



# HIGHLIGHTER

## District 5300 Project Fair on March 22

Tuesday, March 9, 2021



Join us on Monday, March 22, at 6:00 p.m. for a District 5300 Project Fair. We will feature a presentation from Shelterbox, one of Rotary International's partners in disaster response.

Then we will hear about global grants projects being organized by the Montebello, Las Vegas After Hours, and East Los Angeles clubs. Each of these three projects are planned to take place here in District 5300.

Finally, we will hear from Global Hope Network International, a member of our Pahrump Valley club.

You will find ways for you and your club to be involved in these projects so you can help change lives here in District 5300 and around the world!

## District 5300 Adds its First Caused Based Rotary Club

Saturday, March 13, 2021



By: Bob Spence  
President Elect  
Rotary club of Ontario Montclair

There were two fellows standing on a street corner. A younger fellow and a middle aged guy. The younger fellow says "I wish we could do more." The middle aged guys says "Are you serious or just pulling my leg." The younger fellow says "yeah, I'm serious. I've never been more serious." Thus, the journey begins.

This was not just any street corner. This was in front of Cameron Elementary School in West Covina. You know the place. The school with the really nice principal, Mrs. Fullerton. Oh, and don't forget Mrs. Okamoto, the totally awesome special assignments teacher.

These guys were handing out bags that had been made by other volunteers.

## Rotary Night in Las Vegas - Fun For You; Fundraiser For Your Club

Saturday, March 13, 2021

**In the house... Your house**  
DO YOU MISS VEGAS? WE'RE BRINGING THE STRIP RIGHT INTO YOUR LIVING ROOM.  
Your ticket comes with a **\$25 Pizza Hut online coupon.**  
**Streaming Saturday, April 17 at 6pm**  
More performances all night long after the first show!  
**Headliners include:**  
Magician Mat Franco  
Comedian Carrot Top  
Fantasy Show Girls  
Frank Marino as Joan Rivers  
The Australian Bee Gees  
The Carpenters Tribute  
Neil Diamond Tribute  
The Kingston Trio Tribute  
**WELCOME**  
Buy Tickets at [rotarysummerlin.org](http://rotarysummerlin.org)

By Glenn Ritt  
Assistant Governor, Group 12  
Rotary Club of Summerlin, Immediate Past President

What started as a modest Las Vegas Summerlin Rotary fundraiser has evolved into a pretty big production - a streaming evening of Vegas Strip entertainment along with a \$25 Pizza Hut gift certificate included.

Headliners include Mat Franco, Carrot Top, and Frank Moreno, along with the Fantasy Show Girls, the Australian Bee Gees, and cover presentations by Neil Diamond, the Carpenters and yes, the original Kingston Trio. We even have a guest appearance by the late Milton Berle.

Several clubs locally gave us an idea - offer it as a mini fundraiser to them. So, why not offer it throughout District 5300? We will give each club its own code which is advertised to its members and anyone else that club reaches. For every ticket sold with that code, the club gets \$25 of the ticket price, which also includes a \$25 Pizza Hut online coupon good anywhere any time.

The Vegas Show Night is Saturday, April 17, at 6:00 with repeat performances after that for those who cannot make 6:00 p.m.

We've kept the Summerlin brand as discreet as possible with this in mind, although we do feature charities that feed those in need, serve homeless teens, and care for families of children with cancer.

We also heavily promote Rotary.

Since this is a Las Vegas night out at home, we think this may be appealing for any and all clubs throughout the district.

Bags for the children to carry their books home. I know what you are thinking. Bags, what bags, they don't need no stinkin' bags. The story is a bit more complicated. In March of 2020 the students were told that school was closed. Indefinitely. No chance of going back to school to pick up your books. You will all now be learning on computers. We have discovered there is a plague. No one in the world is safe. This is not an exercise. Shut-down is the new normal.

In May the children and their guardians/parents were allowed to drive by the school and pick up their books. A lot of books. Better if you do not get out of the car. Put the books in the bags and hand it to someone in the car. By the way, these two guys were taking a big risk. There is no vaccine, no cure, no nothing. But they have big hearts so they do it.  
Fast Forward.

West Covina Christian Church Senior Pastor, Kory Wenell (the middle age guy), reached out to Michael Flowers, a member of the West Covina School District Board. Our church wants to help the children as part of our community outreach program. What can we do? The response was that the students must have a strong need for tutoring. A meeting was set up with Mr. Flowers, Charles Hinmam Ed.D, the school superintendent, Pastor Wenell, Sy Troung (the younger guy and a biology professor at Cal Poy), and an old guy, Bob (that's me), a church member and past Assistant District Governor for Rotary District 5300.

The school district needs one on one in person tutoring. The goal is to uplift the students, provide social and academic interaction, help them with their homework, and provide them with encouragement. We agreed that sessions would be held on Monday and Wednesday afternoons and Wednesday evening. The tutors were recruited. Many of them are former teachers. Vicky Abbott, a local Rotarian and former math teach was one of the tutors. The school selected the students based on iReady assessments.

Students with low pass rates were assigned for tutoring. The focus was on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. The sessions would be held on the outside patio of the church. CDC guidelines were followed. Release forms were signed. The children came. They were so much fun to work with. Smiles, giggles, and scratching their heads at new concepts. The parents were so appreciative. The pilot program starting in September lasted for six weeks. A second session was set up starting in January 2021. Most of the students came again. They were joined by others. By the end of the second session a few of the volunteers had received the vaccine. Yet the pandemic is still raging.

Bob (the old guy) had been communicating this tutoring idea to District 5300 Governor Nominee Roger Gutierrez. He jumped in with both feet. He came to the tutoring training session and donated money to help with the program. He suggested the formation of a Rotary Club. What? Stop the presses. Why form a Rotary club? Thus the plot thickens.

A cause based Rotary Club will allow for exposure of this program to our entire Rotary District. It could even be a model for other Rotary Clubs. This club can do fundraisers, recruit members that want to serve the community by tutoring the children, and even apply for grants.

On 3 March 2021 the West Covina Tutorial Cause Based, California, USA club received its charter from Rotary International. Principal Fullerton of Cameron Elementary school is one of the charter members. Rotary, the church, and the school are now all holding hands to help our children in need. A typical Rotary success story!

## The Azusa Club is Growing!

Tuesday, March 9, 2021



If you're interested in learning more Please reach me by [email](#) or call 508-558-0271.

## Mark Liang, Our Newest Global Grant Scholar

Tuesday, March 9, 2021



Mark Liang

By: Bill Payne  
District 5300 Global Grant Scholarship Chair  
Rotary Club of San Marino

Rotary International announced in February that San Marino High School Class of 2015 graduate, Mark Liang, has received a Global Grant Scholarship for graduate study in the MPhil Health, Medicine and Society program at Cambridge University (UK) beginning this October.

His interests align with Rotary's *Disease Prevention and Treatment* area of focus. The scholarship has a value of \$31,000.

At Cambridge, Liang plans to study the ways immigrants are disproportionately affected by disease when crossing borders and geographic boundaries. He expects to work extensively with the health organizations at Cambridge and the United Kingdom, extending the work he already has been doing in the U.S.

During high school, Liang volunteered at the San Marino Motor Classic as an Eagle Scout selling tickets, participated in Interact, and he helped decorate the Rotary float for the Tournament of Roses Parade.

He graduated from Brown University in 2019, magna cum laude, with degrees in Biology and STS (Science, Technology and Society). He was a former Fulbright Scholar, to Macau, China. He is currently taking a gap year, working as an Analyst at the Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine in Pasadena. He has deferred medical school for a year to take this scholarship.

His host is the Cambridge Rotary Club, in District 1080. It is expected that Mark will speak at various club meetings, attend their district conference, and generally be a resource to Rotarians and their programs while abroad.

The Rotary Club of San Marino is his sponsor, having now had 30 of its nominees for the Ambassadorial, now Global Grant, Scholarship accepted by Rotary International. He found out about the scholarship through an article in the *Tribune* newspaper about previous Global Grant scholar, Jacqueline Chen, a fellow Titan classmate who received her Masters from Oxford.

Each year, the San Marino Rotary Club seeks to identify a global grant applicant, one who desires to further his/her education abroad, for a Masters or Doctorate degree, and whose coursework and extra-curricular activities align with one or more of Rotary's 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; and the Environment.

By Rae Kearney  
Assistant Governor, Group 5  
Treasurer, Rotary Club of Azusa

Azusa Rotary is growing! Despite the hardships of a pandemic and limited social interaction, our small club of 14 gained four new members in the first eight months of the 2020-21 Rotary year, a 100% increase over each of the four previous years.

How did we manage to attract members in the year of COVID-19? Mostly through word of mouth.

It began in early 2020 when Mayra, the mother of a TLC student, visited our club to hear her daughter speak enthusiastically about her leadership camp experience. Mayra quickly learned how our youth programs impact the lives of local students, and she shared this discovery with her friend, Luz. As mothers of school-aged children and parent leaders in the school district, Mayra and Luz recognized how their interests aligned closely with our club's commitment to serving local youth and at-risk students. They soon began to attend club meetings and engage in our club's activities.

In July 2020, we were excited to induct Mayra into our club, and within two weeks, she eagerly accepted the Youth Service Director position. Since then, through her efforts and school connections, she has revived two Interact Clubs, secured a district grant for music scholarships, and initiated a student scholarship program. Luz followed in Mayra's footsteps and became a member in September 2020. Soon after, Luz expressed interest in becoming the Community Service Director, and our board elected her without hesitation. She is now serving on three committees and assisting Mayra with our youth initiatives.

Luz did not waste any time sharing Rotary with Yvette, an Orthopedic Itinerant teacher with a big heart for special needs students. In a presentation to our club, Yvette shared her dream of building an inclusive outdoor playground for disabled children. Her work with special education students and her ambition to lead the way for a sustainable community project appealed to our club members. Since joining our club in December 2020, she has started a fundraising committee and brings a fresh perspective in planning club projects.

Our latest member, Tom, is a real estate consultant and a community activist. As a long-time friend and honorary member of the Azusa Rotary Club, he was always one step away from active membership. Well, that day finally arrived in February 2021, when he decided it was time to join our growing club. His first endeavor as a new member was to secure a donation of supplies from Staples for our Azusa students, and we know Tom is talking up Rotary in his community circles.

Rotarians are called to inspire and engage new members, providing meaningful service and leadership opportunities in areas of their interest. Yet, our latest members motivate us and energize our club with their vitality as they open new doors for serving the broader needs of our community. They genuinely embrace Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self."

## Las Vegas Club Global Grant with Poltava, Ukraine

Tuesday, March 9, 2021



By: Karen Whisenhunt  
Rotary Club of Las Vegas, Past President

Applicants are interviewed on the Club and District level, in person if possible, but by Zoom/Skype if necessary. For further information, please contact William Payne, San Marino Rotary Global Grant Chair, at 626.252.9505 or bill.payne10@gmail.com.

## March Membership Corner

Tuesday, March 9, 2021



By: Gilda Moshir  
District 5300 Membership Chair  
Rotary Club of San Marino

At our recent membership committee meeting, we were discussing how to retain our members and the Rotary Club of Summerlin never ceases to amaze me. They have a ♦lifeline calling system♦ in their club. Members call members who are not attending the zoom meetings and just check in with them. In fact, they even go further and have created a fund for dues if a member finds him/herself in a tight financial spot. They have a 501(c)(3) Foundation and hold an annual fundraiser to fund a \$15,000 fund for members who can't pay for their dues. I ♦m sure during COVID those funds were used with pleasure.

The Azusa and the Montebello clubs, too, have a phone call system. Their goal is to show their members that ♦we care." After all, we joined the club to help our community and that starts with our own members.

If your club has a story related to membership ♦ recruitment and retention, please share ♦ so other clubs can partake in that information and use it in their clubs.

## New Interact Club Chartered by Claremont Rotary Club

Saturday, March 13, 2021



By: Buff Wright  
President  
Rotary Club of Claremont

The Rotary Club of Claremont happily sponsored a new Interact Club this year at the Webb Schools in Claremont. Webb Schools is a private boarding and day high school, described on its web page as a community fostering independence, and feeding the smart, curious, independent mind. They stress that community is their most important resource, helping students to grow and develop their sense of self and to act with honor and moral courage. Interact is a natural fit!

The Webb Schools Interact Club has been remarkably active, given the fact that school has been virtual all year. In the fall, the members organized the Constitution and bylaws and the Club is now duly certified by Rotary international. While waiting for the certification, they participated with

Some of you may recall the visit we had from a wonderful group of ladies from the Ukraine back in October 2019 as part of the Open World Program.

For our newer members, the Open World program is an International program funded by the Library of Congress and administered by Rotary Clubs around the country. We work with emerging nations, primarily in Eurasia. The hope is to advance peace through trust and friendship while providing insight into their professions. There are various themes within the Open World Program. Our all-female delegation from the Ukraine were educators focusing on children with special needs, primarily autism. The team consisted of five delegates, one facilitator, and one translator.

While they were in Las Vegas, we arranged for a very intense week of professional appointments mixed with cultural and social activities. The ladies were hosted by Rotarians in their homes and shuttled around from appointment to appointment also by Rotarians. In addition to learning about their professions, the ladies also learned a lot about our Rotary world and opportunities for future partnerships. Let me tell you, when these dynamic ladies left, they were on fire! At our debriefing meeting they wanted to know what they should do with their newfound knowledge. After a long discussion, we said, go back and make a difference in the lives of the children.

Well, they did just that. One delegate was already a Rotarian and two others have since joined. They went straight to work coming up with a project to help the children. Today I am happy to report that they have submitted an application to The Rotary Foundation for a Global Grant with the Rotary Club of Poltava, Ukraine. Both past president Jackie Thornhill and President Richard Jost put forth \$5,000 each for a total contribution of 10,000. Those funds are matched by our district and then by the Rotary Foundation. So, our \$10,000 becomes a \$30,000 contribution towards the project. Poltava Rotary also came up with matching funds in addition to partnering with local organizations for the educational aspect of the grant. The application submitted to The Rotary Foundation is a \$45,000 grant. This is the magic of the matching funds within Rotary and how far we can stretch our dollars.

It doesn't end there. In addition, the ladies also applied for an additional \$25,000 grant called the Hearts our Europe Grant. This is a new grant available to Eurasia in partnership with the US and administered through The Rotary Foundation. The two grants totaling \$70,000, among other things, will provide three Sensory Training Rooms and Equipment for autistic children, Sand Boxes for therapy, and extensive education through partnerships for the teachers and the parents of the children. In total, 1,400 autistic children could benefit from these grants.

So, I would like to thank YOU, the members, for your contributions to The Rotary Foundation. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of the children.

## 2021 Rotary International Convention Now Virtual

Tuesday, February 2, 2021



A message from Holgar Knaack, Rotary International President 2020-21

Dear friends,

By now we have sadly grown accustomed to hearing of the need to shift major public events to being held virtually rather than face to face. Unfortunately, the Rotary Board of Directors was compelled to again make the difficult decision to celebrate this year's International Convention as a virtual event. While this may not be an unexpected decision, it is still a deeply disappointing one for us and for our friends in Taiwan who have been planning an exceptional event. I want to thank the Host Committee for the admirable job they did building support for what surely would have been one of Rotary's finest events.

We had hoped that a combination of vaccine uptake and public health measures would have brought the COVID-19 pandemic under control. We all know that in many parts of the world the pandemic is still raging and we must maintain our vigilance and patience before resuming major public gatherings. Taiwan has done an admirable job managing the pandemic and local Rotarians were still eager to host and celebrate with us. Under the guidance of the World Health Organization and the local public health

members of our Club in planting citrus trees for Uncommon Good, a local non-profit, on the grounds of Claremont's San Antonio High School. The students have also done two projects for our local senior center, packaging holiday treats for Christmas and Valentine's day. The Interactors will also participate in the Club's District Grant project, planting landscaping for the California Botanic Garden and a Lefler Grant project, raising funds and packaging shoes for Shoes That Fit. They plan to contribute to a medical and dental clinic project Claremont Rotary is contemplating in partnership with the San Clemente Club in Guatemala.

One of the organizers of the Webb Schools Interact Club is the daughter of two members of our Club who joined last year as a family. Immediate past president Cameron Troxell, a Webb graduate, is the Rotary liaison. Cameron is assisted by member Gerald Goldstein whose two children went to Webb.

The Rotary Club of Claremont also sponsors Interact Clubs at Claremont High School and El Roble Intermediate School, and a Rotaract Club at Claremont McKenna College.

## Support the Rotary Rose Parade Float

Friday, January 8, 2021



"The year 2020 has and will change the world. Rotary and Rotarians will also need to change but their essence and devotion to Service Above Self not. And this is what we will need to remember and double our efforts to promote Rotary to the world. We must remind people that they are not alone, and they too can help by working with or joining Rotary. Since 1980, 42 continuous years, the Rotary Rose Parade Float Committee has entered a Float in the Pasadena Tournament of Roses, Rose Parade. This is the largest Public Image project by Rotarians promoting Rotary. We hope you will support us by watching the Float in the Rose Parade and by donating what you can. Also, if you can, come help decorate the Float and Experience the Magic! of the entire week's events." - Rotary Rose Parade Float Committee Chair PDG Randy Pote

You can help support our float by purchasing the 2021 Rotary Rose Parade Committee Patch seen above. Patches cost \$50 and are a fundraiser to provide money to build the 2022 float. You can purchase yours at the Rotary Rose Parade Float Committee store at this [LINK](#).

## Have you joined Rotary Direct?

Sunday, September 6, 2020

organization in Taiwan, it became clear that an event of this scale would be impossible to host safely.

While we are disappointed that we could not have a traditional convention, we are excited about the virtual event being planned for all Rotarians worldwide. Last year's convention attracted significant viewership during its weeklong program. This year, we will channel all we have learned about staging the very best in virtual events into a program that promises to open new opportunities for you to be entertained, enlightened and energized. We will share more details about the 2021 Virtual Convention soon.

#### Convention, pre-convention, and ticket refunds

We will automatically cancel and refund all existing registrations. This includes purchases made for the Rotaract and Youth Exchange and the Intercountry Committees pre-convention events, and ticketed meal events. We kindly ask that you do not contact RI Registration to inquire about your registration, ticket, or housing cancellations as we work diligently to inform all attendees and process cancellations and refunds. For those who had already canceled prior to today, you will also receive a refund of the \$50 processing fee.

#### Host Organization Committee (HOC) ticketed event registrations

The HOC event ticket fees will be refunded by the Taipei HOC. For more information, please visit [rotarytaipei2021.org](http://rotarytaipei2021.org).

#### Hotel rooms

If you have secured accommodations within Rotary's official housing block, no action will be required on your end. Maritz, Rotary's official housing partner, will contact you with the details of your cancellation. If you have secured a group room block and made a full or partial payment, you will receive a follow-up communication and instructions on receiving a refund.

I want to thank all Rotarians and Rotaractors around the world for your understanding and your continued willingness to learn and adapt. We are becoming a stronger, more nimble organization because of this, and our Virtual Convention will be a reflection of this new Rotary.

Please be safe and take care of each other.

Kindest regards,

Holger Knaack  
President, Rotary International, 2020-21



A message from District 5300 District Rotary Foundation Chair, Susan Johnson

District 5300 reminds its members it will donate 250 of its Foundation Recognition Points to those who enroll in Rotary's recurring giving program, "Rotary Direct," which makes contributing to "The Rotary Foundation" fast, easy and secure.

Under this program, District 5300 Rotarians can schedule monthly, quarterly, or annual contributions made in any increments, i.e. \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100 or more, empowering them to change lives in their local community or throughout the world. Contributions to The Rotary Foundation to either its featured causes (Annual Fund, Polio Plus, World Fund or Disaster Relief) or the seven areas of focus (Peace Building and Conflict Prevention, Disease Prevention and Disease, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Maternal and Child Health, Basic Education and Literacy, Community Economic Development, and Supporting the Environment) are eligible for Paul Harris Fellow recognition, however, only those donations to the featured causes generate District Designated Funds (DDF). Enrolling in "Rotary Direct" can be accomplished through Rotary International's website or by contacting your District 5300 Rotary Foundation Chair, Susan Johnson.

In addition, District 5300 will match up to 500 of its Foundation Recognition Points to contributions made by or on behalf of Rotarians who have not yet reached their First Paul Harris Fellow recognition. Such contributions can be made by monetary donations or transfer of recognition points by member or club. For example, a member contributing \$500 will receive a match of 500 District matching points, resulting in him or her reaching their first Paul Harris Fellow recognition. A member contributing \$250 and receiving a 250-point match of recognition points by his or her club, will also receive 500 District matching points, again resulting in him or her reaching such distinction.

*What is the Deadline? When all District Recognition Points are depleted!*  
Contact your District 5300 Rotary Foundation Chair, Susan Johnson, if interested!

## Zone 26/27 Virtual Library

Sunday, September 6, 2020



The Zone 26/27 website now includes a Virtual Library. This is a new feature that will include information about virtual fundraising, speaker recommendations, virtual meeting suggestions and more. You can also find valuable information and resources for membership, brand, and foundation topics.

The website address is [www.zone2627.org](http://www.zone2627.org).

