so she could experience the workshop series that she is promoting throughout the 23 school districts in LA County, including the coming third workshop at the Burbank campus of U of La Verne on January 16 and possibly a fourth

one at LACOE in Downey in the last week of this month. The goal of the series is to train 100 teachers, and 50 have now participated in the first two.

Following an introduction of the need for workshops like this, in the face of increasingly grim prospects for youth to find jobs, I introduced a simplified one-page, fill-in-the-blank business plan for screening ideas to determine their viability before proceeding to a full-blown plan of many pages. The teachers were asked to complete such plans during the break and lunch so that they

would 'learn by doing' and become better able to help their students.

Then Bessie Kruis, MAgriEcon, explained several chapters of the Making A Job curriculum, authored by Marilyn Kourilsky, PhD, professor of Urban Schooling, UCLA Graduate School of Education. Jeff Holder, entertainment industry consultant and formerly with ABC Network TV, Hanna-Barbera, and SONY Wonder, discussed the exciting opportunities for Net Generation youth in the New Media – Internet, YouTube, and continuing permutations. Issam Ghazzawi, PhD, Associate Professor of Business at U of La Verne, covered the content of several more chapters of the curriculum, especially the qualifications of aspiring entrepreneurs and the many opportunities before them. Kruis then covered the financials section of Business Plans, which is often the most difficult for non-business professionals to understand.

Several of the 23 teachers who completed the one-page business plan volunteered to orally present theirs to the class, followed by Q&A, just as they should do with their students. Finally, Certificates of Completion from the National Council on Economic Education



Bessie Kruis explains several chapters of the Making a Job curriculum



Judge Soto speaks to teachers

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(NCEE) were presented to each participant.

The workshop was sponsored by the NCEE with funding from the Kauffman Foundation, also the SIFE program of U of La Verne, the Community Education Center of Pasadena City College, and by me, representing Youth Entrepreneurship Education of Rotary District 5300 and Rotary Club of Altadena.

For more information, contact C. Ray Carlson, ray@rotapreneur.com, Tel 1-800-448-3456

Industry Hills Rotary Congratulates Newest Inductee



Congratulations to Tim Seal who was inducted into the Rotary Club of Industry Hills on Tuesday, January 13, 2009. Tim is the Executive Director of DelHaven Community Center and Owner of Kiki's Industrial Cleaning Service.

(Left -Bouty Boutwell –Sponsor of Industry Hills Rotarian- Right is Tim Seal - New Inductee)

The Foundation says, “Thank you” in Many Ways

by **Craig Cox, Foundation Chair, Altadena**

I hate to admit it, but I like to be recognized when I have gone the extra mile. I think most people welcome a pat on the back and words of appreciation for a job well done. Thankfully, the Rotary Foundation offers several ways to acknowledge the financial support generously provided by individuals.

Anyone who contributes US\$100 or more per year to the Annual Programs Fund is automatically recognized as a Rotary Foundation Sustaining Member. Sustaining Members are critical to the Foundation. If every club member contributed \$100 every year, Rotary could nearly double its efforts to help needy people worldwide and support the continued growth of its programs.

Donors of US\$1,000 or more to the Annual Programs Fund, PolioPlus, or the Humanitarian Grants Program, or people who have that amount contributed in their name, can be recognized as Paul Harris Fellows. Each new Paul Harris Fellow (PHF) receives a commemorative certificate, a pin, and a medallion. For gifts over US\$2,000, a PHF is eligible for recognition as a Multiple Paul Harris Fellow, or can honor someone else. Multiple PHFs are recognized with a pin

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displaying sapphires and rubies for contributions up to US\$9,999.99.

The Rotary Foundation recognizes couples or individuals whose combined personal outright or cumulative giving has reached \$10,000 as a Major Donor. All outright contributions made to the Foundation are included in this total, regardless of the gift designation.

Donors may elect to receive a crystal recognition piece and a Major Donor lapel pin or pendant.

Donors whose cumulative gifts total US\$250,000 or more will become members of the Arch C. Klumph Society and have their photos displayed permanently in the Arch C. Klumph Gallery at RI Headquarters.

The good work of the Foundation warrants our support regardless of any awards we may receive. It is nice, though, for this great organization to say “good job – thanks for your support.”

Maintaining Our Edge in Research and Technology

by Hal Yorke, International Chair, Altadena

At the weekly meeting of the Altadena Rotary Club on November 20, 2008, I presented our club’s Economic Update. I talked about a particular type of long-term investment, namely developing our most important natural resource: the minds of our youth – something that requires a long-term, steady commitment in funding education, basic research, and technology.

In the era of the \$100+ billion bailout, we should be rethinking our strategy of investments. Overall, America currently maintains a narrow edge in research and technology, based on our prior investments and based on our innovative skills and curiosity. We are lagging in many important areas, however; education is one of them. To continue to successfully compete in the global economy, in the future, we need to develop a long-term strategy and to maintain the proper investment portfolio balance between education, basic research and focused technology development.

The primary goal of K-12 education should NOT be learning facts and it certainly should NOT be cramming for the next standardized test – it should be learning how to learn and learning how to think. Yes, you have to know facts, at least a reasonable amount of them, but it is much more important to practice combining facts into the larger picture rather than simply to regurgitate what is written in a textbook.

The importance of technology to our global status goes without saying. There are over 400 million GPS units in the world, not only helping motorists find their way but allowing tractors to plow fields with an accuracy of millimeters. Our military is dependent on the

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global positioning system. GPS satellites are aging, and many are in danger of failing. We continue to operate them beyond their nominal lifetimes. They are vulnerable to foreign attack, and yet we do not have a strategy for replacing scores of them quickly. The average age of our aerospace industry's technologists, the ones building these GPS satellites, advanced weapons systems, space missions, and the next generation of airplanes, is 54. Twenty-six percent of America's aerospace engineers could retire tomorrow. Our universities are producing their replacements at less than half the rate necessary. In the past, we have made up the deficit of qualified engineers by importing them from outside the US (brain-drain). However, the US's anti-foreigner, anti-immigration policies are causing this source dry up.

What do I mean by basic unfocused research? Let me give you a few examples. The internet was NOT invented by Bill Gates. It was developed by nonmilitary, inquisitive scientists doing basic research, who had a need to freely exchange electronic information. These scientists were not paid to invent the internet. They were paid to conduct basic research, and they developed electronic interconnectivity of computers as a useful by-product.

In the early 1970s, while working on my PhD thesis, I read an editorial in the Los Angeles Times. It really hit home; the author made fun of a PhD thesis that had been recently granted at Berkeley, which had been supported by public funding. The federal government paid about \$100,000 over the course of three years to allow someone to study the sex life of flies! I really felt sorry for the young lady who spent many years conducting basic scientific research only to be ridiculed publicly. What would the editorialist have said about my thesis on colliding interstellar clouds?

In 1975, California's produce industry was threatened by the medfly infestation. Initial estimates of potential impact were in the 10s of billions of dollars and perhaps worse; the pest could have completely wiped out California's produce industry. Quarantines and a \$1B program of pesticide spraying were started. The solution to the problem in 1976 was to release approximately 600 million sterile male medflies combined with the heavy use of ground spraying pesticide. Total costs of the successful eradication effort were estimated at \$1 million. Did the ridiculed PhD thesis contribute to the solution? I suspect that it did and still wonder about what happened to the biologist who wrote it. The medfly has come back to California several times since 1976. The solution each time is complex, but involves knowledge of the sex life of flies. We really don't know in advance the potential uses of basic research.

We cannot expect that every investment in basic research will yield immediate multi-billion returns. Sometimes the benefits are a century away, as in the case of scientists in the seventeenth

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and eighteenth century who played with magnets and wires or flew kites in thunderstorms, ultimately leading to the electrification of the world and the electronic revolution. Sometimes basic research will have no direct monetary benefit. Not everyone who set sail seeking a new route to China discovers a new continent.

It is the excitement of discovery that motivates many of our smartest young ones to continue to learn. What is the proper balance between education, research and technology development as opposed to other needs? In my opinion, America is not doing enough in all three areas, especially education and especially now. Ultimately, the taxpayer has to make that decision. Be forewarned, however, that one cannot turn education-research-technology support on and off on a year-by-year or 4-year-by-4-year basis. Commitment has to be long term and steady. We have to be careful not to eat the seed-corn of our success.

Relatively So...

by **John Frykenberg**

So there I was getting up around 8 a.m. and turning on the tele to see the Rose Parade, like I've done before. I love the curly-haired horses and the Rotary float and this year, for the first time, the Bollywood float. (Did you know Bollywood makes 3 times as many movies as Hollywood?).

The parade was great on the tele. Then, I got into the car, as I have done before, drove to Sierra Madre Villa and watched the parade all over again; live for the second time in one day. I watched the parade live, and then I watched the parade live... again. Very surreal! I got an inkling of Einstein's Theory of Relativity; real time followed by real time at some point in the future. I got to see the parade live and live all over again; twice in one day (this is redundant).

Deja vu works kind of like that. You just know you've been somewhere before even though you've never been there before. You know you've met someone before even though logic suggests you've never met the person before.

It all sounds like the paranormal experience, but there are usually logical explanations. And if we study and search long enough to find the answers or try to understand, we can understand or, at the very least, gain some understanding of why we view the world the way we do.

When we gain understanding, the realization may hit us like a lightening bolt.

Voila! Eureka! (I have found it!) All of a sudden it all makes sense. Well...mostly anyway?

More complex issues like war, great injustice, and pain are harder to understand and often issues we can never fully understand without spiritual insight or some revelation.

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And what we do not understand, we come to conclusions about as a result of peer pressure, consensus, cultural mores, and beliefs based upon experience or persuasion. And because we do not live in a vacuum we come to reflect the values of our environment or conversely in rebellion against our environment. The thesis, the antitheses and synthesis of our lives unfold over time to make us who and what we are.

Lumberjacks caution us as we go about the business of life to always be aware of the five Ws; Where we are, What we are, Who we are, When we do whatever we do because timing is everything and of course watch out for Widow makers (things which can harm us) which can ruin a good day!

There's a good deal of relativity in the world, but not everything is relative. There is a singularity. There are truths, which are constant. And I believe that Love is more than a chemical/hormonal reaction to our genetic makeup despite some evidence to the contrary. Love is not always logical or relative. There are too many examples of no cause-and-effective relationships. Love just is as a matter of choice, for which there is no rhyme or reason, when it is unconditional.

So.... (this is the part that comes after relatively), hanging around with Rotarians who believe in Service Above Self and in giving back to their local communities and reaching out to those with fewer advantages than we in LA or Lagos... is a pretty good idea. Be thankful you belong to this Rotary fraternity of brothers and sisters who believe "It is not all about us..." and that we can make a difference for others and, in so doing, make a difference for us. We can do it for ourselves in helping others and in so doing, do it all over for ourselves... a double whammy Einstein might approve of.

Happy New Year!



Thoughts about The Rotary Foundation

by **Bob Novell, District Foundation Chair**

We are now half way through our Rotary Year and District 5300 Rotarians continue to both support the Rotarian Foundation with gifts to the Foundation and use the programs of the Foundation to make the world a better and more peaceful place.

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- District 5300 Rotarians tops the charts for giving participation to the Foundation. The numbers below reflect the participation rate by member Rotarians in Zones 23 & 24 in supporting the Foundation. These various Districts in Zones 23 & 24 along with Zones in Taiwan, Japan, and Korea are the most significant financial support of the Foundation in the Rotary world. Our goal is to ask everyone to give something. The act of giving or participating is important, and we want to ask our members to help to the extent they currently can, and when they do, we need to say thank you. To each one of you, we want to again thank you for your help and efforts to support the Foundation.

<u>District</u>	<u>Rotarians 2008-09 OD</u>	<u>Rotarian Donors (excluding clubs)</u>	<u>Rotarian Donors % of Rotarians</u>
5000	2,160	1,186	54.91%
5170	4,060	2,461	60.62%
5220	2,450	1,183	48.29%
5230	3,044	1,636	53.75%
5240	3,841	1,593	41.47%
5260	1,038	460	44.32%
5280	2,401	1,181	49.19%
5300	2,699	1,698	62.91%
5320	2,246	1,073	47.77%
5330	2,364	1,423	60.19%
5340	3,636	1,734	47.69%
Total	29,939	15,628	52.20%

- Polio Facts and Figures. We have continued to make progress in 2008 in our End Polio Now effort. The numbers for last year are as follows:

Afghanistan 26
 India 509
 Nigeria 756
 Pakistan 101
 Non-endemic countries 99
 Total worldwide 1,491

- Grants. Both the District Simplified Grants (\$35,000 available this year) and the International Matching Grants (\$100,000 available this year) are being used by our Clubs to obtain funding for local and international projects. Some important projects are now underway both locally and internationally using a combination of Club and matching dollars from the District and Foundation.