

# The Highlighter

May 1, 2019 Volume 92, No. 11

## WHAT! YOU MISSED IT?????

WELL, stay tuned for the next Highlighter where we will recap the **2018-19 District Conference** and celebrate the extraordinary work done in your Clubs, your Communities and around the world, all in the name of Rotary and Service Above Self! What a year and congrats to all!!!

### Green Valley Rotary is Hosting it's 2nd Annual Field of Honor

*Rotary Club of Green Valley* is hosting their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Field of Honor<sup>®</sup> on Memorial Weekend, May 24 – 27<sup>th</sup>. The weekend-long event will be held at **Cornerstone Park** in Henderson, Nevada. This year they will be placing 1000 flags in the field. They will also have separate areas to honor the October 1 victims, and to show their support and pride for the 2018 S.O.A.R. recipients. Support the club and the local charities they serve by coming to the event, or by purchasing a flag to honor your hero. Information can be found on their website at [www.greenvalleyrotary.org](http://www.greenvalleyrotary.org).



### East Los Angeles Rotarian Honored by the American Red Cross

Our very own **Rotarian Rudy Salinas** was honored by the *American Red Cross* on Feb 12, 2019. Rudy, is one of the few persons to reach One Thousand ( 1,000) platelet donations for the American Red Cross Southern Region. A banquet was given by the Red Cross Staff to celebrate this amazing achievement.

The event was attended by the Staff and Rudy's Friends and Family. Testimonies of how donating blood saves lives was the main subject of the evening. Rudy had the opportunity to meet one recipient of his donations, a little boy named Matthew, who had been very sick. His doctors had tried several medications and procedures to try and help him get better, but it wasn't until he received a platelet donation from Rudy that really helped to turn Matthew's health around.

One staff member wrote a song in his honor to the tune of Sinatra's "*I Did It My Way*" The last line of that song says, "your selfish

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## Last Minute Call for Volunteers for May 18th Super Build!

For those who have never participated, and even for those who have, Super Build is a partnership with Corazon and District 5300 and an opportunity for Rotarians, future Rotarians, friends and family to change the lives of families Internationally with a hands on project -building homes! Participants can range in age from 15 to 100! There are jobs for all including painting, passing out water, translating, framing, roofing etc.. You do not have to have construction experience to be able to join us - just a giving heart. [Register](#)



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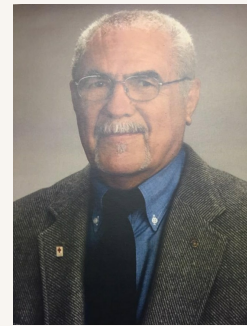
### DID YOU KNOW?

On May 4, 1987, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Rotary clubs may not exclude women from membership on the basis of gender. Rotary issued a policy statement that any Rotary club in the United States can admit qualified women into membership.

The *Rotary Club of Marin Sunrise*, California (formerly Larkspur Landing), chartered on May 28, 1987 and becomes the first club after the U.S. Supreme Court ruling to have women as charter members.

Our very own **Sylvia Whitlock**, of the *Rotary Club of Duarte*, California, became the first female Rotary club president, and went on to serve as our District Governor!

act of rolling up your sleeves, to donate platelets for those in need, you have done it all to help us all and.....you did it your way”



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# MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**5/18 - Corazon SuperBuild**

[Registration and Information Link](#)

**6/1 - 6/5 - RI International Conference  
Hamburg, Germany**

[Registration Link](#)

**6/9 - 6/23 - Rotoplast Mission to  
Tanzania**

**7/1/2019 - 2018-19 PRESIDENTS - TIME  
TO CELEBRATE A JOB WELL DONE!**

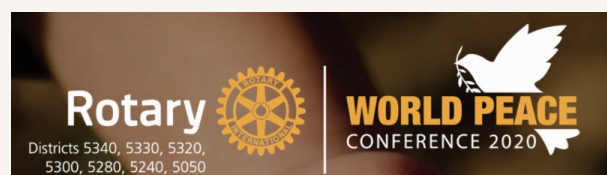
**1/17 - 1/18 - Rotary World Peace  
Conference**

[Registration Link](#)

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### World Peace Conference

It's not too early to register for the multi-District 2020 World Peace Conference being held in Ontario, California on January 17 and 18, 2020. Join world leaders to exchange ideas and take action! [Register](#)





# Building Peace Takes All of Us - One Person at a Time

by Mary Ann Lutz

February 23, 2019 was an important day in our Rotary world. Our district held its 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Peace Conference at the beautiful campus of *University of La Verne*. Our theme was, “*Peacebuilding: One Person at a Time*”.

The program, led masterfully by **Michael Driebe**, was virtually a who’s who of peacebuilders who shared their personal and professional steps that build peace through hand’s on, very do-able actions. They ranged from an internationally recognized **Congressman and Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood** who wrote about his life in “*Seeking Bipartisanship: My Life in Politics*”, to **Yvonne St. John-Dutra** who, if you knew her, would know that she changes the lives of young people every day through her program *Challenge Day*, to an Assistant Professor of Politics at *Pomona College*, **Dr. Tom Le, Ph.D.** who shared strategies for peace around the world focusing on the US and North Korea and Japan and South Korea, to **Dr. Sarah Philips** who brought us an insightful rendition of Poetry from Lady *InspiroLogos*; to our own fellow *West Covina Rotarian*, **Thomas Allison** who taught us how using social justice tools you can change hate into a community.

Inspiration was brought to us from the youth of our district who were present and apart of the program. They also had the opportunity to learn from each other in a separate environment. We honored beautiful works of art with our Art for Peace Student Contest and honored our Youth Peace Champions.

Our annual *Peacemaker of the Year* award was presented to the **Honorable Ray LaHood**.

The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Peace Conference Committee was led by **PDG Garbis Der-Yeghian** who continues to bring relevance and importance to peacebuilding to our district and the world.



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## RYLA Rocked!

by Tony Scheppmann

RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) - Another successful leadership camp with approximately 340 high school students! 60 Rotarians also enjoyed 3 speakers, lab

## Meet the Newest Club in the District!

by Linda Bertuzzi

The *Las Vegas After Hours Rotary Club* became the newest club in District 5300, and the world, on May 1, 2019. Chartered with 22 members, this new Club is well on its



sessions, food packaging event, great music and camp. Dedicated Rotarians volunteer countless hours leading up to camp, many involved in RYLA and TLC for years. Thanks to the 17 committee members dedicated to the planning and success: **Angel Bocanegra, Mike Driebe, Dawn Green, Tom Hould, Karen Jones, Celeste Kelley, Raghada Khoury, Darren Krohn, Steve Murray, Tom Novotny, Sean O'Donohue, CP Phan, Teresa Podroski, Meg Ryan, Chelsea Schepmann, Mike Soden, Dave Speidel** and **Erica Yang**. Check out students' RYLA Challenge Videos: [RYLA Challenge Videos](#)

And spoiler alert! TLC(Teen Leadership Camp), is just around the corner, December 6 – 8, at Camp Cedar Crest. If you joined Rotary for the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others, TLC is your chance. Please reach out at [rotarytlc2019@gmail.com](mailto:rotarytlc2019@gmail.com) to learn about the role you can play.

way to making a difference all around the world! Formed with a foundation firmly planted in hands-on service, especially to our youth, we logged several hundred service hours before ever chartering - Serving meals to the homeless, spreading love at a home for pregnant and homeless teens, packing meals for homeless high school students, ringing the bell for Salvation Army, new clothes shopping with well deserving young students, birthday partying at a local Boys and Girls Club, sharing Easter fun at a children's cancer center and, if all this wasn't enough, two of our members are leaving the end of May to deliver solar lights in the Philippines, seven are part of Super Build, and another is leaving in June for Tanzania for Rotoplast! Thank you *Las Vegas Rotary Club* and *Downtown Las Vegas Rotary Club* for your generous support and to **DG John Chase** for being with us every step of the way! WE did it!



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## The Governor's Wrap

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When thinking upon the awesome work being done by our 65 Rotary Clubs, one cannot help but reflect upon the work we do for children, both near and far. May is Youth Services Month, and I believe youth are and will continue to be an amazing vehicle for retaining and attracting new members. I have had the opportunity to be RYLA chair on three different occasions – each reaffirmed that we indeed change the lives of young participants and Rotarians alike, throughout that three-day leadership program. Indeed, we have Rotarians that remain in Rotary simply to work on the RYLA program. Where passion for service and membership intersect is where all clubs and our members should strive to be.

Are you cruising through your Rotary journey in a place where your passion and interest are

being met? If so, great! If not, why not? I encourage you to take charge of your own Rotary journey – you're the author of your own story. If you find yourself plagued with writers' cramp, stand-up, stretch, and get back to work on the aspect of your Rotary membership you enjoy the most – that is what Rotarians do – you are a Rotarian – **Be The Inspiration!**

**May is Youth Service Month - Check out Rotary.org for tools to start an Interact Club, Rotaract Club or Host a Youth Exchange!**



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### **Helloo - YES you! Look Down Here!!! We Want to Hear From YOU!**

Share the news about your Club, special member recognitions, programs, or events. Newsletter articles are due by the 20th of the month prior to publication. Highlight one special event, recognition, fundraiser, community or international service - 150 words or less, edited and ready for publication. Photos in JPG format with submission. Please provide credits for article and photos. Submit to **newsletter**

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