

The RotaMonica - Online Version 34

Out of the ordinary -- Public Servants Recognition Day!

Judy made an excellent point in asking us to imagine what Santa Monica would be like without our firefighters, educators, police and our award-winning Big Blue bus. We count on them all to be there, serving our neighbors, our businesses and us -- safeguarding us, educating our young and keeping us moving.

We were honored to recognize Reuben Hernandez a Transit Maintenance Technician for the Big Blue Bus; Paul Weinberg an Emergency Services Coordinator for the Fire Department; Pat Samarge an educator for 43 years with the Santa Monica/Malibu Unified School District; and Cory Rytterager with the Santa Monica Police Department's Youth Services Division.

Our appreciation to Judy Neveau and her co-chair Ken Mirch for putting together a wonderful program and again to Judy and Santa Monica College for the beautiful floral centerpieces. The newest Rotarian at each table along and our honorees were invited to take the flowers home.

The presenters, Police Chief **Jim Butts**, Joe Stitcher, Assistant Director of Transit Services, Fire Chief Jim Hone and Mike Matthews the Acting Superintendent of the Santa Monica/Malibu Unified School District sat at the head table along with **Jack Gregory, Paul Leoni, Judy Neveau** and **Phil Tirone**.

Hot Off the Press: The Brentwood School Interact Club is now officially a member of the Rotary International family. Rotary International in Chicago approved the club charter on Friday. Congratulations to **Greg Hargrave** and the Brentwood School Interactors.

Klaus & Bridget Brandt and **Clyde Smith** represented our Club in Bogotá, Columbia for Rotary Eye Rescue a program of RI and our District 5280. We were fortunate to hear Clyde tell us of their adventures and the remarkable Rotarians they met there. "We might not have changed the world with this visit, but it changed the world within me," **Clyde** stated.

Thank you **Klaus, Clyde** and Bridget for taking time out of your lives to help so many.

Now you have a chance to help in another Rotary Project: **Rotary Reads to Kids**. Starting the week of April 3rd take 30 minutes, one morning of one day to read to children in Santa Monica's elementary schools. See Paul Gaulke for the times.

You will be glad you did.

Paul did Fine again when Fining ... He got Hank Walther for his trip to Yosemite, Lloyd Torguson for winning a cruise at the PHF dinner and Graham Pope for celebrating the birth of his grandson - Oliver William. He fined all the UCLA grads and supporters for their win the other night too.

Six million Sudanese children are immunized

By Vukoni Lupa-Lasaga, Rotary International News, March 10, 2006.

Despite serious logistical challenges and lingering security concerns, health workers and volunteers in Sudan managed to administer the oral polio vaccine to six million children during a mass immunization campaign, held February 20th - 22nd.

John Strongylos, governor of Rotary International District 2450, which includes Sudan, participated in the National Immunization Days, or NIDs, alongside members of the country's only Rotary club, the Rotary Club of Khartoum, and thousands of vaccinators.

Although the number of children reached fell short of the targeted 8.1 million, organizers of Sudan's first round of NIDs this year consider the outcome a step forward in eradicating polio in Africa's largest country.

"Sudan has reported no cases since last June," says Sohaib Elbadawi, chair of the Sudan PolioPlus Committee. "This is almost nine months. We think Sudan apparently has stopped transmission. However, in my opinion, this should not let us relax, as Sudan is still in danger due to its vast size and [long border with] many countries and the presence of the poliovirus on the continent."

The three-day event, held throughout Sudan's 26 states, was aimed especially at immunizing children "living in the poorest communities or those intermittently cut off by conflict," according to a joint press release from representatives of the in Khartoum. Global Polio Eradication Initiative

Darfur, in western Sudan, is largely isolated by a three-year-old armed conflict that has displaced over 1.8 million and claimed more than 100,000 lives. In southern Sudan, another hard-to-access region, a 22-year-old war ended last year with a peace agreement between rebels and the central government, but the social and economic infrastructure has collapsed. Both the Darfur conflict and the effects of the southern Sudan war hamper immunization efforts.

According to Elbadawi, because many of the children in the two regions weren't reached during the recent effort, several more nationwide immunizations must be organized this year and next year to achieve 100 percent coverage.

"The routine immunization coverage in the northern states is above 80 percent, but the conflict and bordering areas are well behind this average," he notes. "If peace

arrives in Darfur, the peace agreement in [southern Sudan] is implemented, and land mines are removed, then I guess the situation will improve very much."

Two other eastern African countries, Ethiopia and Somalia, also recently carried out mass immunization campaigns. More than 11 million children were targeted in Ethiopia during Subnational Immunization Days, held February 17th - 20th. The number of children who received the oral polio vaccine in Somalia during National Immunization Days, launched on February 20, is not yet known.

Ethiopia, Somalia, and Sudan had all successfully stopped polio transmission for a number of years, until cases of children infected with imported poliovirus were reported in 2004 and 2005.

Despite these reversals, Africa has registered some polio eradication victories. In February, Egypt and Niger were removed from the list of polio-endemic countries, leaving Nigeria as the only African country where the indigenous form of the wild poliovirus still circulates. Afghanistan, India, and Pakistan, all in South Asia, are the only other polio-endemic countries.

Out of this world: It is that time again; time for fun and good food. As previously announced, our Club is organizing the Fourth Annual International Food Festival on Sunday, April 23.

This is probably the biggest and most fun event our Club organizes the entire year those of you who never attended it, it's like going around the world and sampling all kinds of different ethnic and non-ethnic foods. The only problem with this is that you have no room in your tummy to try everything (we need volunteers to supply Alka Seltzer).

I am appealing to you again, to please consider bringing some goodies that you like the most. We are expecting this time over 250 people, there will be lots of guests and the District is considering using this event as the main reception and kick-off of the visiting GSE team and their host families.

Therefore, my fellow SM Rotarians, let's show them how good party organizers we are. Let's show them how wonderful bunch of cooks we are and how much fun we can have.

For planning purposes, please do let me know ASAP what kind of food you plan to bring and quantity (approximately how many people). Your cooperation will be highly appreciated and publicly recognized. And don't forget, the preceding Friday we will be dark and this event counts as a regular or make up meeting.

Steve Alexis, Co-Chair, Food Preparation Committee

Calendar of Events . . .

Fri. Mar. 31

CrAfT tAlks

Mike Nichols

Sat. Apr. 01	Japanese Student Exchange Application due	Victoria Radel
Fri. Apr. 07	Literacy Program and BRING A GUEST DAY	Kris Andresen
Fri. Apr. 14 <i>Fri. Apr. 21</i>	DARK - HAPPY EASTER <i>NO MEETING TODAY ... Meeting/Party</i> <i>Sunday for the International Food Festival</i>	
<i>Sun. Apr. 23</i> Fri. Apr. 28	<i>INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL</i> Honoring Administrative Assistants And Support Staff Day	Diane Margolin
May 4th - 7th	HERE COMES THE SUN Rotary District Conference Mandalay Beach Resort - Oxnard	
Fri. May 05	Cinco de Mayo Janet Salomonson, M.D.	
Fri. May 12	Paul Moyer- BRING A GUEST DAY (Guests will be half price)	
Fri. May 26	DARK - HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY	
June 11 - 14 Fri. June 23	RI Convention in Copenhagen De-Throw-ning Party	see Jim Dyer Shutters

Out of the mouths of babes

1. A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small. The little girl stated that a whale swallowed Jonah. Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible. The little girl said, "When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah". The teacher asked, "What if Jonah went to hell?" The little girl replied, "Then you ask him".
2. A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied, "I'm drawing God." The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like." Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl: replied, "They will in a minute."
3. A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "honor" thy Father and thy Mother, she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our

brothers and sisters?" One little boy (the oldest of a family) answered, "Thou shall not kill."

4. One day a little girl was sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly noticed that her mother had several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast on her brunette head. She looked at her mother and inquisitively asked, "Why are some of your hairs white, Mom?" Her mother replied, "Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white." The little girl thought about this revelation for a while and then said, "Momma, how come ALL of grandma's hairs are white?"

5. The children had all been photographed, and the teacher was trying to persuade them each to buy a copy of the group picture. "Just think how nice it will be to look at it when you are all grown up and say, 'There's Jennifer, she's a lawyer,' or 'That's Michael, He's a doctor.'" A small voice at the back of the room rang out, "And there's the teacher, she's dead."

6. A teacher was giving a lesson on the circulation of the blood. Trying to make the matter clearer, she said, "Now, class, if I stood on my head, the blood, as you know, would run into it, and I would turn red in the face." "Yes," the class said. "Then why is it that while I am standing upright in the ordinary position the blood doesn't run into my feet?" A little fellow shouted, "Cause your feet ain't empty."

7. The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note, and posted on the apple tray: "Take only ONE. God is watching." Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."

Paul's thought for the day: "Sometimes I get the feeling that the whole world is against me, but deep down I know that's not true. Some of the smaller countries are neutral." -- Comedian, Robert Orben

In the language of Rotary ... Med vänlig rotaryhälsning, Obrigado, Cordiali saluti rotariani. Best Rotary Regards, Cordialement, Atentamente, Mit besten rotarischen Grüßen, **RoseMary Regalbuto**