



LA MESA

ROTARY CLUB OF WEST EL PASO



VOLUME 41 Number 18

February 7, 2005

February 07
Club Assembly

February 14
Linda Wagner

Building Strong Relationships

February 21
Bill & Melinda Wiley Day
Celebrate their Nuptials

February 28
Joyce Wilson
El Paso City Manager

NEW MEMBER PROPOSAL

As a service club that looks to help people in need and improve our community, the Rotary Club of West El Paso is always looking for new members who can contribute to our efforts and join us in fellowship. Listed below are two proposed new members. If you have an objection to the proposed new members, please let one of the Board members, know within ten-days from this publication. Otherwise, the proposed new members will be invited to join us.

Proposed new members:

Alma (Christine)
Koschmann

Classification: (22-01)
Health Care-Administrator
Proposed by: Teresa Cavaretta

Bob Jacobo

Classification: (27-99)
Service Industries-Building Management
Proposed by: Dana Vogelmeier



A Hotel in Rwanda

By Rick LoBello, President - Rotary Club of West El Paso

My trip to Rwanda about a year and a half ago was a great adventure. It was my second trip and I was thrilled at having the opportunity to spend time observing two different families of endangered mountain gorillas in the mountains of Virunga Volcanoes National Park. During this time I got to meet a number of the people at my camp, knowledgeable Rwanda Parks guides and several staff members from the Diane Fossey Gorilla Fund Research Station. As an added treat and I was also able to meet the late Diane Fossey's good friend Rosamond Carr. You will remember Diane Fossey from National Geographic magazine and TV specials and from the movie "Gorillas in the Midst." I found Ms. Carr near the border of Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo where, at the age of 91, she was still running an orphanage she made out of an old hotel in Gisenyi to care for orphans of the 1994 genocide. You will remember that nearly a million people died at that time in one of the world's most terrible tragedies, one that President Clinton later wrote about in his memoir My Life. He also acknowledges that his failure to take action in 1994 to stop genocide

in Rwanda "became one of the greatest regrets of my presidency."

Upon returning from my trip, I began to visualize a project that I hope to someday involve Rotarians through an international effort to help the children of Rwanda. I already have one project underway at the Zoo and hope to expand it in the coming years. But first I need to go back to Rwanda to meet with Rotarians in the capital of Kigali.



Several months ago, I learned about a film called Hotel Rwanda. A true story, the film was nominated for three Oscars and chronicles the life of a man who saved over a 1000 people from the genocide

by using the country's most luxurious hotel, the Hotel Des Mille Collines, as a refuge from all the killing. I stayed at that same hotel in June of 2003 where part of the film was made.

When the movie was released about a month ago, I looked in the El Paso and Las Cruces papers hoping to find a theater where I could watch it. I called the three main theaters for new releases in El Paso and learned that the movie was not scheduled. After making a phone call to the main office for Cinemark in Dallas, I start-

see **Rwanda...** on last page

ROTARY NEWS

Help build Keystone Heritage Park

A group of Rotary Club of West El Paso members will be getting together in the coming weeks to build a footbridge at the new Keystone Heritage Park off Doniphan near the Crossroads. Starting this Saturday, the group will get together from 9 a.m. to noon to do the work. If you'd like to volunteer, just show up ready to help. Call Caz Swier at 533-3937 or Teresa Cavaretta at 584-7332 for more information.

District seeks funds for food in Zimbabwe

District 9210 is seeking financial contributions to help establish a six-month feeding program to feed 40,000 people suffering from starvation due to the recent famine in Zimbabwe. Due to the current political and economic crisis, the people of Zimbabwe are facing a severe famine. One third of the 8 million people affected by the famine only have about four meals each week and an estimated 75 percent of the population is suffering from starvation. District 9210 has established a relationship with the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and several clubs in the district are collecting funds for the distribution of food throughout the country. Contact Egbert Wever, P.O. Box HG 60, Highlands Harare, Zimbabwe.

Rotarians celebrate youth programs

The Presidential Celebration on Youth Programs, the third of seven celebrations planned for 2004-05, drew some 1,200 attendees, many of them Youth Exchange students, to Osnabrück, Germany, on Jan. 8. Few German cities could have made a better venue for an RI confer-

Member spotlight: Cliff Walsh

As an ongoing feature for the newsletter, Teo Cafengiu is interviewing club members to help us get to know one another better. This week's profile is on Cliff Walsh.



Cliff Walsh is known to many in our community as the commander of the Police Department's West Side Regional Command Center. But he does a lot more than just work – Cliff is a family man, married with four children, and is active teaching management courses at Park University and Webster University. He also enjoys collecting working antiques.

Having lived in El Paso since he was 11, Cliff has no plans on leaving El Paso, as his family and career are here. His wife, Charlene, are proud of their children: Nathan, 24, who graduated from Texas Christian University; Heather, 20, accomplished clarinet band player; Linsey, 16, who also plays clarinet and is in the National Honor Society; and Evan, who is 13 and whom Cliff describes as the "spoiled baby of the family."

Cliff is proud of his 28 years of service in the El Paso Police Department. He chose law enforcement as a career so he could help people. He now has worked in every part of the department.

He joined the Rotary Club of West El Paso in October 2003 so he could volunteer and get in more involved in the community. He found Rotary to be a great means toward this goal, and got the added benefit of good conversation, good humor and fellowship. He especially remembers the 2003 Christmas party with fondness, when he assigned singing at each table.

"I knew I was in the right club when everyone was so willing to participate and enjoy themselves," he said. "I would encourage everyone to try and find a niche and participate in Rotary."

ence in Rotary's centennial year than Osnabrück, which cohosted the signing of the historic treaties of the 1648 Peace of Westphalia that ushered in a new era for a war-weary Europe. The event focused on the success and future of Rotary's youth programs and the service opportunities they offer clubs and districts in Germany. For more on Rotary and young people, visit pages dedicated to RYLA, Rotary Youth Exchange and Interact at Rotary's website, www.rotary.org.

February Birthdays

John Walker	3rd
Rick Loiselle	4th
Geri Wooten	5th
Jesse Allen	7th
Ingo Klein	13th
Mike Schmid	23rd

Important Rotary Websites

Here's a website of interest to members of the Rotary Club of West El Paso:

Rotary Club of West El Paso:
www.rotarywestelpaso.org

The IOS Futures Golf Classic:
www.elpasofutures.org

Rotary District 5520:
www.rotary5520.org

Rotary International:
www.rotary.org

eClubOne:
<http://www.rotaryclubone.org>

Active ...continued from front

ed asking questions about how cities were selected for different films. When I asked about sponsoring a special screening in El Paso within hours I received a follow up call with news on how the film was coming to El Paso to be shown for at least week at Tinsel Town. You can see it there starting on February 4.

As Rotarians we like to think of ourselves as people who care about the world. One way we can do that is by becoming informed. The Rwandan conflict of the 1990s marked one of the bloodiest chapters in recent African history. The genocide was made all the more tragic by the fact that most of the world chose to ignore the conflict and the plight of the Rwandan people. While occasional reports about "tribal warfare" in Rwanda were carried by international news agencies, the horror of the conflict, instead of causing international outrage, seemed to be written off as another "third world incident" and not worthy of attention.



Help for tsunami victims must be sustained

Rotarians all over the world have responded spontaneously and generously to the tsunami disaster in South Asia. At the Presidential Celebration in Osnabrück, Germany, Rotary Magazine editor Gerald Deckart asked RI President Glenn E. Estess Sr. about his ideas for Rotary involvement.

Deckart: Will Rotary International launch its own program to help flood victims in South Asia?

Estess: No. Rotary would never have the capabilities to respond to this catastrophe, which is beyond imagination, at the same comprehensive level that governments or global relief organizations can provide. As with other disasters, we rely on the proven initiative of clubs and districts, which have already shown excellent results.

How do you think Rotary and its clubs should take action?

First of all, help needs to be sustained. Currently, there are a lot of relief organizations on location. Rotary should have a long-term perspective. We should concentrate on those needs that will remain in half a year or a year from now — to rebuild infrastructure, schools, hospitals, and affordable homes.

How can The Rotary Foundation help?

A gift to the South Asia Solidarity Fund will be used to support recovery projects in Sri Lanka, Indonesia, India, and Thailand. There are other Foundation programs that can offer support. The easiest is Matching Grants. Any club that wants to help can check the various forms of assistance listed on the RI Web site (www.rotary.org). I would like to thank all Rotarians who have already responded for their great services.

The 4-Way Test

Members of Rotary International use a simple test to guide their actions in life. Here it is:

"The 4-Way Test of the things we think, say or do:

- 1st Is it the TRUTH?**
- 2nd Is it FAIR to all concerned?**
- 3rd Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?**
- 4th Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?"**

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La Mesa is published by the Rotary Club of West El Paso, Inc. To subscribe send an e-mail to eligner@elp.rr.com with "Newsletter Subscription" as the subject.

MEETINGS

Monday: Holiday Inn - Sunland Park, 12 PM

EL PASO MAKEUPS

Tuesday: East El Paso, 12 PM

Airport Hilton

Wednesday: Sunrise, 7 AM

Sunland Park Holiday Inn

Vista Hills, 12 PM

Vista Hills Country Club

Thursday: El Paso, 12 PM

1st Presbyterian Fellowship Hall

Anthony, 12 PM

Dos Lagos Golf Club

Franklin Mountains, 5:45 PM

Sunrise Center Furr's Cafeteria

Friday: Northeast, 12 PM

Sunrise Center Furr's Cafeteria

JUAREZ MAKEUPS

Tuesday: Juarez Sur, 2:30 PM

Campestre Juarez

Wednesday: Cd. Juarez, 1:30 PM

Campestre Juarez

Juarez Chamizal, 2:00 PM

Rest. Barrigas Monumental

Juarez Americas, 3:00 PM

Campestre Juarez

Juarez Frontera, 7:30 PM

Rest. Viva Mexico

Thursday: Juarez Paso del Norte, 2:00 PM

Campestre Juarez

Juarez Empresarial, 2:30 PM

Rest. Barrigas Mon.

Friday: Juarez Industrial, 2:00 PM

Campestre Juarez

Juarez Ejecutivo, 2:00 PM

Mision de Los Lagos

Juarez Norte, 8:30 PM

Casino Juarez

Juarez Oriente, 9:00 PM

Hotel Holiday Inn