



ROTARY CLUB OF CARSON-GARDENA-DOMINGUEZ

@ Millender-McDonald Community Center
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Carson, CA 90745

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LA RUEDA

Noon Luncheon Meeting @ Millender-McDonald Community Center

14 December 2011, Issue 3303

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JEREMY BROWNImmediate Past President
ALISON BRUESEHOFFPresident-Elect
SCOTT SIMMSTreasurer
CHRISTINE MARKSecretary

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LARRY YBARRA – International Service
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**DISTRICT 5280 GOVERNOR
BRAD ROBINSON**



**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT
KALYAN BANERJEE**



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?



DECEMBER IS FAMILY MONTH

December is Family Month on the Rotary calendar, and the two biggest annual Rotary family get-togethers are coming up: the District 5280 Conference on April 19-22 at the Hilton Mission Bay Resort & Spa in San Diego, and the 2012 Rotary International Conference on May 6-9 in Bangkok, Thailand.



Hilton Mission Bay Resort.



Wat Arun in Bangkok, Thailand.

The District Conference is for all club members and their families. The purpose of a district conference is to recognize the work of the clubs in the District, for fellowship, good fun, inspirational speakers and discussion of matters that make one's Rotary membership more meaningful. One of the added benefits of attending a district conference is the opportunity to become better acquainted with members of one's own club and district in an informal setting. Lasting friendships grow from the fellowship hours at the District Conference. The conference always includes several outstanding entertainment features, interesting discussions and inspirational programs.

Thailand is known as the Land of a Thousand Smiles. Besides the plenary sessions and programs targeted for Rotarians, there will be plenty of activities that the whole family can join in on. Rotarians and their family can enjoy unforgettable Thai hospitality, take in the spectacular sights, taste delicious Thai cuisine, and experience a vibrant culture. You can make friends with fellow Rotarians from around the world and renew your commitment to *Service Above Self*. The RI Convention promises a lot of education, culture and fun in a world class city!

Why not make next year's District Conference and RI Convention even more memorable by sharing it with your family. Look for upcoming District Conference registration information at www.rotary5280.org, and register now for the RI Convention at www.rotary.org.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday-Saturday, December 16-17

RC of Colombo Americano & LA5 – Angel City Christmas Giveaway @ Algin Sufton Recreation Center, 8800 S. Hoover Street, Los Angeles, 1:00-5:00 PM on Friday & 6:30 AM – noon on Saturday.

Wednesday, December 21

Club is dark for Christmas.

Friday, December 23

Christmas Tree Decoration Contest Judging @ SouthBay Pavilion, 20700 Avalon Blvd., Carson, 5:00 PM.

Wednesday, December 28

Club is dark for New Year's.

Saturday, January 7

Rotary Leadership Institute @ Hacienda Hotel, 525 N. Sepulveda Blvd., El Segundo, 8:00 Am – 4:00 AM.



Our club will be dark on December 21st for Christmas and December 28th for New Year's. Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our club held its annual **Holiday Party** last Sunday and President Cara did a fantastic job of organizing the event. Little Luke Carrillo led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and Audrie's son helped in the sing-along of Christmas carols. Each table represented a different county and a spokes-

person from each table talked about that country and its contribution to the night's event. The tables were also decorated accordingly with wine and dessert representative of that country. As usual, the children – and some VERY BIG CHILDREN (Rotarians) – greeted Santa Claus (aka Dan Medina) who arrived on a fire truck arranged by Santa's helper Leon Bodnar. Jay's Catering provided a delicious buffet dinner, with music by Dan Medina. A fun time was had by all!

Mayor's Office and other community-based non-profits to secure toys, food and clothing for 3,000 families in underserved communities of South Central Los Angeles for this holiday season. Rotarians and volunteers are encouraged to come with family and friends to the Algin Sutton Recreation Center in Los Angeles on: Friday, December 16th from 1:00-5:00 PM to sort donated clothing and toys, package the food and set up for the giveaway; and Saturday, December 17th from 6:30 AM to noon to distribute toys, food, clothing, monitor the line, entertain the kids and other event-related tasks. If you are available to help, please RSVP to Marjorie Heller at 2marjorieheller@gmail.com.

We have adopted and decorated a Christmas tree at SouthBay Pavilion as part of the **Christmas Tree Decorating Contest** to support the Firefighters Spark of Love Toy Drive and increases awareness of the importance of recycling. Judging will take place on Friday, December 23rd at 5:00 PM. You can vote for our tree by picking a "unique tag" on our tree and turning it in to the Guest Services with a toy donation. Our tree is located near Claire's and JC Penney. The organization with the most votes will win a catered lunch or dinner for 20 from one of SouthBay Pavilion's food merchants, not to mention bragging rights. We will also take December 23rd as an opportunity to sell more of our "End Polio Now" stickers. This is a great opportunity for us to get recognized for the things we do. All the Rotary clubs are in danger of being embarrassed if we don't win, so please help us to win by inviting your co-workers and friends to vote for us.



From left: Kassidy Echnoz, Alex Loadman, Sheri Loadman, Audrie Echnoz, Nick Loadman and Brayden Echnoz with decorations made from recycled materials.

On December 6, the Carson City Council voted to change caterers for the Carson Community Center. Therefore, effective January 1st, **Jay's Catering** will no longer provide its services for our events at the Carson Community Center. We are saddened to learn of this development and will miss the great service and delicious food Jay's Catering has provided us over the years. Happily, Jay Mastroianni will remain a member of our club and Jay's Catering is available to cater to any business or personal events you may host. Feel free to contact Tony Wiley or Chris Kuhles directly at (714) 636-6045 for your catering needs.



Jay Mastroianni

The **Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI)** will be held on Saturday, January 7th at the Hacienda Hotel in El Segundo, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The RLI was founded to assist in improving the Rotary knowledge and leadership skills of the future leaders of our Rotary Clubs. The rapid turnover of leadership positions in Rotary caused by annual elections requires constant effort to prepare more and more Rotarians for the responsibilities of leadership. The RLI training will prepare and educate Rotarian leaders through sessions on topics such as: Leadership/Characteristics; Rotary Beyond the Club; The Rotary Foundation; Membership/Retention; Leadership/Team Building; and Services Projects. Each club is requested to send one representative to the RLI. Cost is \$50 per person which includes a

The Rotary Clubs of Colombo Americano and LA5, and Rotarians from District 5280, are working together with LA City

continental breakfast, program materials and lunch. RSVP is due December 20th to the District Office.

The next **District Breakfast** is on Tuesday, January 10th at the Westin LAX Hotel, 7:00-9:00 AM. The featured speaker will be John Osterlund, General Manager of The Rotary Foundation. As the General Manager of TRF, John oversees the operations of four divisions: PolioPlus; Fund Development; Future Vision Pilot Operations; and TRF Programs. He will update us on how Rotarians are changing lives around the world and provide a preview of Future Vision, Rotary Foundation's new grant model to support club and district humanitarian and education projects. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to me by noon, January 2nd. The club will pay for your \$34 registration; however, if you RSVP and fail to show the cost will be billed back to you. Registration after January 4th will be \$39 and will be for your account.

All Clubs are encouraged to attend the **Youth Protection Policy (YPP) Certification Training & Wine Tasting Event** on Friday, January 13th at the Hacienda Hotel in El Segundo, 6:30 PM. As a matter of information, all Rotarians who work with youth/New Generations must be certified with YPP and go through a background certification process. There will be a quick PowerPoint presentation, a few papers to fill out and you're excused to wine tasting! Each club must be represented - Club President, New Generations Chair and those who work with students. This is also a great chance to socialize, meet other club members and promote your club's activities/events. There will be unlimited wine to taste, cheese and cracker, fruit to enjoy. Cost to attend is \$10 per person with your favorite bottle of wine to share. Please RSVP to Emily at office@rotary5280.org as soon as possible.



FINE TIME

The last Fine Time session was on November 2, so Treasurer **Scott Simms** issued a directive to Fine Master **Walter Neil** and Fine Apprentice **Audrie Echnoz** to show him the money! **Jay Mastroianni** was out sick the last three weeks and it didn't seem fitting to fine him. **Glenn Mitchell** was at a business convention in Las Vegas last week with his wife Joan. When asked if he won or lost, Glenn told Walter to "check with my wife", which prompted **Larry Ybarra** to say that Glenn was "hiding under the skirt of his wife". And with that comment, Larry was ordered to pay Glenn's fine of \$5. Walter played hooky the last two meetings and offered to pay a \$100 fine. Lastly, all those who missed our meeting at the Normandie Casino on November 30th will be fined \$5 each!



RENAISSANCE OF CHINESE CULTURE & ITS GLOBAL IMPACT



From left: Ti Ling, Cara Rice and Prof. Ying Nian Wu.

Our program speaker today was Ying Ian Wu, a professor of UCLA's Department of Statistics. Prof. Wu was born in China in 1971. After graduating from China University of Science and Technology, he came to the U.S. to study and received his Ph.D. in Statistics from Harvard University in 1996. Prior to work-

ing at UCLA, he taught at the University of Michigan from 1997 to 1999. Prof. Wu has given speeches and forums on a multitude of China-related issues to university and at national and international events. He is a practitioner of Falun Gong, an ancient Chinese spiritual and meditation practice, and is a spokesperson for the local Falun Gong group.

Cultivation practice includes both religious and non-religious practices. In Western societies, faith-based religious practices are predominant while the Eastern culture emphasizes the practice of physical and mental disciplines such as yoga, meditation, tai qi, martial arts, and most recently, an ancient cultivation practice, Falun Gong. Falun Gong is an advanced practice of Buddhist self-cultivation, a discipline in which assimilation

to the highest qualities of the universe - truthfulness, compassion, forbearance - is the foundation of practice to achieve oneness of man and Heaven.

The three main schools of spiritual cultivation in the Eastern culture are Buddhism, Confucianism and Taoism. All people from different walks of life can practice cultivation; most historic figures who shaped Chinese history practiced cultivation; Chinese medicine was established by practitioners of cultivation; and martial arts was originated to improve oneself. The Falun Gong's maxim is to: cultivate oneself; put family in order; govern the state; and pacify the world.

This rich tradition of cultivation practice was interrupted when the Chinese Communist Party took over. Soon after the takeover by the communists in 1949, standard Chinese culture and spiritual traditions had been destroyed and outlawed. Practically all of the temples and a lot of invaluable art treasures had been smashed and burned. The communists went on to alter history books, and brainwash generations of Chinese with party culture, class struggle and Marxist ideology.

Twenty years ago, a renaissance of Chinese culture started in China, reconnecting its citizens with its lost culture of cultivation practice, but few outside of China recognized it. The driving force of the renaissance is to take from the heart and transform it to art. Leading that renaissance is a global show called Shen Yun (translated as Divine Grace), which is taking the world's best stages, captivating millions of spectators, and reconnecting them with the culture of cultivation practice.



Shen Yun Performing Arts is a performing arts and entertainment company founded in 2006 and based in New York City. It performs classical Chinese dance, ethnic and folk dance, and story-based dance. Behind the numbers is a tale of tragedy, perseverance, hope, and renewal. The underlying idea of the performance is to revive the essence of 5,000 years of ancient Chinese culture and traditions that were almost destroyed by the Chinese communist government.

The Shen Yun Performing Arts will be in Los Angeles

on January 13-14 at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion (LA Music Center). Prof. Wu encouraged all of us to attend to experience a performance and culture that will inspire and captivate you. Tickets are available for purchase at www.ticketingbox.com.



OLD FRIZZLE FUNDRAISER

There was \$558 in the pot today. Kim Richards won the raffle and drew the 3 of Diamonds. The pot will carry over to next year when it is expected to exceed \$600.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- January 4: Club Assembly
- January 11: To Be Arranged
- January 18: To Be Arranged
- January 25: Vocational Tour of Gardena/Carson YMCA



