

# Rotations

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Meetings:  
Thursdays 12:15 pm  
Oakwood Athletic Club  
4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd  
Lafayette, CA

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President Sandi Mitchell opened the meeting. Bill Eames gave the thought for the day.

Sandi invited all to the District 5160 Conference October 1-4 at Harvey's Resort, Lake Tahoe. Register early for Early-Bird pricing and more information at [rotary5160.org](http://rotary5160.org).

She also would like us to join her at the

2010 Rotary International Convention in her home country next summer in Montréal, Québec, Canada, June 20-23. See at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org).



Mike Heller announced that we will provide food for the Safety Fair on Sat, Aug 1 at Stanley School.

Bill Eames recognized members: Dick Holt in the hope that someone will learn to spell "concensus" correctly. Larry Blodgett for Jay Lifson's dress-for-success outfit. Jesse Wellen for the Lafayette Car Wash & Detail Center receiving Best of the East Bay for the fourth year in a row.

**CLUB ASSEMBLY:** Everyone took part in the Club Visioning project that was begun on May 21.

Our note taker and photographer were missing in action.

## WORTH THE SMILE OF A HEALTHY CHILD

Amidst civil conflict, economic turmoil, and chronic shortages of just about everything, Analia Ramos has helped the people of South Sudan battle hunger for nearly a year.

"I love the place, my job, and the people. I feel blessed," says Ramos, food security coordinator in Sudan for Concern Worldwide, a humanitarian relief and development organization.

A 2004-06 Rotary World Peace Fellow from Argentina, Ramos oversees projects that provide seeds and tools to poor households, establish seed banks and tree nurseries, and train people in agricultural plowing, beekeeping, and blacksmithing.

Ramos says the situation in South Sudan has deteriorated since she arrived last August. "Insecurity has grown, the economic crisis has hit us all, the violations to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement have multiplied," she says. "Add to that the indictment of President Bashir [Omar Hassan al-Bashir] by the International Criminal Court, the expelling of 13 NGOs [nongovernmental organizations], and tribal conflict, and you have it all."

But Ramos says the knowledge that she is "helping to diminish the suffering of the people by shortening the hunger gap, and at times eliminating it," gives her great fulfillment.

She maintains that freedom from hunger is a basic human right. "Without that, you cannot have health, education, or any other right," she says. "But with any right, we all have responsibilities. People need to learn how to fish and not just be given the fish. It is their right to be able to feed themselves."

Ramos knew at age 7 that she wanted to be an agronomist and at age 12 that she wanted to work in Africa. Her fellowship experience at the University of Bradford was pivotal in shaping her career. "Rotary gave me a new angle," she says. "I saw how working in food security contributes to peace, to achieve human rights for most of the people who do not have a voice."

Throughout history, Ramos says, hunger has claimed more lives than armed conflict or disease. "Hunger is the No. 1 killer," she says. "But it only makes news in big famines, and people forget, in most cases, it is a silent killer."

In the face of frequent food shortages, Ramos tries to help in any way she can. "Trying is worth the smile of a child, the knowledge that someone has gone to bed not hungry, that God has been there all the way, even in the difficult times," she says.

-- Dan Nixon, RI News, 15 Jul 2009, Written for *Reconnections*



Photo courtesy of Analia Ramos

Analia Ramos holds a healthy baby girl in Torit, capital of Eastern Equatoria State.



Sandi being sworn in as president at the District Installation Dinner



2009 District Conference • Lake Tahoe  
October 1-4, 2009

An Exceptional Event For Every Member of the District 5160 Family of Rotary

Register at [rotary5160.org](http://rotary5160.org)



Photo courtesy of Nicholas

Rotarian Stephen Nicholas has implemented programs to eliminate pediatric HIV/AIDS.

**CLINIC TAKES AIM AT INFANT AIDS**

Rotarian Stephen Nicholas, a pioneering pediatric AIDS specialist who helped drastically reduce infant HIV in New York City, is using Rotary as a catalyst for wiping out mother-to-child HIV transmission in the Dominican Republic.

In the early 1990s, New York City had the highest birth rate of HIV-infected children in the United States. Since 2000, only one baby in that city has been born with the virus, says Nicholas, a member of the Rotary Club of Yonkers. Similar trends are appearing throughout the United States, he adds.

This sharp drop in mother-to-child HIV transmission has largely resulted from improvements in drug treatments as well as aggressive intervention during pregnancy through testing and education. Nicholas and his colleagues pioneered this multipronged approach while he was the director of pediatrics at Harlem Hospital Center.

"For me, the moral equation changed when I realized that infant AIDS was disappearing in the United States," says Nicholas, founder and director of Columbia University's International Family AIDS Program. "With a world filled with HIV/AIDS, I felt for the first time obligated to get involved internationally."

In 1999, Nicholas began a family AIDS clinic in La Romana, Dominican Republic, a province with one of the highest HIV/AIDS infection rates outside sub-Saharan Africa. Run by the International Family AIDS Program, the clinic provides direct care and treatment for pregnant women with HIV.

To expand the International Family AIDS Program and keep it sustainable, the Yonkers club, along with the Rotary Club of La Romana and District 7230 (New York),

launched the Mother-Baby AIDS Project in the Dominican Republic in 2006.

With help from a \$50,000 World Community Service Project Grant, the project is benefiting more than 100 HIV-infected mothers and their newborn babies each year. Infected mothers continue to receive AIDS treatment after the births to protect children from being orphaned.

The clinic has lowered the rate of mother-to-child HIV transmission in the La Romana province from 40 percent to less than 1 percent, Nicholas says.

"Rotary's involvement allows this project to serve as a global success model and help lead other international endeavors," he says. "Our goal is to eliminate or greatly reduce pediatric AIDS and AIDS orphans over the next decade."

-- Ryan Hyland, RI News, 15 Jul 2009

**THE FOUR WAY TEST**

Of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

**OFFICERS & DIRECTORS**

- John Kenny . . . . . RI President
- Earl Kilmer. . . . . Dist 5160 Governor
- Sandi Mitchell . . . . . President
- Geoff Zimmerman . . . . . Vice President
- Lee Deily . . . . . Secretary
- Greg Vaisnor . . . . . Treasurer
- Chuck Vogel . . . . . Club Service
- Troy Winkles . . . . . Community Service
- Jesse Wellen . . . . . International Service
- Troy Feddersen . . . . . Vocational Service
- Larry Duson . . . . . Past President
- Andy Scheck . . . . . Sergeant of Arms

**GIVE HOPE - GIVE A HAND**

The Rotary Club of Lafayette donates an LN-4 Prosthetic Hand in the name of our speakers each week. The LN-4 Prosthetic Hand transforms lives and empowers those who have lost hands and limbs due to land mines, birth defects, and other catastrophes.



**MAKE UP MEETINGS**

See 'Where Clubs Meet' for meeting times and locations of nearby clubs:

<http://rotary5160.org/clubs/where-clubs-meet/>

**UPCOMING SPEAKERS**

- 07/23 Dick Holt, Senior Needs Assessment
- 07/30 Sun Lee, Rotary Cultural Ambassadorial Scholar studying in Tours, France
- 08/06 Mike Elder, CHP 9-11
- 08/13 Dr. Michael Barrington, Rotary projects in Ethiopia
- 08/20 Tom Peterson, Rheem and Orinda Theatre
- 08/27 Cynthia Brian - Starstyle Be the Star You Are

**LOCAL & DISTRICT EVENTS**

- 08/01 Safety Fair, Stanley School
- 08/14 Rock the Plaza
- 08/15 Foundation & Membership Faire, Fairfield
- 08/21 Rock the Plaza
- 08/28 Rock the Plaza
- 09/19-20 Lafayette Art & Wine Festival
- 10/01-04 Dist. Conference, Lake Tahoe
- 12/05 Rotary Foundation Day at the Races, Golden Gate Fields
- 01/24-25 Reno Train Trip

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL EVENTS**

- 11/04-11 Benin West Africa National Polio Immunization Day trip
- 2010 RI Convention, Montreal, Canada

**BIRTHDAYS**

- 07/01 Dan Baker
- 07/03 Polly Bernson
- 07/03 Andy Scheck
- 07/04 Chuck Vogel
- 07/08 Bob Aguilar
- 07/19 Jesse Wellen
- 07/26 Jack Hansen

**ANNIVERSARIES**

- 07/04 Tom Courtright
- 07/07 Warren Rupf
- 07/10 Steve Snyder
- 07/16 Chuck Vogel
- 07/21 Bud Moulthrop

**GREETERS**

- 07/23 Troy Winkles
- 07/30 Don Anderson
- 08/06 Dan Baker
- 08/13 Daniel Barnes
- 08/20 Polly Bernson

