

# The Morgan Hill Rotarian



## Announcements

**Other items:**

**April 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>**

District Assembly at the Doubletree Hotel

**Last week of May**

Party in sister city San Martin Mexico

**May 20, 21, 22**

District Conference in San Jose

## Incoming District Governor—Arlene Greenburg - Rotary Beyond Morgan Hill

Rotary life outside of Morgan Hill. What is it? And do you need to be a District Governor to experience it? Certainly not. We belong to such a great organization that provides us with so many opportunities both here and through out the world. And what is great about our organization is that the opportunities are there for every single Rotarian – and their family. And that Rotarian is you.

I know we have many new or relatively new members, so first let me define some terms. Rotary International is the largest and oldest service organization in the world. It is comprised of a group of over 32,000 clubs in 160 countries and territories representing over 31,000 members. It would be impossible for RI to communicate effectively with so many clubs and members. The District (which is a group of clubs) was formed to help com-

municate with and support the clubs. There are 529 Districts and ours is District 5170. We have 59 clubs and 4,000 members. Our District is divided into 10 areas. Morgan Hill is in area 6 along with Gilroy, Hollister and San Juan Bautista. We are actually the smallest area. The Rotary Club of Morgan Hill is a member of R.I. We are members of the rotary club.

But – what else is out there? Perhaps the best way to tell you about rotary outside of the club is to share my activities and experiences.

How did I get involved beyond the club?

As a new member I attended my first District Assembly, which is an annual event. I became International Service Chair for our club and went to the Foundation seminar. **SEE PAGE 3**

*This Saturday  
April 16th*

*Morgan Hill*

*Community*

*Center*

*Tickets are*

*\$45 in advance*

*\$50 at the door.*

**April 12, 2005**  
**REVIEW & OUTLOOK**  
**The Wall Street Journal**  
**DOW JONES REPRINTS**

## Polio and Rotary

*April 12, 2005*

Today marks the 50th anniversary of the Salk polio vaccine. Poliomyelitis, also known as infantile paralysis, used to be one of childhood's most feared diseases. A few years after Dr. Jonas Salk announced his vaccine on April 12, 1955, nearly every child in the U.S. was protected. Today polio has disappeared from the Americas, Europe and the Western Pacific and is nearly gone from the rest of the world. A too-little known part of this feat is the role played by Rotary, the international businessman's club, which 20 years ago adopted the goal of wiping out the disease. Rotary understood that medical breakthroughs are worthless unless people aren't afraid to immunize their children and efficient delivery systems exist to get the vaccine to them. And so it mobilized its members in 30,100 clubs in 166 countries to make it happen. In 1985, when Rotary launched its eradication program, there were an estimated 350,000 new cases of polio in 125 countries. Last year, 1,263 cases were reported. More than one

**URL for this article:**

million Rotary members have volunteered their time or donated money to immunize two billion children in 122 countries. In 1988, Rotary money and its example were the catalyst for a global eradication drive joined by the World Health Organization, Unicef and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. In 2000 Rotary teamed up with the United Nations Foundation to raise \$100 million in private money for the program. By the time the world is certified as polio-free -- probably in 2008 -- Rotary will have contributed \$600 million to its eradication effort. An economist of our acquaintance calls Rotary's effort the most successful private health-care initiative ever.

A vaccine-company CEO recently volunteered to us that the work of Rotary and the Gates Foundation, both private groups, has been more effective than any government in promoting vaccines to save lives. It's become fashionable in some quarters to deride civic volunteerism, but Rotary's unsung polio effort deserves the Nobel Peace Prize.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/0,,SB111326364224104075,00.html>

WSJ.com - Polio and Rotary



**FROM PAGE 1**

1993 a GSE came from Italy to our District. –and I was asked to chair the visit for our area 6. I attended a planning meeting, coordinated the schedule and activity with the other clubs, spent some time with the group – and was introduced to the internationality of rotary. The leader of the GSE team, Giovanni Gambardella, had been a United Nations Military Observer on the Golan Heights between Israel and Syria. Where else would I have had an opportunity to meet this Italian General and hear about his experiences?

And in 2000 we had a GSE team from Germany. The team leader, Gunter Kanngiefer, stayed in our home. In WW II his father had been in the German army and a prisoner of war in England. We're Jewish. It was a bridge building experience. This happens in rotary.

Also in 2000 it was announced that a group was going, as polio plus partners, to Ghana, which is in West Africa on the Gold Coast. I went because I wanted to participate. There were 93 of us from California, Hawaii and Nevada. . Rotarians who wanted to take part in giving polio drops to the children - to be a part of the incredible immunization effort. What did I experience?

A few of us visited a Junior Secondary School. After meeting with the village elders we spoke to the assembled children about our professions (I don't know that these young children were too interested in hearing about the life of a mortgage broker. But Charlene Colant - from San Francisco #2 (an amazing woman –which is a story in itself) – talked about dreaming – about being able to do anything that you set your mind to.

I say we visited a junior secondary

school and you picture Britton or Martin Murphy. This school had a tin roof with holes that leaked when it rained. There was minimal electricity – we saw one light bulb. The desks were unfinished. The “library” had a few planks of wood with fewer books. There were no “overhangs” on the outside of the wooden building to protect again rain or sun. The grounds were dirt – no shade except for a tree. And Ghana is hot! But the children were well behaved – they came quietly into the assembly and were very attentive. And well dressed. Although this was a public school and these children were poor they all wore their uniforms of yellow shirts and brown jumpers or pants. Before we left we distributed pens, pencils, erasers and calculators. And saw they need to help further.



For the National Immunization Day we each had a local Rotarian as host who picked us up at 6:00 am. Our team went with two other teams to a market area (next to the central bus station) where we walked through the market looking for children 5 and under to immunize. The mothers were very willing to have their children receive the drops (the children weren't so happy with the bitter tasting liquid). Once immunized we painted the child's fingernail with purple ink as identification. Initially our team didn't have the ink so a lot of Ghanaian children were sporting happy face stickers. They probably liked that better.

Now, tell me, would you allow a stranger to come up to you in a shopping mall and give your children drops of medicine to help protect them? You wouldn't even accept candy. But there had been a campaign on radio, TV, billboards, pamphlets, newspapers, posters on trucks, letting everyone

know that rotary was going to wipe out polio. And I was a part of that, not because I was asked to go (we each paid our on way), not because I had a leadership position (I didn't) because I was a Rotarian and I wanted to do this.

I've brought my photo album from the trip if anyone would like to see it after the meeting.

In 2003 I went to Antofagasta, Chile for the opening of Coaniquem, the center for rehabilitation for burned children. However our first stop was in Santiago. We had a tour of the Coaniquem Burn Center, established in Santiago by Dr. Jorge Rojas. Those of you that attended 2005 District Conference or the event for Coaniquem last October in San Francisco had a chance to meet this amazing Rotarian

Due to life style and living conditions there is a high incidence of children being seriously burned in South America. Dr. Rojas, a plastic surgeon, determined 25 years ago that the children needed help. He, along with the Rotary Club of Santiago, founded Coaniquem to help rehabilitate those children who had been the victims of fire, scalding water and other such incidents leaving them terribly scarred. I met the children, I met the mothers, and I saw an incredible facility that provides free services to these young patients.

After Santiago we flew to Antofagasta for the grand opening of the new burn treatment center. This facility was funded by Esso Gas, Lan Chile (airlines) and Rotary International through a 3 h grant. Funds from our Rotary Foundation cannot be used to build facilities, but our funds were used for equipment. Those Rotarians that attended the groundbreaking ceremony the previous year, had placed their hands in cement, alongside a

child's. Here I was, a year later, thousand of miles from home, recognizing names of Rotarians I know that have left a permanent mark at this vital new rehabilitation center.

Why did I go? Chile sounded interesting. What did I get out of it? New friends, an understanding of Coaniquem and the opportunity to see how important the work is, the satisfaction that when I came home at least 2 more children would be helped because I was able to share with our club all that I had seen and our club and our members responded by sponsoring the children.

This past year I traveled to Guatemala to participate in the Uniendo America project fare. Karl Stucki, PDG from the Oakland #3 club, and Juan Forster, a member of rotary in Guatemala, founded this event 12 years ago. Karl has always been interested in International Service (one of our 4 Avenues of Service – the hallmark of rotary). And he knew there were many needs in Central America. He and Juan knew that Rotarians were interested in world community service projects where they could meet members of the other club, have a relationship, perhaps participate in a hands on project. This project fare offers the venue to find those types of projects.

The first morning we had a session where we had round tables with various discussions. There were several topics: water management, health care, education. I sat at a table to discuss children and orphans. Our moderator, Desiree, is the International Service Chair and Vice President of her club in Guatemala City. She talked about the street children and how the mayor's wife had been on the radio urging citizens to not give money to these children so that they would come to the shelter; Because among the street chil-

gangs, drugs and prostitution. There was a plan to rescue the children. A safe home had been established.

And we learned about the "children of the dump". The garbage dump is in the center of Guatemala City. There are 5-6,000 families that live at the dump. The children scavenge the dump for food. The cycle needs to be broken.

The government in Guatemala doesn't have the budget to build schools or pay for teachers. The public schools are over crowded. The teacher/student ratio is 1 – 50. School is not mandatory.

We heard that for \$3,000 pipes could bring fresh water to a village versus drilling a well at a cost of \$30,000

We learned about micro credit banks in Costa Rica. A participant in the bank (usually the woman) can receive from \$50 - \$175 to help start a business. The business helps the community and this is a program that teaches a way to administer money. With the proceeds from the business repayment is made to the bank. There is generally 80 – 90 % repayment.

And there was much more. It was an education.

After much discussion we proceeded to the booths where club members from the participating districts presented their projects. There were project needs of as little as \$500 to bring school supplies to the children of a Mayan village. And of course projects for many thousands of dollars.

We were in Antigua Guatemala and we visited Casa de Fe. Some of us had brought clothing, diapers and other items, which we

delivered. This sanctuary houses and cares for the families and the patients who will be treated in June by the medical team: "Faces of Hope". This is a group (similar to Rotoplast) that was formed by Rotarians in our district and is being funded by a group of clubs in our district along with a matching grant from our Rotary Foundation.

Why did I go to Guatemala? Because I wanted to see what happened at a project fare. What did I get out of it? A better understanding of the needs in Central America; I came home with ideas for projects that we could do as a club if we had the funds.

What we consider world community service is for them - community service. And there was lots of fellowship. I met Fabio Carballo from Costa Rica who will actually be visiting our District in October for the Partners in Service program. I became reacquainted with Gary Pacha from Iowa who may be planning a medical mission to Guatemala. I shared ideas and became better acquainted with Rotarians from our own District.

I have attended International Conventions: beginning in Calgary in 1996. All club presidents are strongly encouraged to attend the International Convention and the club budgets for the expense – not because we think our incoming president needs a vacation but because we know that the experience of attending the convention will benefit the club. What I didn't know was that I didn't need to be the President to attend. All Rotarians are invited. And what an outstanding experience! How proud I felt in the opening session, when flags are brought in, one at a time, announcing 160 countries and territories where rotary exists in the world.



In Calgary the flags were presented on ice skates; in San Antonio they came in on horseback. Chicago? Who knows? At the convention there are outstanding speakers (in Barcelona we heard Gorbechav) (in Calgary we heard Sadako Ogata of Japan, former high commissioner of refugees for the UN and a former rotary ambassadorial scholar). There is entertainment: in San Antonio we saw Glen Campbell; in Barcelona there was Jerry Lewis; and we had a concert from the symphony in Buenos Aires.

During the day following the plenary sessions, there is the House of Friendship. There are booths of vendors, both rotary and retail. There are booths highlighting rotary projects, programs and vocational and recreational fellowships. There is almost constant entertainment and there is food from the local country. The very best part is to sit down in the house of friendship and meet Rotarians from Africa, India, Europe, and Asia. We all have something in common – we are Rotarians – and that forms an instant bond.

There is Home hospitality: a barn dance and dinner in Scotland; dinner at a lovely couples home on the gold coast in Australia; traveling over the border from Singapore to Malaysia to have dinner with Rotarians; visiting the Los Olivos club in Buenos Aires for dinner and entertainment.

The internationality of rotary is available to all of you. This will be our 9th convention.

And if you want to know what others have felt talk to Roger and Janie Knopf, Steve Tate, Dave de la Cuesta, Brent Creer. They have all attended more than one convention because of the great

experience they had.

And it's amazing to see rotary around the world. As we've traveled in conjunction with the conventions we've been to

New Zealand –where, in the airport, there is a wishing well asking travelers for coins to support rotary

Japan: in the countryside we arrived at the hotel to see on a very large sign, at the bottom of the driveway, the 4-way test in Japanese and English.

These are travel opportunities for you because you are a Rotarian. But I know everyone isn't able to travel. So what's more local?

There are many events held in our District to which you are all encouraged to attend.

District Assembly – Coming up – Kevin has announced it. Next Thursday evening, April 21 we will gather at the Doubletree in San Jose, for a variety of training sessions including all of the Avenues of Service, dinner, and an outstanding speaker, Lisa Whaley. Lisa was an executive with IBM. She is a highly sought after motivational and inspiration speaker and corporate trainer. She speaks straight from the heart with passion, humor and brutal honesty. The club will cover the cost of the dinner.

And if Thursday evening doesn't work, or even if it does, come again Saturday morning. No cost but the opportunity to hear Allan Frumkin give a short presentation (he spoke in Morgan Hill in November and was outstanding) and then attend our interactive session on either membership or foundation.

The District Conference. I talked about my first District Conference

. This is being held for you. The dates are Friday, May 20 through brunch on Sunday, May 22. No registration fee. Come to one or more sessions or the hospitality suites – no cost. Attend a meal function to hear a great speaker (Friday lunch is the real UN General who helped save 30,000 Rwandans (see the movie Hotel Rwanda).

Saturday, August 13, the Day at the A's– This District wide event where the A's will play Minnesota. A great tailgate party precedes it. Just come. Many clubs participate and there is food and drink for everyone. The tradition at the game is that the DG throws the first pitch. Come and see if I do....

On October 20 the District will hold an event called the Avenue of Service. It is another opportunity to share ideas and thoughts with other Rotarians in the District. This is held in Hayward with a variety of sessions and a keynote speaker. The club pays for your meal.

I previously mentioned the Partner in Service program. Four years ago a program was started to bring our Partners from other countries into our District to speak to our clubs – to tell first hand how our contributions to our rotary foundation have benefited their country. You'll remember last year we heard from Ivan Curiel from Puerto Vallarta.

Is there rotary outside of Morgan Hill? Oh yes. The opportunities are open to everyone. And the benefit to the club is that you will be able to bring back thoughts and ideas to help the Rotary Club of Morgan Hill be even more successful.

