

C THE COLORS OF ROTARY

FEBRUARY 2012

ROTARY DISTRICT 5500



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity



February is World Understanding Month

THE Rotary International theme for the month of February is World Understanding. Indeed, much of what we do as Rotarians, particularly through the programs of our Rotary Foundation, is designed to promote world understanding and peace.

We are all familiar with the Rotary Four-Way Test. Many of us recite it weekly at our club meetings or hang it on our office wall. But the four parts of the Object of Rotary, as set forth in the R.I. Constitution and the Standard Rotary Club Constitution, are also important. The Object of Rotary

defines the very purpose and spirit of our organization. The fourth tenet creates our international imperative and encourages us to promote world understanding:

The Object of Rotary

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

FIRST: The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service.

SECOND: High ethical standard in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

THIRD: The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;

FOURTH: The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

February is also "Happy Birthday Rotary" month. The very first Rotary meeting was held Feb. 23, 1905, and R.I. has designated Feb. 23 as "World Understanding and Peace Day."

Happy 107th Birthday Rotarians!

*Michael Drake,
Governor District 5500*

Donations surpass Gates Foundation challenge

By **JOHN F. GERM, CHAIR**
ROTARY'S CHALLENGE COMMITTEE
AND
ROBERT S. SCOTT, CHAIR
INTERNATIONAL POLIOPLUS COMMITTEE



achievement of the \$200 million milestone and of the need for continued funding support for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

We must remember, however, that this achievement is just one more milestone in our journey to eradicate polio. Most importantly, our ultimate goal is the certification of the eradication of polio. Rotarians are continuing to raise funds for the challenge, which officially concludes on June 30 2012, and as Rotary leaders, we

should encourage their continued involvement. We are confident that we will far exceed our \$200 million goal, just as Rotarians have done in all previous campaigns.

Thank you for all you have done and will continue to do to help us reach our ultimate goal, the certification of polio eradication. Together we will End Polio Now.

AT the International Assembly, we had the pleasure of announcing that the Challenge has surpassed the US\$200 million mark and has raised US\$202.6 million as of Jan. 17, 2012.

In addition Jeff Raikes, Chief Executive Officer of The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation was at the Assembly and announced that the Gates Foundation has awarded The Rotary Foundation an additional US\$50 million grant for polio eradication. The new \$50 million grant from the Gates Foundation is not a challenge grant; it results from Rotary's early

Inside this issue:

~ ORIENTATION CLASSES
PLANNED FOR FUTURE VISION
PLAN

~ IMPORTANT UPCOMING
EVENTS

~ DISTRICT 5500 WINS
PR GRANT

~ DECEMBER ATTENDANCE
REPORTS

~ NEW COMMUNITY
ROTARACT CLUB CHARTERED

~ NEW INTERACT CLUB
CHARTERED

~ DISTRICT 5500 NOW ON
FACEBOOK

~ GSE EXPERIENCES IN THE
MIDDLE EAST

SEND ARTICLES TO
TONJA GREENFIELD,
NEWSLETTER EDITOR, AT
TMQ1973@GMAIL.COM

ARTICLES SHOULD BE SENT AS
MICROSOFT WORD ATTACHMENTS.
PHOTOS SHOULD BE SENT AS
JPEG FILES.
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS
THE 1ST OF EACH MONTH.
PUBLISHED AROUND THE
5TH OF THE MONTH.

Orientation classes planned for Future Vision Plan

WHEN you hear the word change and think, oh no, what does this mean...think

of the acronym, SOFI, and get ready to appreciate the change that SOFI means in Rotary Foundation's newly adopted FUTURE VISION PLAN. This new, strategy approach to fulfilling the Foundation's mission in funding projects is designed to:

S-Simplify Foundation programs and processes consistent with the mission

O-Offer program options to help achieve both global and local goals

F-Focus Rotarian service efforts where they will have the greatest impact by addressing major world needs that are relevant to Rotarians

I-Increase the sense of ownership at the district and club levels by transferring more decisions to the districts

More decision-making at the local level, a greater variety of program options, a larger impact on world needs and simplicity in the process—this is why the FUTURE VISION PLAN was adopted based on world-wide input from thousands of Rotarians. What's not to like?

The new grants structure in its simpler form will look like this:



This photo is of the Dan Takobo well and is just one of the example of the many international projected clubs have participated in.

Rotary Foundation District Grants will be block grants made to districts to support smaller projects, both locally and internationally. Districts may use up to 50% of their available District Designated Funds (DDF) for these grants in a given Rotary year and administer the grant without the Foundation's involvement—again more ownership and decision-making at the local level!

Rotary Foundation Global Grants will support larger projects with sustainable, high

impact outcomes in one of the six areas of focus:

Peace and conflict prevention/resolution

Disease prevention and treatment

Water and sanitation

Maternal and child health

Basic education and literacy

Economic and community

development

Again, the key word is sustainability and clubs and districts can either create their own global grant project in one of the 6 areas of focus or choose to work on a packaged grant developed by The Rotary Foundation in conjunction with its strategic partners.

Orientation classes for the FUTURE VISION PLAN will be held at the District Assemblies and the dates are: March 17, Casa Grande; March 24, Yuma; March 31, Tucson; and April 7, Sierra Vista. There will also be three-hour certification classes at the District Conference on Saturday, Oct. 27, and at the Foundation event, Dec. 2. Future dates will be announced for training opportunities at the Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI).

Think SOFI, think change, and think positive!

Time to Get to Work - Rotarians Work Day Saturday, April 28

By Fred Sowerby

ROTARIANS AT WORK DAY DISTRICT 5500

Chair

Rotary Club of Tucson (Casas Adobes)

THE time to start planning is now for Rotarians at Work Day. The plan is for Clubs to have a work project on this date. Clubs can work separately or join forces with another Club on a community project.

Projects should be an act of giving back to our communities. They can be maintenance to help our roads, senior centers, schools, parks, youth centers or a project that your Club identifies as needed.

As Rotarians we will be serving our communities and raising awareness of Rotary's commitment to "Service Above Self". At the same time we will attract new members and help Rotarians serve.

Remember to Take Photos of your Clubs project with a short description and email to me so we can spotlight in a future newsletter.

The time to plan is NOW, and support our District Governor Michael Drake, with his vision.

Any questions or suggestions, contact me at FrederickSowerby@cox.net

Let's ALL SHARE in ROTARIANS AT WORK DAY!

Important Upcoming Events

PETS Training
March 2-3 - Phoenix

District Assemblies
March 17 - Casa Grande
March 24 - Yuma
March 31 - Tucson
April 7 - Sierra Vista

Rotary Leadership

Institute classes
April 21 - Tucson

Four-Way Test Speech Contest
April 21 - Tucson

The Shot Felt 'Round the World
April 22 - Tucson

Rotary International Convention
May 6-9 - Bangkok, Thailand

Installation of District Officers 2012-2013
Sunday, June 24 - Omni Tucson National Resort

Club Reminder

Clubs are reminded to advise DG Michael Drake of their eligibility for the Changemaker Award by March 15 and the Presidential Citation by April 6.

District 5500 wins significant PR grant

THE team of DG Michael Drake, PR Chair Lynn Perez-Hewitt and incoming PR Chair Rebecca Craig created a compelling campaign to take advantage of RI's PR Grants available this year. The RI Board has agreed to fund \$4 million in PR grants annually for this and the next two years to advance the strategic priority of enhancing public image and awareness. RI will match 3 for 1 the District's contribution. The District will spend \$3,500 and receive an additional \$10,500 from RI for this campaign, for a total of \$14,000 spent. In addition, the vendors will donate additional in-kind time and space for the campaign with a value of \$52,000.

This amount allowed us to create a diverse campaign that includes television and radio spots, bus benches, and video screens at Tucson International Airport. Rebecca brought her years of writing successful RI grants to the process. With her background the proposal was crafted to highlight what RI would fund, supplemented by campaign enhancements that would cost us time not cash. This allows us to leverage our investment and expand the reach of the

media campaign.

Using existing Public Service Announcements (PSAs) professionally created by RI, the District 5500 campaign features the Missing Piece theme. The call to action is for the public to visit the new District 5500 Facebook page to learn more about all of the 55 clubs in the District. Clubs are encouraged to post updates about their events and activities. Posts can offer links to websites, media coverage, any current information about what Rotary is doing in our communities and neighborhoods.

The TV and radio stations cover Tucson and Yuma and reach nearly all parts of the District. We chose to include exposure on Spanish language stations as well. The campaign started Jan. 23 at the Tucson International Airport. PSAs on TV and radio will begin in February and continue in earnest through March. The bus benches will continue through the spring, while the airport screens are booked through June.

This is a huge opportunity for each and every club to tell its story. If you have questions or need assistance, just call or email Lynn at perezhewitt@hceonline.com.

PETS scheduled for March 2-3

THE Arizona Tri-District Rotary PETS is required training for Club President Elects. It is also recommended for Club Secretaries, Club Treasurers, and Club President Nominees. PETS will be held beginning at 7 a.m., on Friday, March 2 and from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., on Saturday, March 3.

Call the Hilton Phoenix East Mesa at 480-833-5555 for room reservations. Rooms are limited so please reserve early. Special Rotary room rate of \$159 plus tax per night, single/double occupancy. Ask for room rate code Rotary PETS. Cut-off date for this special Rotary rate is Feb. 15.

Conference Attire: Comfortable, casual business clothes for all gatherings except Friday night where formal business attire is appropriate (coat and ties for gentlemen, dresses or pantsuits for ladies).

Club Secretaries: PLEASE BRING A LAPTOP. WIRELESS CONNECTION WILL BE AVAILABLE. You will be asked to do some online training.

My Support of the Rotary Foundation

One of the students in the TriDistrict Leadership Academy submitted this as an assignment on supporting the Rotary International Foundations.

**By Chuck Nordquist
District 5500**

THIS may be the easiest question I've faced since saying "You bet I do" at my wedding. Of course the answer is an unequivocal YES. I am a member of the Paul Harris Society and I will be the Annual Programs Fund Chairman for District 5500 next year. I have created events to raise money for the Foundation and I have watched with great enjoyment at the wonders our Foundation creates around the world. Not to mention Polio Plus. So really the question is not if but why.

I marvel at the vision of Arch Klumph to see the possibility of world-wide community service. In 1917 with Rotary being only a dozen years old Arch understood what the future could be. It is not difficult for us envision that concept now since the Foundation is so very strong and has a wealth of reserves and is considered so viable that

the Bill Gates Foundation would donate 355 million dollars to it for polio relief. I wonder if Arch Klumph saw in his vision of the Foundation a donation of that magnitude. Or did Arch see in his vision a community service group tackle a world wide problem as huge as polio?

Although it took 10 years for the rest of the Rotary world to catch up with Arch Klumph's concept of the Foundation, or the Rotary Endowment Fund as it was called then, it has been powering ahead undeterred.

One of the great tasks that new members are confronted with is to try and understand this highly complex organization. It is so huge and daunting that most Rotarians nod and say it is a great organization without really understanding how it functions. The most effective way to be a great Rotarian is to understand that it is a world-wide organization and the Foundation is the tool that makes ideas come to life. We need to fuel the fires of world service for Arch's vision to keep coming true. During times of a weak economy it is easy to redirect all of one's attention to the world around them, but a weak economy in the United States is a disaster on a world-wide scale. At times like

this it is Rotarians must remain focused and diligent. Our worst day is probably way better than the average world citizen.

Rotary will always be a community service organization that serves the place where it lives, but Arch's vision demands that we look a bit farther down the road. We have a commitment to the world as well.

So yes, I strongly support the Rotary Foundation.

Thank you

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you and the rest of District 5500 for the opportunity which you gave me to participate in the Rotary Leadership Institute this past weekend. I feel that it was well worth my time and effort to attend and learn from fellow Rotarians.

I can see that Rotary is strong in Southern Arizona. If I can be of any help at any time please feel free to call upon me.

*C. Buzz Buzzard
Assistant Governor from Lakeway, Texas*

CLUBS - December, 2011-201	Attendance	Start	End	Change
Ajo		10		
Benson	73%	15	15	0
Bisbee	58%	24	21	-3
Casa Grande		40		
Casa Grande Daybreak	80%	10	10	0
Coolidge	64%	14	15	1
Douglas	54%	12	12	0
Florence	65%	24	22	-2
Gila Bend	51%	11	11	0
Gila Valley				
Globe	70%	24	24	0
Green Valley	79%	42	41	-1
Kearny	75%	7	8	1
Madera Sunset				
Marana	90%	21	22	1
Marana Dove Mountain	74%	24	25	1
Maricopa	81%	8	8	0
Miami-Copper Cities		15		
Mountain Empire		33		
Nogales	59%	29	27	-2
Oro Valley		32		
Rio Rico	83%	19	17	-2
SaddleBrooke	71%	63	63	0
Safford	71%	22	21	-1
San Luis Fontera	85%	7	7	0
San Manuel		9		
Sierra Vista	83%	78	77	-1
Sierra Vista South		17		
Sierra Vista Sunrise	68%	24	23	-1
Sierra Vista West	73%	20	20	0
Somerton	73%	10	10	0
Superior	82%	7	7	0
Tubac	81%	16	16	0
Tucson	66%	224	223	-1
Tucson Casas Adobes	73%	40	40	0
Tucson Catalina	75%	69	69	0
Tucson Foothills		10		
Tucson Kino	67%	14	15	1
Tucson Old Pueblo	77%	27	26	-1
Tucson Pantano	74%	20	20	0
Tucson Pima	100%	5	5	0
Tucson Presidio	38%	35	36	1
Tucson Rincon	84%	20	21	1
Tucson Saguaro	88%	23	23	0
Tucson Sunrise	83%	55	55	0
Tucson Sunset	91%	25	25	0
Vail Cienega	69%	9	9	0
Valle Verde	87%	47	47	0
Willcox	50%	20	21	1
Yuma	60%	116	120	4
Yuma Crossing		19		
Yuma Foothills	54%	19	19	0
Yuma Ft. Yuma	64%	58	60	2
Yuma North End	84%	14	14	0
Yuma Sunrise				
TOTALS				

District to host booth at annual Tucson Festival of Books

By **ARLEEN BOYULS**,
DISTRICT LITERACY CHAIR

PLEASE let me know what Literacy Projects your club is doing this Rotary Year.

Some of your ideas may spark interest in other clubs who may not have a program this year and looking for one. It's not too late.

If your club does not have a Dictionary Project and would like to participate in one please contact Wayne Morrison (Casa Adobes) at (520) 292-0266. The school does not have to be in your area so don't let that stop you from providing these third graders with dictionaries.

The District is sponsoring a booth at the Tucson Festival of Books on March 10 and 11. We have openings for Rotarians who would like to work at the event. If you can help out, please call me at (520) 270-8700

Shhhhhh, It's A Secret!!!

By **DEBBIE CONOVER**
RVF NEWSLETTER EDITOR

ONE of the best kept secrets in Rotary is the Fellowships. They are groups of Rotarians, Rotarian spouses, and Rotaractors who join together to share a common interest in worthwhile recreational activities (sports, hobbies, ect.). <http://www.rotary.org/en/ServiceAndFellowship/MakeConnections/RotaryFellowships/Pages/ridefault.aspx>

The Recreational Vehicle Fellowship, Inc. of North America (RVF) is one of over 60 Rotary fellowships. Do you have a camper, RV, or fifth wheel and want to share in a Rally either close to home or on the other side of the country? The RVF is made up of over 300 Rotarians and spouses from the U. S. and Canada, as well as summer traveling Australians. The RVF has Rallies throughout the year in each zone from and will include three to 20 rigs. At a rally the Rotarians socialize, discover the area, as well as visit a local Rotary club. The RVF has an annual rally in conjunction with the convention and if in the US/Canada we will meet at a local campground and can have as many as 150 rigs. New friendships that last a lifetime are forged and when traveling there is always someone who lives close by. The RVing Rotarians also give back to the local communities through the Safety Fund.

The 2012 Annual Rally will be June 5 – 9 at Branson, Mo. Please visit the website at www.RVFweb.org and see some of the fun we have had in the past. You can join the fellowship through this site.

If you want more information you can contact Debbie Conover at dc.conover@gmail.com.

New Community Rotaract Club chartered

CATALINA TUCSON ROTARY CLUB

THE Catalina Tucson Rotary Club has sponsored the first Community Rotaract Club in Tucson. Eighteen founding members will establish the charter for this enthusiastic group of young community service oriented professionals Jan. 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the Viscount Suites Hotel. Advisors of the new Rotaract Club are Catalina Tucson Rotarians Kyrsten C and Rob B.

Rotaract is a Rotary-sponsored service club for young men and women ages 18 to 30. Rotaract clubs are either community or university based, and a local Rotary club sponsors them. This makes them true "partners in service" and key members of the family of Rotary.

There has been a University of Arizona Rotaract Club since 2004, sponsored by the Tucson Sunrise Rotary, but this club will serve an older group of young professionals. Among the professions or industries represented by the original eighteen members of the club are: Structural Engineer, Mechanical Engineer, Government, Sales, Registered Nurse, Finance, Speech-Language Pathology, Health Educator, U of A Athletics, Special Ed Teacher, Pre-med student, Pre-dental student, and Vet tech student.

All Rotaract efforts begin at the local, grassroots level, with members addressing their communities' physical and social needs while promoting international understanding and peace through a framework of friendship and service.

The Rotaract Club of Tucson has already participated in a backpack program for young refugees and has a long list of service projects that they are working on to benefit Tucson.

THE CEREMONY

The ceremony opened as many Rotary meetings. President Sharyn, Catalina Rotary Club, welcomed all on behalf of the Board of Directors, and the Officers and Members of the Catalina Tucson Rotary Club.

The pledge was let my new Rotaractor, Camille C and the invocation was offered by Kyrsten C. New Rotaractors, members of their families and friends and dozens of CRC Rotarians enjoyed a nosh and a drink all the while getting to know each other. Following rowdy fellowship, President Sharyn called the ceremony to order.

PE Dan B introduced the dignitaries, DG Michael D, PDG and D5500 Rotaract Chair 2011-2012 Jim A, District Governor Elect Randy B and wife Deb H.

DG Michael D Welcomes Rotaract to District 5500

DG Michael read the Certificate of Organization while advisers Kyrsten C and Rob B looked on. They were then joined by the Rotaractors while President Sharyn reminded us that "Rotaractors are service-minded adults, aged 18-30 who strive to develop leadership and professional skills that will benefit them and their community throughout their career.

By joining Rotaract, you are uniting with 180,000 young people in 165 countries and geographic areas who belong to over 7,800 Rotaract clubs around the world. Along with commitment to community and international service, Rotaractors strive to develop leadership and professional skills that will benefit them throughout their careers."

The Rotaract Club of Tucson is the first community-based club in Tucson. The University of Arizona Rotaract Club (a university based club) has been most helpful and supportive.

DG Michael Drake inducted the new members and awards banner

with words from the Rotaract Handbook:

"It is our pleasure to formally induct you into the Rotaract Club of Tucson. You are asked to promise to do goodwill within your community and your country. In addition to service, you will have the benefits of strong bonds of friendship with fellow Rotaractors, locally and worldwide, as well as the chance to develop strong leadership and professional skills.

Do you agree to uphold the Constitution and By Laws of Rotaract?" With a resounding "We Do!" the new members



were duly inducted.

PRESENTATIONS:

The New Tucson Rotaract Club and Advisers

Advisers Kyrsten and Rob handed out pins to the people who would pin the Rotaractors and once they were all "pinned," President Sharyn asked all to be seated. With glee, President Sharyn introduced President Amanda J, of the newly chartered Rotaract Club, who remained at the podium for the presentation of additional gifts.

Director of Service and PP Carrie A joined Sharyn and presented Amanda J with a special Rotaract bell, a special gift from Jack and Karola S who send their heartiest congratulations. Jack brought the idea of Rotaract to District 5500 nineteen years ago. Carrie removed the Rotary Bell from the podium and Amanda placed the new Rotaract bell in its place.

President Sharyn, with utmost pride and exhilaration, presented President Amanda with an inscribed gavel. With a hug, President Sharyn turned the meeting over to President Amanda.

President Amanda extended her appreciation to Nancy J who has hosted Rotaract meeting at the offices of Old Pueblo Community Services (OPCS), a special thank you to President Sharyn and the Aide to the DG, Wendy H, (who was unable to be there because she was attending RYLA) for their support in getting the Club off the ground, and a great big thank you to Kyrsten and Rob, without whom the new club would not be a reality.

The next Rotaract meeting was Jan. 19 with the following meeting on Feb. 1 at the offices of OPCS.

HER FIRST OFFICIAL ACT

Guests were invited to remain for continued fellowship at the close. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. as President Amanda rang the new Rotaract Bell as her first official act.

New Interact Club chartered

DOVE MOUNTAIN ROTARY CLUB



ROTARY DISTRICT GOVERNOR MICHAEL DRAKE, CENTER, PRESIDES OVER CHARTERING CEREMONIES FOR THE NEW INTERACT CLUB AT MOUNTAIN VIEW HIGH SCHOOL. CLUB PRESIDENT HANNA ZEDEKER, AT DRAKE'S LEFT, HOLDS THE CHARTER WHILE VICE PRESIDENT OMAR PEREYRA KNEELS FRONT RIGHT. THE CLUB FOR YOUTH 12-18 IS SPONSORED BY DOVE MOUNTAIN ROTARY CLUB. INTERACT CLUBS WORLDWIDE EMPHASIZE COMMUNITY SERVICE, RESPECT FOR OTHERS, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT, INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY AND ADVANCING INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING.

A Glimpse from the Rotary Leadership Institute January 28 in Casa Grande



ROTARY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE PHOTOS FROM © BLAINE E. MOYER



MARANA ROTARY CLUB



The Marana Rotary Club, Cub Scout Pack 261 and the Interact Club at Tortilita Middle School volunteer to pack food bags at the Marana Community Food Bank on Saturday, Feb. 4. The volunteers were able to pack 902 bags, a food bank record.

DOVE MOUNTAIN ROTARY CLUB

ACTION of an original painting of Dove Mountain by renowned western artist Diana Madaras will be just one highlight of the upcoming "Holdup at Stardance."

The western-themed dinner auction is scheduled by the Dove Mountain Rotary Club for Saturday evening, March 10, at Marana's Stardance meeting center.

Madaras has donated the painting and will attend the dinner to assist the Rotary club in funding its several projects to benefit students in Marana Unified School District.

They include annually awarding four \$2,000 college scholarships and distributing free dictionaries to all third graders in five elementary schools. A new project this year will help schools provide Power Pack weekend nutrition assistance to some of the district's neediest children.

The March 10 event will feature a western barbecue buffet, both silent and live auctions, live entertainment and cowboy and cowgirl dress contests. Tickets are now on sale at \$40, which covers the cost of the dinner as well as a \$10 tax-deductible contribution.

For tickets or information call Hugh Grinnell at 579-7035.

MOUNTAIN EMPIRE ROTARY CLUB

MOUNTAIN Empire Rotary Award "Person of the Year" and "Organization of the Year" at January Holiday Dinner.

Jody Walker was the recipient of the Mountain Empire Rotary's Founders Award for "Person of the Year," for recognition of outstanding contributions to our community. For 15 years Jody has given to our community. She never declines to help with money and time.

Jody's company, SBBI, is a major financial sponsor, as is Jody's Walker Ranch, for almost every community activity including every Rotary activity, from the monthly car wash to the Annual Auction Fundraising Dinner. She hosted Save the Scenic Santa Rita fundraisers; is on the board of Santa Cruz Foundation for the Performing Arts (SCFPA). She has single handedly hosted Rotary Fund Raising dinners as well as many of the concerts for SCFPA. Jody supports the 4-H in many ways including being a annual, major purchaser at the Sant Cruz County Fair. The entire community uses The Walker Ranch facilities to ride, work out, and swim - for free. Jody is a Paul

Harris Fellow and annual participant in Christmas shoe box program and virtually every Chamber event.

She also hosted the last two GSE teams that visited our area.

Mountain Empire Action Alliance (MEAA) received The Mountain Empire Rotary Founders Award for "Organization of the Year," recognizing the groups outstanding contributions to the community.

MEAA has taken the lead in organizing the response to the Forest Service's Draft Environmental Impact Statement on Rosemont Mine. They have spent countless hours analyzing data, engaging experts, helping the public with comments, holding public meetings, etc. This is a group of volunteers who

have spearheaded (along with Save the Scenic Santa Ritas) the fight against the Rosemont Mine. They have invested literally thousands of hours of work to keep our community members informed of the mine's activities. Jimmy Pepper representing Mountain Empire Action Alliance (MEAA) accepted the Founders Award for outstanding contributions to the community by an organization.



JIM ROWLEY PRESIDENT MOUNTAIN EMPIRE ROTARY PRESENTS JIMMY PEPPER WITH "ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR" AWARD



JIM ROWLEY PRESIDENT MOUNTAIN EMPIRE ROTARY PRESENTS JODY WALKER WITH "PERSON OF THE YEAR" AWARD

District 5500 Facebook Page

Yes, we Rotarians in District 5500 are embracing social media. In order to leverage the impact of the RI PR grant media placements the District Facebook page is offered as the point of information. The Facebook page is open to any Rotarian to post news about their club and/or comment on a posting. Facebook is a conversation, so let's visit the page and engage each other in all the good work we're doing in southern Arizona.

The Facebook page was chosen over the website because of the ease in updating information and the ease of discovery. Please try it out. www.facebook.com/rotarydistrict5500.

CATALINA TUCSON ROTARY CLUB

THE Rotary Club of Catalina (Tucson) raised money for 80 backpacks, which were packed the week of Jan. 9 and delivered to IRC. Backpacks were handed out to students on Tuesday, Jan. 17. Volunteers included Melissa W. and Linda L. from IRC, Dan B. and son, Camille C. from Rotaract, Sharyn C. and grandson Grayson (aka Batman), Doug J., Tony S., Kyrsten C. and Rob B., Carrie A. and Noni O. M. C.

The backpacks were handed out to the refugees and their school-age children.

A huge thanks to Noni O'Sullivan Community Service Chair and her committee, PP Barbara Kiernan for writing the District Simplified Grant, PDG Al Chesser for grant guidance and Director Carrie Service Chair for pulling off this outstanding project - a collaboration among office supply store, the YMCA, International Rescue Committee, Rotaract Club of Tucson and Catalina RC.



MEMBERS of CATALINA ROTARY Club pose with REFUGEE CLIENTS following an IRC job skills workshop.

Photo by MELISSA WIETERS/IRC

SHARYN CHESSER FROM THE CATALINA ROTARY Club passes out a backpack filled with education supplies.

Photo by MELISSA WIETERS/IRC



Gift of Life-AZ Needs Home Hosting Assistance

**By GARY WHITING
PDG AND GOL-AZ BOARD PRESIDENT**

ONE aspect of helping GOL-AZ continue its success of helping needy children who are suffering from congenital heart defects is to provide a Rotarian Home Hosting environment for the child and their mother or guardian that supports them in the hospital location that is providing the needed heart surgery. This provides home comfort, familiar faces, communication and transportation back and forth to the hospital and doctors office.

The need is in proximity of where the

surgeries occur at these Arizona Hospitals:

- Phoenix: Arizona Heart, Banner Good Samaritan, Phoenix Children's and St. Joseph's
- Gilbert: Mercy Gilbert Medical Center
- Tucson: Arizona University Medical Center

More and more surgeries are presently being handled in Tucson. Presently, Rotarian Home Hosting is needed for the three pending and soon to be confirmed children. As such, Rotarians in the Tucson, Marana and Green Valley areas are needed as soon as possible.

We urge Rotarians and Rotary Clubs in the above areas to consider assisting GOL-AZ with home hosting, especially with the present needs in the Tucson area. Please contact Gift of Life-AZ at (602) 445-4343 or visit website www.giftoflifeaz.org for more information about Home Hosting.

As this article is being written, GOL-AZ has now completed over 265 life saving heart surgeries from 24 countries of which 23 are from Arizona. Should your Rotary Club wish to have GOL-AZ as your meeting program, please contact PDG Gary Whiting at glw602bmw@wbhsi.com to confirm a date.

Time to plan for inbound/outbound exchange students

THE time is quickly approaching and it is time to start planning for the upcoming year 2012-2013. Please contact Incoming Youth Exchange Officer and Inbound Chair, Martha Grijalva know if you are interested in hosting Inbound Exchange Student 2012-2013. Email martha.grijalva@sykes.com or call (520) 761-6452. She can provide all the details needed to being come a hosting club, including cost and preparation for host families, counselors and local coordinators. You will have the support and guidance that

your club will need.

The Youth Exchange Program's purpose is to build peace and world understanding one exchange at time. Exposure to different culture is one of the most powerful ways to promote international peace and understanding. You can be part of helping students first hand in expanding their concept of living life in another country (ours) and watching them mature and develop a deeper understanding of themselves. It truly is one of the best experiences.

Goal is to have host clubs for nine of our exchange students. We will have eight inbound students with one of those arriving in January from Australia for 2012-2013. We need nine hosting clubs, with Green Valley's commitment - we still need eight. We should get exchange students from Germany, Belgium, Australia, Argentina, France, Taiwan and two from Brazil. We already have student information for France and the two from Brazil and other should arrive soon. Green Valley has already committed to host...who will be next...YOU!

2011 Group Study Exchange, District 5500- District 2450

By **HUGH THOMPSON**
CSE TEAM LEADER

OUR team wishes to thank DG 5500 Michael Drake and DG 2450 Usama Barghouthi and the many others who worked so hard to make this wonderful R.I., inter-district, vocational/cultural exchange, for young professional non-Rotarians, possible. It was the highlight of my Rotary year.

Our D-5500 team had the privilege of meeting and sharing with the incoming D-2450 team prior to our departure. D-2450 includes 11 countries. Our team of Phoebe Mills-Cager, wellness director at the Tucson Indian Center, Rome Hamner CEO, teacher and performer with Tucson Taiko, Andrea Gardner, with Lutheran Family Services, working with refugee resettlement in Tucson, and Angie Casarez, a credit adviser with Dunn & Bradstreet, and myself as team leader, visited five countries, Bahrain, Dubai, Egypt, Jordan, and the Palestinian West Bank. We spoke to 14 Rotary Clubs during our stay. Our visits to governmental agencies, Rotary projects, many varied vocational sites and many interesting tourist attractions were coordinated by district 2450 GSE chairs Jousef Batshon and his incredible group of country chairs. They worked long hours to make sure we had the best possible experience.

The unrest and political uncertainty in this area is putting a severe economic stress on all these countries. Tourism and foreign investment has been stagnant for two years, leaving many businesses struggling to survive and multiple major construction projects idle or unfinished.

Rotary, however, is alive and well. D-2450 Rotary clubs have high energy and many district projects in the works. The Rotarians were incredibly hospitable and friendly, treating us like visiting family members. Being hosted by a Rotary family gives the wonderful



TEAM WITH DISTRICT GOVERNOR USAMA BARGHOUTHI, PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT, PHOEBE, ROME, ANGI, ANDREA, OSAMA, AND HUGH.

opportunity to discuss topics that aren't broached at more public meetings. In these sessions we experience the breath, power and mutual understanding Rotary generates. This worldwide energy and enthusiasm is why long term projects, like Polio Plus, come to completion.

I felt strongly that all the people we met wanted us to see, feel, and understand that all Muslims are not jihadists as our media would lead us to believe. Most, like us, want peace and stability. Again, like us, they are held hostage by the outspoken minority elements of their political and religious groups.

Below are some comments from each of the team members about their experience.

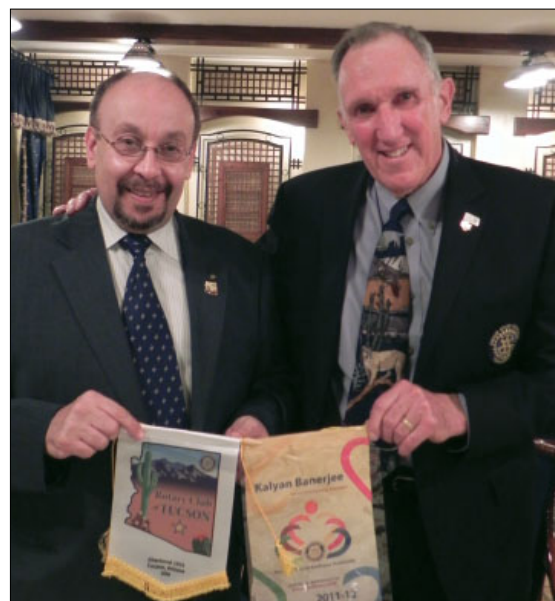
By PHOEBE MILLS-CAGER

Masha Allah and Shukran, thank you! The 2011 GSE to District 2450 was a life-changing experience for me.

As a health professional at the Tucson Indian Center, I had the incredible opportunity to participate in eight vocational visits with health professionals in the Middle East, observing firsthand the incorporation of

cultural activities as treatment modalities, the important health provider role of non-governmental organizations, and the goodwill of health professionals to make a difference in their communities.

As an indigenous person originally from Alaska, I had the extraordinary



USAMA AND HUGH EXCHANGE BANNERS

opportunity to meet with indigenous peoples of the Middle East and learn how we have many common experiences, such as the similarities of walking in two worlds (traditional and contemporary), the fast-paced change that can occur when an indigenous community experiences a dramatic economic shift, and the common value for our traditional teachings.

As a beginning leader, I was fascinated by the plethora of exceptional leaders I had the privilege of learning from, such as Dr. Ebtisam Al Dallal, CEO of Al Kindi Specialised Hospital in Bahrain; Dr. Samir Adbullah, a member of the Palestinian delegation in the 1991-1993 peace negotiations; and Marwa Ahmed, a young woman co-trainer at Talent World Wide who is passionate about leadership and the future of Egypt.

SEE **CSE**, PAGE 10



THE GSE TEAM AT ITS FIRST ROTARY MEETING IN EGYPT.

2011 Group Study Exchange, District 5500- District 2450

GSE, FROM PAGE 9

I also gained a new perspective on life, valuing freedom and peace at a deeper level and a human connection with the beauty of the people of the Middle East.

A special thank you to the Tucson Sunrise Club for their sponsorship of me, to District 2450 for their incredible hospitality, and District 5500 for making this spectacular opportunity possible for our team – you have changed our lives in such an incredibly positive way.

By ROME HAMNER

As a music educator, performer, nonprofit administrator and training facilitator, I took a wide range of vocational and personal interests to the Middle East. My vocational visits were excellent: I visited with a woman who owns and operates her own arts education center in Alexandria, I spent time with the head of the Arts Education Department at the Modern American School in Amman, and I met with the Director of Administration at Al Kamandjati, a music education center in the West Bank.

I was struck with the commonalities between these organizations and my own: that education, and particularly arts and music education, are under-funded; that people who dedicate their lives to the arts and education are driven by passion more than financial reward, and will find a way to conduct their work in spite of funding shortfalls; and that artists and teachers the world over are always happy to talk about their work and

collaboration. These similarities are one of my most striking take-aways from this trip.

I'm also taking away important learning about the power of connection. I saw many business people on our GSE, from artists to IT professionals. The most successful entrepreneurs were those who, along with providing an excellent product or service, also connected meaningfully within their networks and communities. I'm applying this knowledge to my own nonprofits arts business, pursuing increased networking and community ties.

This GSE was an incredible opportunity to travel to a part of the world that few Americans are lucky enough to see firsthand. It was challenging in some ways, with last minute itinerary changes and a country in revolution, but I am so grateful for the experience. I have emerged from this trip a richer person, with a deeper understanding of my profession and of the larger world. I'm very grateful to Rotary for that growth.

By ANDREA GARDNER

Having been fascinated with the Middle East for as long as I can remember, participating in a Group Study Exchange to that region was truly a dream come true for me. For one month, our team of young professionals was given a unique opportunity to visit five countries so different from our own and to study that part of the world on an



AT THE AL AMARI REFUGEE CAMP IN PALESTINE.

intimate level.

For me, the most special part of the GSE was simply being given the opportunity to interact with locals in each of the places we visited and to build friendships with them. We were so generously accepted into their homes and lives that we connected with them and learned from them much more than we would have as tourists.

On a professional level, GSE allowed us to meet with people in similar fields as our own and to see local Rotary Club projects at work, which provided an even deeper dimension to our cultural learning. Since I have been working with refugees here in the Tucson area, visiting Palestinian refugee camps and seeing for myself the flip-side of refugee resettlement was both professionally and personally rewarding.

I am so thankful to District 5500 and the Rotary Club of Cienega for allowing me that special glimpse into Middle Eastern life.

MOUNTAIN EMPIRE ROTARY CLUB

THE Mountain Empire Rotary held its weekly meeting at the Home Plate in Patagonia on Feb. 9 and honor students.

Sam Routledge, a senior at Patagonia High, was honored

as High School Student of the Month. Jeff Sweet, Dean of Students and teacher at the High School, nominated Sam for the award as Sam is a high achiever in many areas: on the honor roll all four years of High School; in the top five students of his class; student President; Eagle Scout - his project was to install the basketball court at the local park; Basketball star; hosts a regular radio program "Sports Talk" on KPUP 7; and much more.

Sam wants to be a basketball coach or scout, but is also interested in the Radio broadcast field.

Gabby Bueras was honored as Middle School Student of the Month. Gabby is an eighth grader and aspires to become a Paralegal, Lawyer, or Judge when she graduates college. Kari Weileder, K-12 School Counselor, nominated Gabby for the award.

Rotary also sponsored two students from PUHS to attend the Rotary Youth Leadership Academy (RYLA). Joseph Perez and Yari Cortez attended the RYLA retreat at Chapel Rock in Prescott Arizona on Jan. 13.

Josephs and Yari reported about



INGE MEYER OF THE MOUNTAIN EMPIRE ROTARY AND JEFF SWEET, DEAN OF STUDENTS, WITH SAM ROUTLEDGE.

the event and said the best part was meeting so many students of diverse culture, impressed on them to keep an open mind, and both would like to be Foreign Exchange Students in the future. Rotary assured them both they would be able to help them achieve that goal.



KARI WEILEDER, SCHOOL COUNSELOR WITH EIGHTH GRADE STUDENT GABBY BUERAS

District 5500 RYLA "Rotary Youth Leadership Awards" Chapel Rock - Prescott Jan. 13 to Jan. 16

By **MARTHA GRIJALVA 2012**
RYLA Co- Chair and
STEVE HOULE RYLA Chair



with inspirational Rotarian experiences, opportunities to personal stories that included our mission to eradicate Polio, helping build water wells, personal survival, overcoming obstacles and being an a leader in the military.

On Saturday, Delegates all have the opportunity to participate in challenge courses that included rock climbing, zip line, rope courses, and this year we had the eagle crest and the leap of faith. It was very nice and sunny day and outstanding day for them to all experience a fantastic way to build trust and relationships by empowering delegates to face their fears through team encouragement and support. After dinner on Saturday we all shared relaxing evening around a bon fire lead by singing and friendship. On Sunday evening we have a special dance lead by a professional dance instructor that teaches popular line dances, ball room dancing and team fun team competitions.

climbing, zip line, rope courses, and this year we had the eagle crest and the leap of faith. It was very nice and sunny day and outstanding day for



RYLA this year has now come and gone but we would like to encourage all clubs to please start including in your 2012-2013 budgets participation in RYLA. Please plan on send sending two or more from your club and also please consider being an adult counselor next year. We give our time, guidance and our experience to the youth but what they give us in return is more than words can ever describe. We cannot have a successful camp with the valuable help of our volunteers.

A special THANK YOU to all that made RYLA 2012 an awesome leadership experience.

ANOTHER very successful and exciting RYLA Camp at beautiful Chapel Rock. This year we had in attendance 85 Delegates which included our exchange students, 10 junior counselors (returning prior year delegate), one senior counselor (returning prior year junior counselor), nine adult counselors, two program directors, two administrative staff and two administrative assistants.

During the four day weekend at RYLA we hone in and encourage leadership of youth by the youth through effective training modules that foster creativity, communication, problem solving, teamwork, confidence, self-esteem, values and moral responsibility. The involvement and participation of all the attendee's is outstanding and that is what makes each RYLA experience a FUN and memorable. They are placed in team and have the weekend to address a community

In order to further render the objective of RYLA we invite a variety of guest speakers that help address ethics of positive, community leadership and involvement. These motivational guest speakers included Rotarians, such as Ernie and Sally Montagne, Martha Grijalva, and our very own District Governor Michael Drake. Additional guests included Barbara Hayes, Emma Fialka-Feldman and Erin Blanding from "me to we," and Colonel Jeff Jennings. All guest speakers contributed

