

R TA - M NICA

Issue No. 38 May 5, 2006

At our head table today was **Oded Wolf**, new member **Max Fox**, **Steve Alexis**, **Lionel Ruhman**, **Robert Klein**, **Carol Follette**, **Joe Gonzales**, and Dr. Janet Salomonson, our guest speaker.

Former Prez Lionel was substituting for Prez Paul who was attending Rotary District Conference in Oxnard, so we were treated to some "Ruhmanism" such as "Look what happens when a Fox sits next to a Wolf." With a blast of Lionel's signature whistle toot, John Miller led us in song with Pat Bofird on piano.

Two of Santa Monica's finest organizations were awarded Rotary funds:

Steve Litvack presented \$2,000 to **YMCA** General Director, Tara Pomposini. The Y serves more than 8,000 people in a variety of activities, and they will use the donation for a new elliptical cross trainer.

John Bohn presented \$2,000 to **Chrysalis** VP for Development, Hillary Oberstein. Chrysalis serves more than 2,500 homeless individuals in three locations, including Santa Monica. Chrysalis will use the Rotary funds for equipment for "mock interviews" where volunteers assist the homeless in preparing for job interviews.

Bill Fritzsche wasn't yawning when he reminded us to mark our calendars for the Dethroning Party on June 23. Let's show out in force to "bust the drug dealer" Prez Paul and to welcome incoming President, Jim Dyer. And Bill must not have been yawning when he spoke to the *Palisadian Post*. He and his wife of 53 years, Dolores, were recently featured as one of the "Golden Couples of the Palisades."

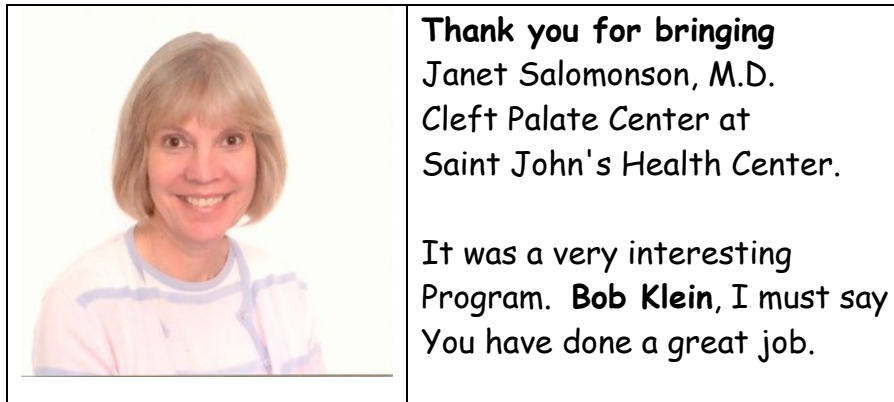
Tom Loo announced the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce's Installation Dinner on June 1 welcoming **John Bohn** and the 2006-2007 Board of Directors. He was also pleased to report that **Mike Nichols**, **Hiroko Ikeda**, and **Klaus Mennekes** are being honored with Paul Harris Fellowships on behalf of their fundraising efforts for the International Food Festival. Funds raised at the food fest help support projects like tsunami relief, Helpguide, and the Center for Healthy Aging. Congratulations Mike, Hiroko, and Klaus; and thank you Tom and Stephanie for being our gracious hosts for one of Rotary's favorite events.

Dr. Janet Salomonson, Medical Director of the Cleft Palate Center at Saint John's Health Center, spoke today about "Cleft Care At Home and Abroad." A cleft palate is a gap or split in the roof of the mouth. Many children with cleft palates also have cleft lips. Cleft conditions are one of the most common birth defects with an occurrence of 1 in

700 births worldwide. More than 5,000 babies are born with these deformities in the U.S. each year.

What used to be a devastating deformity is now highly treatable following a series of reconstructive surgeries. Dr. Salomonson emphasized that cleft care requires a lot of interdisciplinary team work. Within a few months following birth, a plastic surgeon will begin a series of operations to repair the palate and/or lip. A team is assembled to determine the best treatment for the child's problems with his ears, teeth, and speech. Psychosocial counseling may also be necessary to build the child's self-esteem and deal with any family issues.

Because of the relative common occurrence of cleft conditions and the lack of access to healthcare in many parts of the world, Dr. Salomonson travels to developing countries to perform cleft palate surgery on children and even adults for free. She teams up with local providers in countries such as Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Peru so that treatment can be ongoing. Even in the U.S., insurance carriers sometimes treat later stages of cleft surgery, e.g., rhinoplasty as the child grows, as cosmetic surgery. Therefore, private and foundation funding, such as that provided by Rotary, is crucial in helping cleft children rebuild their lives.



Do not miss our program on Friday, May 12th Paul Moyer of ...

"Eyewitness News" L.A. Anchor -	1979-1992
<u>Channel 4 News</u> " Anchor (aka News 4 LA) -	1992
<u>"OJ Simpson: The Trial"</u> TV Series, Anchor	1995
<u>"The West Wing"</u> , <u>Election Day</u> TV Episode	2006

will be our guest speaker and it is also bring a guest day! This is going to be a program no-one should miss. (Ya better let June know how many you're bringing 'cuz we will have a very full house).

97th Rotary International Annual Convention, Malmö, Sweden and Copenhagen, Denmark. June 11 - 14, 2006 -- Two speakers confirmed for 2006 RI Convention!

You won't want to miss these inspiring speakers! Meet the future of Rotary in the person of Rotaractor **Markus Granlund** and learn what one woman has achieved in Missionvale, a shanty town of 100,000 with an unemployment rate of 80-90% through faith and persistence!

Markus Granlund, lawyer, former Ambassadorial Scholar, and Rotaractor from the Rotaract Club of Göteborg and Kristine Binzer, Rotaractor and former Youth Exchange student to Australia, will speak about Bridging the World -- how Rotary bridges nationalities, religions, genders, generations, and ethnicities.

Sister Ethel Normoyle, an Irish missionary from County Clare, is called the Sister Teresa of South Africa for her work in the Missionvale community, empowering residents to become self-sufficient through community gardens, health clinics, pre- and primary schools, day care centers, job counseling, shelters for the homeless, soup kitchens, recycling projects, clean water projects, and more. Look for more information on www.rotary.org

Teens who remove barriers can change society -- By Maureen Vaught

Six high school students from Northern Ireland took a transatlantic break from classes this week and learned that teenagers are the same around the world, regardless of race, religion, or even taste in music.

"When we all come together, we all have the same interests," says participant Kerri O'Loane. "I go to a Catholic school, so I don't have many opportunities to be with people from different religions. I learned so much from this trip."

The 16-18 year olds spent 10 days touring the Chicago area as part of TABU (Toward a Better Understanding), a program of the Rotary clubs of Belfast, Northern Ireland, and Highland Park, Illinois, USA. In its 15th year, TABU seeks to encourage greater understanding and acceptance between youth in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland as well as among students in the United States.

"Our objective has always been to bring together young people of different backgrounds so they can learn about conflict resolution together. An even broader goal, though, is to ultimately change our respective societies for the better," says Neil Dahlmann, a member of the Highland Park club, which hosted the Irish group. Each year, TABU alternates between sending six students from Northern Ireland to the United States and from the United States to Northern Ireland. The Rotary clubs pay all travel expenses for the participants, who stay as guests of local families with teenage children.

This year it was Belfast's turn. Accompanied by three members of the Belfast Rotary club, the students comprised three Catholics, two Protestants, and one Muslim — a first for the program.

"My barriers aren't the same because I'm not involved in the Catholic and Protestant conflict, but there are cultural barriers," Tamim Mobayed says. "But what I've learned [from this trip] is that we're really all the same. It's opened up the world for me."

It's these lessons that have inspired past participants to pursue careers in conflict resolution and international relations. Terry McGuinness traveled to Highland Park in 2000 with TABU. Today, he is pursuing a master's degree in international law and will intern this summer at the Global Policy Forum at the United Nations in New York.

TABU "encouraged my interest in learning about other countries, faiths, and cultures; it added a strong international perspective to my life," McGuinness says. In addition to spending a day at the Highland Park High School, this year's participants visited a homeless shelter, the Chicago Police Department, Naval Training Center Great Lakes, and the Anti-Defamation League.

Rotary helps launch major anti-polio drive in Bangladesh **Nation's first polio case in five years prompts swift response**

Evanston, Ill., USA - Rotary International is participating in a massive polio immunization campaign in Bangladesh aimed at reaching 18 million children under the age of five with the oral polio vaccine.

The campaign began April 16th, the first of three polio National Immunization Days (NIDs) in Bangladesh. The other two NIDs will be May 13th and June 11th. These NIDs were sparked by the confirmation in March that a nine-year old girl from rural Bangladesh had contracted the crippling disease. This was the first case of polio in Bangladesh in more than five years and so far there have been no other reported cases . . .

. . . On March 15th, **The Rotary Foundation approved a \$ 150,000 Rapid Response Grant** in support of the planned immunization activities. The Rotary Foundation's support for polio eradication activities in Bangladesh since 1985 now totals more than US\$17 million. Bangladesh is home to nearly 4,000 Rotary members, many of them active in the polio eradication campaign.

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) works with governments around the world to reduce the incidence of polio and is spearheaded by WHO, Rotary International, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and UNICEF.

... Rotary's commitment to end polio represents the largest private-sector support of a global health initiative ever. In 1985, Rotary members worldwide vowed to immunize all the world's children against polio. Since then, Rotary has contributed more than \$650 million to a polio-free world. Besides raising and contributing funds, over one million men and women of Rotary have volunteered their time and personal resources to help immunize more than 2 billion children in 122 countries during national immunization campaigns.

German Rotarian drums up support for New Orleans musicians: By Bettina Kozlowski:

Fellow Rotarians in Germany call Elmar Hoff "crazy for New Orleans." His deep affection for the southern U.S. city and its music has triggered a nationwide aid campaign on behalf of musicians who suffered losses during Hurricane Katrina.

Hoff, incoming president of the Rotary Club of Gronau-Euregio, is one of the founders and organizers of an internationally renowned jazz festival that happens each April in his hometown of Gronau. (Featured at this year's festival are 10 New Orleans musicians, including "Blues Queen" Marva Wright.) Through his longtime involvement with the festival, he became acquainted with renowned musicians including Fats Domino, whose birthday he celebrated in the musician's home before it was ravaged by floodwaters last August. Hoff has even been named an honorary citizen of New Orleans.

Shocked by the destruction in the city he calls his second home, Hoff convinced his club to help New Orleans musicians by donating a third of the money raised at a club fundraiser in April 2005. Along with private donations, they sent €10,000 (US\$12,000) to the Musicians' Clinic, a New Orleans-based foundation that assists musicians and family members who don't have health insurance.

Hoff didn't stop there. With his help, Gronau established the Help New Orleans aid campaign, which has become a central collection center for money raised across Germany. By March 2006, the town's culture bureau had wired more than €60,000 (US\$73,000) to New Orleans musicians. And 16 more New Orleans artists will perform at jazz fests across Europe this summer thanks to sponsorship by Gronau's Help New Orleans initiative.

"I am so touched by the generosity of all those who are helping our friends in Rotary International's homeland," Hoff says. "It shows our main priority is not to be entertained but to be there for them in hard times."

Calendar of Events . . .

- Fri. May 12 **Paul Moyer- BRING A GUEST DAY**
defining Moments, over 40 years of daily news:
A Personal Look.
 <Pssst> Remember, guests will be 1/2 price
- Sat. May 20 **District Assembly Meeting**, Carson Community Center
- Fri. May 26 **DARK - HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY**
- June 11 - 14 RI Convention in Copenhagen see **Jim Dyer**
- Fri. June 23 De-Throw-ning Party Shatters - **Jim Westbrook**

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