



**Service Above Self  
1905 – 2010**

# **ROTOPINION**

## **Rotary Club of Woodland Hills**

Meeting at Woodland Hills Country Club  
Wednesdays, 12:00 noon  
21150 Dumetz Road, Woodland Hills  
[www.whrotary.com](http://www.whrotary.com)



**Oct/Nov 2010**



### ***Letter from the President***

It's that time of the year that all of us need to reflect on the direction our club is taking. We have been addressing our club's needs, but we need to do more. Our board members are working to address the issues the club is facing such as attendance and participation of all members in the club projects. The Thanksgiving "feeding the seniors" event at the Sagebrush Cantina is a great example of club members working together for a common cause.

As I said in the last issue of our Rotopinion, we all need to reflect on why we became Rotarians. The desire to serve our community needs to be our primary goal. We will be successful if we all work together on common goals. When you come to the meetings on Wednesdays, don't just grab a chair and get your food. Walk around and greet one another. During the free time, get to know each other, sharing ideas on becoming better Rotarians.

We have designated greeters at our meetings but all of us should do this, especially greeting new members, prospective members and guests. There is nothing worse than being alone in a crowd.

The holidays are here and it is the time to come together. We need to help our Service Chairs carry out their duties. No one should have to carry a load alone. We are in this together. When we all share, it becomes fun, not just a duty. When you attend a district event such as the CLM assembly held each month at the New Horizons, you can see the joy in the faces of the Rotarians there.

Come and enjoy the fellowship at our upcoming holiday events.

Jack Whitson, Club President

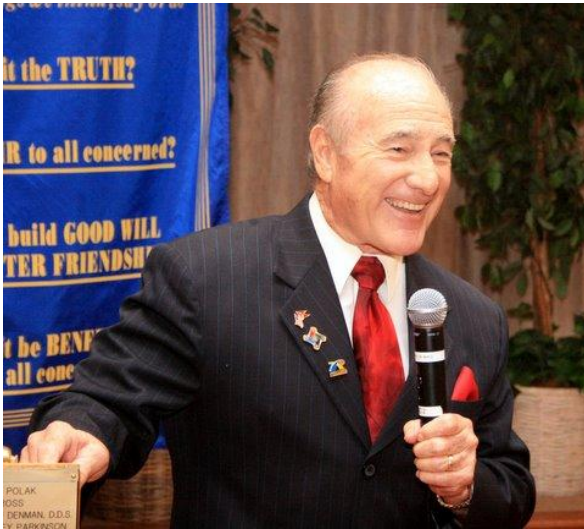
### ***Recent Programs***



**October 6** – Dr. Peter Grossman, a cosmetic and reconstructive plastic surgeon who specializes in burn treatment, spoke about the Grossman Burn Center. Founded in 1969 at Sherman Oaks

Hospital and recently moved to West Hills Hospital, the burn center is one of the pre-eminent burn treatment centers in the country. Dr. Grossman discussed advances in burn treatment, and the recently established Grossman Burn Foundation that provides triage training to third world countries via internet telemedicine.

**October 13** – Anna Rohwer described the work of the Shonglap Foundation, a Norway-based foundation that has created schools for girls in 1600 villages in 12 developing countries. Since 2006, 14,000 girls have been taught basic life and health skills, basic literacy, and job skills in tailoring, beekeeping, embroidering, animal husbandry and culinary arts. In a society where only one in four girls has a basic primary education and most are married with children before age 18, Shonglap schools have a high success rate. Their empowered and economically independent young women provide a ripple effect on local communities, as they have been given a hand up, not a hand out.



**October 20** – Attorney, past club president and past district governor Eliseo Gauna spoke about his impressions of Nepal from being the recent Group Study Exchange leader there. Nepal is the size of Arkansas and has a population of 28 million. Katmandu has heavy pollution with smog so thick it burns your eyes. Sanitary facilities are lacking. Water is only supplied up to 2 hours per day with only a half-day of electricity (none at night). It is a very male-dominated culture with a specific caste system. It is a very poor country; the average wage is \$285 per year. Many homeless people from the mountains work in homes, but they are not paid – they are only provided room and board.



**October 27** – Captain John Sherman, soon to be leaving the Topanga Division to work in the central LA bureau, assured everyone that the primary concern of both LA's mayor

and the city council is to maintain public safety as first priority. Crime has decreased by approximately 20% in our part of the valley over the last few years. The decrease is attributed to good strategic police work and effective partnerships with the community. Rotary is an excellent example of community policing through its support of police youth programs and help in purchasing specialized equipment.



**November 3** – The topic was the potential opening of a Costco store and gas station on the southwest corner of Victory and Owensmouth. John Alderson spoke as the representative from Westfield, and stated that the new Costco will provide 4300 jobs in the local community, produce an economic output of \$650 million, and pay a projected \$9 million in taxes – a sizeable chunk of which will stay in our local area. Community Activist Joyce Pearson spoke representing those who oppose the Costco store in Woodland Hills. Her position is that Woodland Hills is beautiful and the city needs to retain its dignity, and its image should not be sacrificed for an immediate economic gain.



**November 10** – The 28<sup>th</sup> annual Protectors' Awards program honored protectors in various areas of law enforcement. L.A. City firefighter of the year is Michael Wall, a 21-year veteran of LAFD. As a firefighter and paramedic, he is known for his compassion, caring, and competence. California Highway Patrol officer of the year is Officer Richard Camenos, a California native who has distinguished himself as an outstanding field training officer with excellent common sense and leadership skills. LAPD officer of the year was awarded to Officer Ray Diaz, who successfully reaches out to the community and effectively deals with the local Hispanic gangs. Los Angeles Sheriff's Department

officer of the year was awarded to Deputy Francisco Espinoza from the Lost Hills Station. LA County firefighter of the year was awarded to Michael Nava, an 18-year veteran from station 125 in Calabasas. Nava fights brush fires, is on the Strike Team, and is an instructor for specialized rescues. A Lifetime Protectors Achievement Award was presented to John Adams, who was Fire Chief for 23 years. John is shown on previous page with President Jack and Marty Fentress and the Fire Captain. The annual award winners are pictured below with their commanding officers and families:



Lisa Camenos, CA Highway Patrol Officer of the Year  
Richard Camenos, President Jack, Captain Jeff Goodman



LAFD Firefighter of the Year Mike Wall with family  
President Jack and Fire Chief



President Jack with Sheriff Andy Williams, Sheriff of the Year Francisco Espinoza, and Commanding Officer of the Lost Hills Station Joe Stevens



President Jack, LA County Firefighter of the Year Michael Nava, Battalion Chief Jeff Bruman



President Jack, LAPD Officer of the Year Ray Diaz and wife Raye, LAPD Captain Brasha



**November 17** – Club member Elizabeth Tilkian spoke about DEBO, a volunteer non-profit organization that aids impoverished villages in Ethiopia. Since receiving seed money from a foundation, DEBO now provides six areas of service. First was a

water project followed by school programs that provide jackets, libraries, school supplies, and full high school scholarships to 20 top 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. A kindergarten class begun for 45 students addresses early student needs. DEBO now provides HIV/Aids education and mid-wife training. Micro-financing is currently helping 56 families, mainly in sheep rearing and beekeeping. A second grain mill has been provided for 240 community members. Tree seedlings are provided to aid in reforestation.

# Rotary Family News and Announcements

Jack and Angie Whitson celebrated their anniversary and Helmut Standke, Lois Koch, Moe Mogul, Nancy Porter, Tom Ketner and his granddaughter all celebrated birthdays.

Rotarians who gave happy bucks upon returning from trips included Jim Adlhoch who went to Hawaii, Lois Koch to visit family in Virginia, and Katie Sanchez who went to London.

Please keep a good thought for Carol Verga as she continues her recovery from recent surgery. Sheri Polak's husband Ed had successful cataract surgery, and Michael Harris's daughter-in-law is recovering from recent surgery.

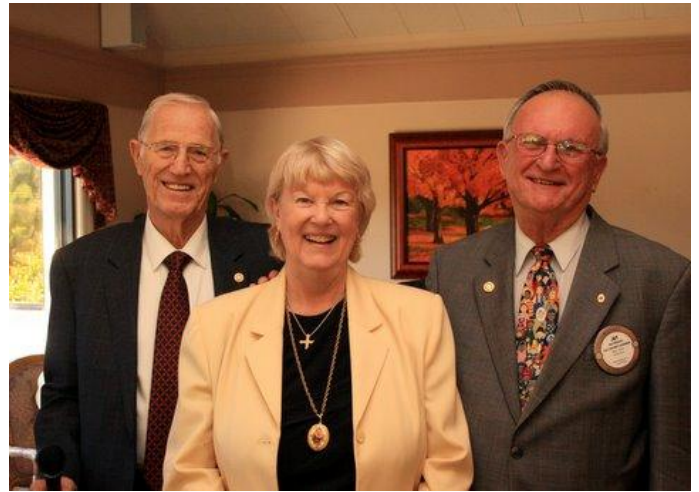
Bryna Hornstein thanked Nancy Porter for the great pool/BBQ party for the end of summer, and Tom Ketner for the Wii Dance event at Pierce College, and Sheri Polak thanked the club for a successful eWaste event.

Roger Myers is happy all the Chilean miners got rescued, Glenn Broadus is happy to be back at work on a Disney show, Matt Schaaf is happy to be chosen to lead the GSE team to Costa Rica, and Judy Rona is happy that her family is coming to visit.

John Whitmore thanks the club for supporting Rescate and asked for club members to donate mens' clothing as this is currently a great need. Lane Sherman is proud her son Brad got re-elected to Congress.

*Dear Jack Whitson,  
Rotarian Surinder Singh delivered your letter and the most thoughtful gift of a guitar from you and your fellow Rotarians which has really touched my heart. Your gesture of conferring on me the honorary membership of the Club year after year is a gesture I warmly cherish and it is my constant effort to live up to your expectations from an honorary Rotarian.*

*With Warm Regards, Dr. S.Y. Quraishi*



President Jack Whitson with our newest member, Elizabeth Hart, and Past District Governor Jay Saltzman, who inducted Elizabeth into the club.



Jay Hearst (left) and Ferne Saltzman (right) received their blue badges!



Above: Jay Hearst took one of his horses to Para Los Ninos and gave the children a talk about how to take care of a horse.



Aaron Bondi and his guest, Dr. David Shannon are happy to be at Rotary!



Several Rotarians were on hand to help congratulate honorary member Irene Park who was the honoree at the annual Walk of Hearts event. Irene is pictured with Councilman Dennis Zine, Congressman Brad Sherman and Event Chair Joe Andrews.



A group of Rotarians from our club, led by Diane Nelson and Roger Kmiecik, made Thanksgiving happy for 20 families of children at Fulbright Elementary. Here, the volunteers are having fun looking over the bounty.



Our whole club got in the holiday spirit at our mid-November meeting, making 22 holiday baskets for the homeless and under-privileged, with 3 full bags of additional food given to the food pantry.



Officers of the Quarter from the Topanga Station were honored at our October 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. Top Row: Civilian of the Quarter Angela Santiago with President Jack and Lt. Dave Storaker, and Detective of the Quarter Theresa Gordon with Lt. Storaker. Middle row: Captain Ivan Minsal and President Jack with Officer of the Quarter Chant Salbazian. Bottom row: Captain Minsal and President Jack with Supervisors of the Quarter Brian Reynolds and Stacy Vince.

## Club Officers 2010 - 2011

President	Jack Whitson
Vice President	Dorothy Koetz
Secretary	Lois Koch
Treasurer	Diane Nelson
President Elect	Lois Koch
Past President	Roger Myers
Club Service	Nancy Porter
Community	Steve Prakash
Foundation	Jill Mellman
International	Surinder Singh
Membership	Katie Sanchez
New Generations	Aaron Bondi/Matt Schaaf
Pres. Advisor	Jay Saltzman
Public Relations	Michael Turner
RYLA	Matt Schaaf
Vocational	Tom Ketner
Arts and Crafts	Gary Koch
Club Photographers	John Adams
	Steve Prakash
Programs	Bryna Hornstein
Family of Rotary	Sheri Polak
Sergeant at Arms	Roger Kmiecik



## The Rotary Club

*The Rotary Club is a club to love and care  
Especially when they go everywhere!  
They're saving the world,  
As if it was the last pearl.  
Rotary is eradicating polio bit by bit,  
Dragging polio into a giant pit!  
Rotary dances you through life,  
Giving you a guiding light.  
So be smart and share your heart.*

*By Anne Macias, Fulton High School*

*Dear Judy Rona,*

*Thank you for having interest in us and taking time from your business to talk with our class. You changed my way of thinking about my future job and career. I also learned how to fill out an application. We all appreciate your help.*

*Sincerely, Gabrielle, Fulton HS*

## Upcoming Programs & Events

December 15 - Aaron Levinson, Jewish Home for the Aging

December 22 - Robert G. Lee, Comedian

December 29 - Mystery Craft Talks

January 5 - Ed Sussman, Theremin Instrument

January 12 - Surinder Singh, Ghana Project

January 19 - Dana Sherman, USC Engineers Without Borders

January 26 - Tax Prep Seminar

February 2 - Elizabeth Dever, Ronald McDonald House

February 9 - Josephina Mayerle, Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar

## EVENTS

December 19 - Holiday Party & White Elephant Fundraiser at Clyde Porter's West Valley Playhouse, 7242 Owensmouth, Canoga Park

For more information contact Nancy Porter

January 8 - CLM and PRLS, Sam's Cafe, 15725 Parthenia St., North Hills, beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Tutoring at Reseda Elementary - Mondays from 1:45 to 2:30 p.m., contact Aaron Bondi beginning January 10, 2011