



# ROTARY CLUB OF CARSON-GARDENA-DOMINGUEZ

@ Millender-McDonald Community Center  
3 Civic Plaza Drive  
Carson, CA 90745

Phone: (310) 816-8810 www.rotarycgd.org

Club Number: 736 Chartered: August 16, 1947

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# LA RUEDA

Noon Luncheon Meeting @ Millender-McDonald Community Center

16 December 2009, Issue 3221

### CLUB OFFICERS

WALTER NEIL .....President  
DAN MEDINA ..... Immediate Past President  
JEREMY BROWN.....President-Elect  
SCOTT SIMMS .....Treasurer

### CLUB DIRECTORS

CHET CRAFT - Club Service  
KIM RICHARDS - Community Service  
LARRY YBARRA - International Service  
OJ PANDEY - Vocational Service  
TOM WILLOUGHBY - Youth Service  
BRANDON CARILLO - Foundation Chair  
DAVID GAMBLE - Literacy Chair  
SHERI REPP- Membership Chair  
DAN MEDINA - Program Chair  
CARA RICE - Webster  
MIRIAM GRIER - Social Events Chair  
TOM HUSTON - Sergeant at Arms  
CHRIS MARK - Secretary & La Rueda Editor

DISTRICT 5280 GOVERNOR  
SUSANNE SUNDBERG



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT  
JOHN KENNY



### THE FOUR WAY TEST

Is it the **TRUTH**?  
Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?  
Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?  
Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?



### ANNOUNCEMENTS

With a wave of her magic wand, Miriam Grier delivered another wonderful **Holiday Party**. Rotarians, family members and friends turned out to join us in ringing in the holiday season. Our delicious buffet dinner catered by Jay's Catering was followed by the popular sundae bar. DJ "Dan the Ham" Medina entertained us with his DJ ability and his Santa Claus impersonations. Santa Claus rode in on a fire truck and did not disappoint with all the great gifts for the children. Thanks, Miriam, for working your magic!



*My, the kids get bigger every year! When do they stop believing in Santa?*



*And have you been good this year, President Walter?*

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### Friday, December 18

Rotary Club of Latinos Unidos - 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Food & Toy Drive @ Tower Insurance, 4244 Overland Avenue, Culver City, 6:00 PM.

#### Saturday, December 19

Rotary Club of Palos Verdes Sunset - Warner Grand Holiday @ 478 W. Sixth Street, San Pedro, 6:30 PM.

#### Wednesday, December 23

Club is dark for Christmas.

Rotary Club of Wilshire - Last day for Christmas Tree Lot @ Larchmont Village, 568 N. Larchmont, Los Angeles.

#### Wednesday, December 30

Club is dark for New Year's.

#### Friday, January 8

Entry deadline for District Rotary Radio Contest.



*Leave it to Jay's Catering to lay out a spread!*



*Even the adults had fun at the Craft Corner!*

Christmas came early for Jay's Catering servers Ernie, Ralph and Ricky. In appreciation of their attentive and gracious service, President Walter presented each with a gift. Not only is the food excellent, so is the staff!

The **Boys & Girls Club of Carson** will be having their annual Holiday Party on December 18<sup>th</sup> at their Main Street Clubhouse, 21502 S. Main Street, Carson, 5:00-8:00 PM. There will be lots of fun and games, so please swing and share in the joy of the holiday season... and bring your kids because Santa will be there for photos!

President Walter announced it's that time of the year when election of **Officers and Directors** for the 2010-2011 Rotary Year takes place. If you are interested in serving as an Officer or as an Avenue of Service Director, please contact him or President-Elect Jeremy Brown. President Walter encouraged members to continue their support to ensure the club's success in the coming year. It is only through your active participation that we are able to make a difference in the community.

Congratulations, Tori! The seven Southern California Rotary Districts each selected a Rotaractor or young Rotarian to ride the Rotary Rose Parade Float. Our own **Tori Hettinger** will represent the Rotaractors of District 5280. A number of Interact and Rotary Clubs will be decorating the float getting ready for the January 1<sup>st</sup> parade.

The final date to register for **Ecuador 2010** has been extended to January 31<sup>st</sup>. Registrations submitted January 15<sup>th</sup> and later will require the full fee of \$1,400. If you are interested in visiting the Galapagos during this trip, make certain to contact Maite Ortega at [mortega@creter.com](mailto:mortega@creter.com).

In observance of Christmas and New Year, the club will be dark **December 23<sup>rd</sup> and December 30<sup>th</sup>**. Our next regular meeting will be on January 6th. As the calendar year draws to a close, I would like to thank the many Rotarians and friends who gave service to those in need. It is only with your support that we are one of the most effective clubs in the District. I wish you all a joyous Holiday Season and a prosperous New Year!



### FINE TIME

Dave Gamble was absent two weeks ago - \$5 fine. Larry Ybarra made up his two absences at a District meeting and the Holiday Party.

Our Secret Greeter today was Dan Medina, who incurred a \$5 fine when he forgot that Sheri Repp had greeted him with a tap on the shoulder. Larry Ybarra closed Fine Time with a quick and accurate answer to the Fiction & Fact Question.



### CHRISTMAS TRAIN TO TECATE



Life plays cruel tricks to people and how they react to it shows what kind of true character they have. Jack and Clare Stewart were the parents of Bekki Stewart who died in a car accident in 1996 when she was only 36 years old. At the Thanksgiving dinner that year, Jack and Clare gave everyone \$20 to be used to make a child happy at Christmas in the memory of their beloved Bekki. The people purchased gifts with the money and they

were then given out to a needy family.

At the Thanksgiving dinner of 1997, each member of the family was again given \$20. Someone in the family had taken the San Diego Railroad Museum's Excursion Train from Campo to Tecate and remembered seeing all the poor children playing along the tracks on that trip. The idea of using the Museum's excursion train to pass out candy canes using the money the family had put together was conceived. The Museum offered the use of their train between Campo and Tecate for the delivery of the gifts. The Christmas Train was born.

The Christmas Train to Tecate was to go in December 1997, but it was discovered that in Mexico Epiphany was on January 6, 1998, the most important gift-giving day in that country. The date of the first Christmas Train was then set for Saturday, January 10, 1998 and they took Three Kings in costumes along with them on the trip. Because they took the Three Kings it has become known as the Three Kings Train in Mexico and always arrives each year on the weekend closest to January 6<sup>th</sup>. In its first year of operation, 2,300 needy children received gifts. The event has grown over the years. In 2006, over 6,000 children benefited from the event. The Mayor of Tecate says, "This is the most important event of the year for Tecate's children."

This year's Christmas Train is in need of donations of gifts for the children. Gifts are packed for boys, girls and babies. All toys must be new and a size that fits into a standard plastic grocery bag. Educational toys are wonderful. Small dolls are loved by the girls. Personal grooming items such as combs and brushes pack well into gift bags. In addition, each gift bag will contain school supplies.

Our goal this year is to collect:

- 500 toys for boys
- 500 toys for girls
- 1,000 items for babies/infants\*, and
- 1,000 school supplies\*\*

(\*Baby/infant items needed include stuffed animals, bibs, socks, mittens, hats, bottles, baby toys, blankets and clothing. \*\*School Supplies needed include: pens, personal pencil sharpeners, coloring books, rulers and erasers.)

Rotaract 5280 will join with hundreds of volunteers to distribute toys to thousands of children in Mexico on January 10<sup>th</sup>. Some Rotaractors and Rotarians will ride the **Christmas Train** from Tijuana to Tecate, while others will walk across the border to the event. Those attending must be 18 or older and must have a US passport. If you are interested in donating and/or volunteering, contact Elyse Beardsley at [elyse@industriallock.com](mailto:elyse@industriallock.com).

(Source: [www.trainweb.org](http://www.trainweb.org))



### CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, DOMINGUEZ HILLS

Our program speaker today was President Mildred Garcia of CSUDH who opened her talk with warm holiday wishes for everyone, and recognized Rotary's longstanding partnership with CSUDH. President Garcia talked about the Rotary/CSUDH Scholarship Program that was started by Rotarian Frank De Santis as an example of Rotary's support of CSUDH's mission to



Mildred Garcia and Walter Neil.

educate the local community. The endowment now has over \$100,000 and provides for three student scholarships each year. She also touched on the donation Rotary made to the Kent Gibson Endowment Scholarship for children of CSUDH Foundation employees. These are just two examples of how Rotary supports the community and is a great ambassador for CSUDH.

CSUDH is nearly 14,500 students strong and offers 45 undergraduate majors, 24 master's degrees and a number of certificate and graduate programs. However, the university is feeling the impact of the economic downturn. President Garcia spoke about the reduction of \$564 million in funding from the state in the 2009-2010 budget. The cut was comparable to the yearly budget of 13 campuses and CSUDH alone saw a \$16.1 million cut, a 22% cut from last year's budget. Employees of CSU will see a 10% cut in their salary and a 2-day furlough per month mandate. Despite these tough times, President Garcia is confident the university will get through the economic crisis and listed some "Points of Pride" (or special features) of the university for 2009: conducted 2<sup>nd</sup> largest fundraiser with \$3.4 million raised, increase in donors and alumni giving, creation of the OSHA Family Foundation, increase in positive media coverage, winning the NCAA Division II Men's Soccer Championship, and opening of University Library expansion. to name a few.

CSUDH is proud to be part of the community. It is a model university and dynamic institution that will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in January. To observe this milestone, President Garcia is courting President Obama to speak at the graduating ceremony. She encouraged Rotarians to help CSUDH realize this dream by writing to President Obama.



### COMEDY CENTRAL

Three men die in a car accident Christmas Eve. They all find themselves at the pearly gates waiting to enter Heaven. On entering they must present something relating or associated with Christmas.

The first man searches his pocket, and finds some Mistletoe, so he is allowed in.

The second man presents a stocking, so he is also allowed in.

The third man pulls out a pair of eyeglasses.

Confused at this last gesture, St. Peter asks, "How do these represent Christmas?"

Answer... "They're Carol's."



## CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

U Z F H R U D O L P H P U H U  
N U V A Y E L L E B A R W N T  
L O S I G T I L S C U P I D E  
T E R A X L S N A M W O N S M  
S S P T N E J O D B R H R E O  
T T R S H T N I R E H S A D C  
N O E L U P A A K F E K T Y H  
Y C S E W G O C C Z X R S E T  
B K E D R R A L L Y Y O T N A  
G I N G E R B R E A D W I M E  
S N T N C W M G P E U N B I R  
M G N T N E Z T I L B S A H W  
K O U D A N C E R F U S A C K  
D N P R R C H R I S T M A S A  
L A A G P E A C E A Z V S V K

BALL  
BELL  
BLITZEN  
CANDYCANE  
CHIMNEY  
CHRISTMAS  
COMET  
CUPID  
DANCER  
DASHER  
DONNER  
ELF

FROSTY  
GIFT  
GINGERBREAD  
NOEL  
NORTHPOLE  
NUTCRACKER  
PEACE  
PRANCER  
PRESENT  
REINDEER  
RUDOLPH  
SACK

SANTA CLAUS  
SLED  
SNOWMAN  
STAR  
STOCKING  
SUGARPLUMS  
TOY  
TREE  
VIXEN  
WORKSHOP  
WREATH