



October 1, 2001



# THE BLASTOFF

Rotary Club of Space Center  
Rotary District 5890  
Meetings are held  
Monday's 11:45  
Holiday Inn - 1300 NASA Road One  
(281) 333-2500  
www.spacecenterrotary.org  
Chartered: August 6, 1964



**Whatever It Takes**  
District 5890 2001 - 2002 Theme

**SPACE CENTER**  
President **Suzi Howe**  
suzihowe@academicplanet.com  
President - Elect **Laura Hale**  
lhale@wt.net  
Secretary **Olive Murphey-Riker**  
olivecpa@ix.netcom.com  
Treasurer **Sheila Self**  
sheila.self@barrios.com  
Sgt. at Arms **Vissett Sun**  
vissettsun@aol.com  
Past President **Dave Baldwin**  
baldwin@firstcommunitybank.net  
Parliamentarian **Billy Smith**  
billysmith59@aol.com

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL**  
President  
**Rick King**  
**DISTRICT 5890**  
District Governor  
**Dennis Adams**  
Olhoss@prodigy.net  
District Governor Elect  
**Jon Eiche**  
jeiche@livingbank.org  
Asst. District Governor  
**George Yeiter**  
gyeiter@yeiter.com

## Today's Agenda

**11:45 am** Buffet luncheon begins  
**12:05 pm** Call to order  
Song for today **Jerry Bourgeois**  
Pianist **Ann Fulcher - John Wilson**  
Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance  
Introductions of Guest and Visiting Rotarians  
Four Way Test  
Announcements  
**12:30 pm** Program Chair **Rolfe Young & Dave Baldwin**  
Program Mayor Lee Brown

## Upcoming Rotary Programs / Socials

**Rotary Club of Space Center**  
Oct 2 Board Meeting - 7:00 am Holiday Inn - NASA Road One  
Oct 8 *Holiday - no mtg.*  
Oct. 15 Shrimporee follow up Sheila Self & Committee Chairs  
Oct 22 Rebecca Cordero, our exchange student from Valenzuela  
Oct 29 Patrick Nolan / Channel 13, ABC News, Service Above Self  
Nov 5 Robert Smith, III / Federal Reserve Bank  
Nov 12 *Holiday - no meeting*  
Nov 19 Dr. Maxime Faget / Conceptual engineer, director of Mercury  
Nov 26 Tommy Holloway / ISS Director  
**Rotary District 5890 for 2001**  
Oct 20-21 Wings Over Houston  
Nov. 7 Be A Friend Hat Society Day - Westin Gallery  
Jan 17 All Club Meeting  
Mar 16 Interviews Ambassadorial Scholarship  
Mar 21-23 Lone Star P.E.T.S.  
May 9 - 12 District Conference in New Orleans - Jazz it up!



Printing courtesy of  
**Barrios Technology**  
"Where Innovation and Motivation Meet"  
Blastoff Editor: Sheila Self

## Today's Song

### *Hello Dolly*

Hello Dolly, well hello Dolly,  
It's so nice to have you back where you belong  
You're looking swell Dolly, I can tell Dolly,  
You're still glowin', you're still crowin',  
You're still goin' strong.  
We fell the room swayin', cause the band's playin'  
One of your old favorite songs from way back when,  
So, take her wrap fellas, Find her an empty lap fellas,  
Dolly'll never go away, Dolly'll never go away,  
Dolly'll never go away again



Welcome Visiting  
Rotarians &  
Guests!

#### Proposed Member

Peter Wuenschel  
Tony Resendez

#### Proposed By

Huey Barnett  
Marc Schneider



### A Special Message from RI President Richard D. King

On behalf of 1.2 million Rotarians in 163 countries of the world, I want to extend my heartfelt condolences to the victims and families of the tragic events of 11 September 2001. At this early stage, we do not yet know what losses our own Rotary family may have experienced, but I am quite certain that all Rotarians stand united in offering sympathy and support in these difficult times.

Since this tragedy occurred in the country where our world headquarters is located, Rotary International has received an outpouring of concern from Rotarians throughout the world. To share these concerns and condolences with other members of the Rotary family, we have put these messages on our Web site. This Web page will remain on the site permanently to allow Rotarians to respond to the future disasters that seem almost inevitable in our troubled world.

Many Rotarians have asked us how they can help. We strongly encourage Rotarians to turn to their own individual clubs or local districts for guidance. In the days and weeks ahead, clubs and districts in the New York and Washington, D.C., areas will undoubtedly begin initiating projects to help their communities recover. If you or your club want to provide assistance, the best way is to contact these clubs directly through your own district. Meanwhile, we are suggesting that Rotarians or Rotary clubs consider working with the Red Cross and other organizations that are equipped to respond quickly to such disasters.

These events demonstrate all the more the importance of Rotary's Global Quest to keep our organization growing and thriving. Where Rotary exists in the world, there is a greater chance for peace. By swelling the ranks of Rotarians dedicated to peace, we can further strengthen Rotary's mission to foster international understanding and goodwill.

Sincerely,  
Richard D. King, President, Rotary International

### CONGRATULATIONS!

We extend our hearty congratulations to **Doug Byerly** and his wife on the birth of their new son. The newborn had a difficult time coming in to this world but all are doing well! This is Doug's third son and he weighed in at 7lbs. 11oz.!



**BOARD MEETING**  
7:00 am  
Holiday Inn

## Gala Promotes Self-Sufficient Families 9 Hens and 1 Lucky Rooster, Trees, Tomatoes, Beans

At the Color of Our Hearts Gala recently **Frank Huezo** described Nicaragua and the work being done for the victims of Hurricane Mitch, and most notably, children living and eating in the garbage dump. PDG Steve Harris, RI's co-chair on the Hunger Task Force, was the Gala Chairman and Chair RI Hunger Task Force along with Carolyn Farb, honorary chair again and Linda Messner. A presentation was shown with a challenge to break the cycle of poverty, one village at a time. Father Marco, speaking English publicly for the first time at the RI Convention this summer in San Antonio, also outlined the contributions by Rotarians on the video.

This year, the Nicaraguan Gala was held at the Hornberger Center on September 22, 2001. Major corporate underwriters included Michael Cordua of America's restaurant fame and Americana Shipping Lines. This year, 100% of the costs of the gala are underwritten, so 100% of your dollars go to the families in Nicaragua!

Yes, members and guests of the Rotary Club of Space Center attended the gala after many hours of supporting our very own Shrimporree fundraiser. None of us stayed around for the dancing later in the evening (we were just so tired!), but we really enjoyed the district fellowship, food, and the program. Attendees from our club were: **Bill Lowes, Bill Taylor, David Vaughn, Laura Hale** and **Sheila Self**. Guests included Sharon Lowes, Susan Taylor, Susan Vaughn, and Addie Pope. The Getsamami Children's Choir also performed that evening and our club was also treated to their entertainment at our meeting on Monday, September 24.

You may remember at **PDG Painter's** conference in Galveston, Texas, **Jack Tucker** made a presentation about the housing project for the people of the dump. For \$450, Rotarians, friends, and clubs could sponsor a home for a family. Your \$450 contribution was matched by another Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), Food for the Poor, and then the \$900 matched again by RI in a special housing grant, shepherded by PDG **Charlie Clemmons**. So yes, a home for \$1,800.00 was built; there are approximately 110 of 300 homes completed. Food for the Poor is building the remainder of the homes, which should be completed by October. This project has grown from the first international project for the Humble Intercontinental club five years ago to a large project supported by the majority of the clubs in

*(Continued on page 4)*

Photos courtesy of JB Fox



The Nicaraguan Children's Choir with Father Marco Dessy and Frank Huezo.



Children of Getsamani Choir and Orchestra & Father Marco



Children of Getsamani Choir and Orchestra  
The Nicaraguan Children's Dancers -  
what a treat for us all!  
Smiles were on everyone's face!



South Shore Montessori School students Megan Schweizer and John Warren Hendricks presented **Frank Huezo** with Spanish books for them to take to Nicaragua this month.  
Thanks Suzi!



Special thanks to the Rotarians and their spouses for attending the Nicaraguan gala on Saturday, September 22!!

Kudos to **Bill Lowes, Bill Taylor** and **David Vaughn** who worked so many tireless hours at the Shrimporree before (thank goodness) changing and getting ready for the gala.

We also want to thank everyone else for working all day Saturday and attending the gala also. *Sharon Lowes, Susan Taylor* (she still wants Bill to get her one of those Macaws!), *Susan Vaughn* (you need to meet this lady if you haven't already!), **Addie Pope & Sheila Self**.



District 5890. But what to do once the homes are built?

Rotarians throughout District 5890 have stepped forward again to begin the final step in breaking the cycle of poverty for the families of the Chinendega city dump. This year, proceeds from the gala will be spent on feeding the children at the school for the kids of the city dump (approx. \$90k annually) and the remainder to provide crops and livestock for the villagers.

Each villager should receive fencing and materials for pens, 9 hens and 1 lucky rooster, several lime trees, several papaya trees, several plantain trees, seeds for tomatoes, cucumbers, beans, onions, herbs, etc. The estimated cost for each family is approximately \$600, and the goal is to have each family self-sufficient within the next 6 months. Just like the housing project, each family is responsible for building the fences, pens, and gardens.

If you would like to make the next trip to Nicaragua, please call **Frank Huezo** at 281.446.0405 for the October 25-29 trip.

**Wings Over Houston Support Needed**

We need your help with about 50 members from our District to help supervise the Interact Kids at Wings Over Houston on October 20-21. Thanks for your help. You will get free entrance to the Air Show and no matter what gate you are assigned to you will still get a good view of the show.

Please contact Terry Stracke teelee@msn.com or Paul or Teresa Mueller at tmueller1@houston.rr.com

**BOLIVIA UPDATE**

**By: Stan Galanski**

Now that some regularity has settled back in with the airlines, I wanted to let you know of dates I am planning on traveling to Cochabamba.

Depart either: Friday (11/2) or Saturday (11/3) {Note: this is an overnight flight, getting in the next day}

Return either: Friday (11/9), Saturday (11/10), or Sunday (11/11)

My preference will be to make the most of the week out from work, by leaving on the evening of 11/2 and returning on 11/11. Since we have dedicated personnel to help us the whole time we are down there, adjusting your travel times (departing or returning) is most flexible, i.e., we all do not need to travel on the same day. But, since it is more fun going down together, I will be as flexible as need be so everyone is comfortable.

Information you should have in preparing for this trip is as follows:

1. Go to the AMISTAD Mission Website (<http://amistadmission.org/>) and browse the various links to learn about where we will be visiting (Childrens Village and Aramasi), and where we will be living (La Morada).
2. Click on "Visit Bolivia" from the Home Page and download a "Visitors' Packet". Here you will learn: History of Amistad, Expected expenses for this trip, Sample Itinerary, Release Forms, Medical Forms and Guidelines, Advice on what to bring with you for the trip
3. A roundtrip Coach ticket between Houston and Cochabamba is approx. \$1,100, with American Airlines providing transportation 90% of the way. Although the Bolivian National Airline (LAB) does fly out of Miami (which is the U.S. departure point for American as well, and is approx. \$300 less), I am recommending we fly with a more reliable carrier at this time. For those of you who are departing from a city other than Houston, we will meet up in Miami just prior to leaving for the South American leg of the trip.
4. Our time down there will be taken up with:
  - Visits to the Childrens Village (where we will commemorate a new Water Well), {2 days} - Excursions into the City for restaurant eating and great shopping, {intermittent} - Site Seeing around Cochabamba {2 days}, and - Travel up to the Andean Village of Aramasi (75 miles outside Chochabamba) for an overnight stay {2 days}. We will be visiting a new school and clinic that AMISTAD has just built for them.
5. All your (in Bolivia) ground transportation, food and lodging (at La Morada) will be covered by a \$300 fee for the entire week. This is not due until you arrive at La Morada.
6. A couple of inoculations will be required for the trip (and are spelled out in the Visitors Packet). Just make sure you able to take care of them by the middle of October, as some of them take a couple of week to engage. In the past I have used the Herman Hospital Travel Clinic (713.704.4317) for my shots. They are most accommodating.

I would appreciate your delving through all this information and get back to me as soon as you can, so I can make sure ample accommodations await us (Max. 10 visitors per visit). As of right now, confirmed travelers are myself and Franz Josef-Albrecht (from Switzerland). I know that this trip will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. There will be ample time for personal reflection and retreat during these travels, as this country provides a wealth of stimulus that will cause you to reflect on your life here in the U.S. I look forward to your reply. You can reach me at: 713.750.4011 (Office) 281.992.3265 (Home) stan.galanski@oracle.com

**Personal Thanks to Shrimporee Publicity Committee Members**  
**--from Marie Dalton, Chair of the Publicity Committee**

Space Center Rotarians—You have been very generous in your comments about the amount of publicity garnered for Shrimporee this year, and I wish to acknowledge the labor of the real work horses:

First, my utmost appreciation goes to **Earl Maudlin** for the terrific organization he brought to the overall planning of this important Rotary event. He provided valuable ideas and patiently answered numerous questions.

Sincere thanks go to the hard-working committee members: **Mark Schneider, Scott Smith, Pat Patton, Mary Alys Cherry, Betsy Giusto, Delia Stephens, Don Thurston, Geoff Atwater, JB Fox, Jerrold Dewease, Mike Duckworth, Rhonda Lee, Sherril Stringfellow, and Jim Sweeney.** These folks really came through! (If I missed anyone, please know that I appreciate you—and owe you!)

Finally, I wish to publicly thank my assistant, Judy Wells, for truly being my right hand throughout this process!

All Rotarians,

Please turn in your ticket money to **Rolfe Young**, and any invoices to **Mark Humphrey** so we can finalize this year's Shrimporee. Thanks to everyone for a great Shrimporee!

**Earl Maudlin**

**Office of the Mayor**

The Mayor serves as the Executive Officer of the City. As the City's chief administrator and official representative, the Mayor is responsible for the general management of the City and for seeing that all laws and ordinances are enforced. Administrative duties include the appointments, with Council approval, of department heads and persons serving on advisory boards. As Executive Officer, the Mayor administers oaths and signs all motions, resolutions and ordinances passed by City Council. The Mayor also serves a legislative function, presiding over City Council with voting privileges. The Mayor is responsible for advising Council of the City's financial condition and presents to Council and annual budget for approval.

**Make – Up Locations**

<b>Monday - noon</b>	
Angleton	A-D Gen. Hosp. Prof. Bldg.
Galleria Area	University Club
<b>Tuesday - noon</b>	
Galveston Island	San Luis Hotel
Harrisburg	Brady's Landing
La Porte	St. John's Episcopal Church
Pearland	Golfcrest Country Club
River Oaks	Briar Club
Texas City	Nessler Center
<b>Wednesday - noon</b>	
Baytown	Goose Creek Country Club
Deer Park	Court & Theater Center
Dickinson	Methodist Church
Friendswood	Village on the Park
So. Pasadena	Baywood Country Club
<b>Thursday - noon</b>	
Alvin	Homestead Inn
Gulfway/Hobby	Hobby Hilton
Houston	Jr. League of Houston 1811 Briar Oaks Lane
La Marque	Gulf Greyhound Park
League City	Esteban's Fiesta Shack
Seabrook (7:00am)	Lakewood Yacht Club
<b>Friday - noon</b>	
Pasadena	First United Methodist Church
Hitchcock/Santa Fe	MaximBank Hwy 6
W. Galveston Cty.	Ramada Inn

**THE LADY**  
**By: Dana Holland**

I wonder what she thought  
 As she stood there, strong and tall.  
 She couldn't, couldn't turn away,  
 She was forced to watch it all.

Did she long to offer comfort  
 As Her country bled?  
 With her arm forever frozen  
 High above her head.

She could not shield her eyes  
 She could not hide her face  
 She just stared across the water  
 Keeping Freedom's Place.  
 The smell of smoke and terror  
 Somehow reduced her size  
 So small within the harbor  
 But still we recognized.....

How dignified and beautiful  
 On a day so many died  
 I wonder what she thought,  
 And I know she must  
 have cried.

God Bless Us All



**South Bay Area  
 Class Schedule**

**Community First Aid & Safety**

CPR & First Aid	Cost	\$35.00
Oct. 9 & 11		6:00 pm – 10:30 pm
Oct. 15, 17, & 18		6:30 pm – 9:30 pm
Oct. 22 & 24		6:00 pm – 10:30 pm
Nov. 6 & 8		6:00 pm – 10:30 pm
Nov. 12 & 14		6:00 pm – 10:30 pm
Nov. 27 & 29		6:00 pm – 10:30 pm
Dec. 3, 5, & 6		6:30 pm – 9:30 pm
Dec. 11		6:00 pm – 10:30 pm

## Happy Birthday Kristal Quinn

By: Alan Wylie

Many of you have asked how Kristal Quinn is doing. See her picture! Quite frankly, I have never seen her look better. She tells me she is "fine and dandy, studying hard to make good grades, which is harder than she imagined".



She is attending San Jacinto College here in Houston. She still has to watch her lifestyle closely, so she is not totally away from her past condition. Away from school, she is working for a real estate agency and is volunteering for an animal shelter.

And the birthday is her 19th birthday.

I'm certain that part of the reason she is doing better is the email letters and warm wishes from all over the world during those trying times.

If you want to email to her, her email address is [kristar99@aol.com](mailto:kristar99@aol.com)

### Turkey Talk

- ◆ 91% of Americans eat turkey on Thanksgiving Day.
- ◆ Of the 300 million turkeys raised annually, 45 million are consumed at Thanksgiving.
- ◆ Of the 300 million turkeys raised for consumption each year, one is sent to the White House for clemency. Each year, the President "pardons" the live turkey, which is sent to a farm to live out the rest of its days.
- ◆ The first meal eaten on the moon by astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin was roasted turkey and all the trimmings!



~Source: The Reno-Gazette Journal.

## WORLD HEALTH PROGRESSES

By: Bob Struzinski

On Tuesday September 25th, 2001 Dianne Brown and myself have taken Blanca Meza Gonzales and her mom Lucia Gonzalez to Ellington airport for there return trip to Mexico City, Mexico. Blanca was released last Friday after two very successful surgeries (90 + days) by Dr. Abdel Fustok. Blanca will return in June 2002, for further treatment. This represents a total of two patients, so far that we have been able to help this year. I want to thank all those who participated towards helping these patients.

I have been notified by *Martha Owen* of the Space Center Women of Rotary (SCWR), that they voted and approved chairing the Transportation committee of the World Health Organization. I would like to personally thank Martha and I applaud and welcome SCWR for their support.

The next patient will arrive pending Dr. Fustok's availability. If you have any questions or would like to join this rewarding committee please call me.

### Things You Didn't Know, You Didn't Know...

- ◆ If you put a raisin in a glass of champagne, it will keep floating to the top and sinking to the bottom.
- ◆ Debra Winger was the voice of E.T.
- ◆ Pearls melt in vinegar.
- ◆ Average life span of a major league baseball: 7 pitches.
- ◆ A duck's quack doesn't echo, and no one knows why.
- ◆ It's possible to lead a cow upstairs...but not downstairs.
- ◆ The only 15 letter word that can be spelled without repeating a letter is uncopyrightable.
- ◆ Stewardesses is the longest word that is typed with only the left hand.
- ◆ No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, and purple.
- ◆ "I am" is the shortest complete sentence in the English language.
- ◆ No NFL team which plays its home games in a domed stadium has ever won a Superbowl.



## "Trick-or-Treat" campaign materials on their way to U.S. Rotary Clubs

The Polio eradication effort has found a new ally in UNICEF's "Trick-or-Treat" fundraiser. At the 2001 Rotary International Convention in San Antonio, UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy announced that all proceeds of the "Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF" campaign for this year and next will go to polio eradication.

Managed by the U.S. Fund for UNICEF — one of 37 national committees set up around the world to raise money for UNICEF — the two-year campaign is in direct support of the private-sector appeal being jointly sponsored by Rotary and the United Nations Foundation. Rotary clubs throughout the United States are invited to join Rotary, the UN Foundation, and UNICEF in promoting this fundraising event in their local communities. The collection boxes, carried house to house by children on Halloween, will carry the logos of Rotary and the UN Foundation.

Since its inception in 1950 by a group of Philadelphia youth, the "Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF" tradition has enabled U.S. children to collect more than US\$110 million with the trademark orange collection boxes on Halloween. In the past, the funds raised have helped UNICEF provide medicine, clean water and sanitation, nutrition, education, and emergency relief to millions of children in more than 160 countries and territories.

This is the first time in the 51-year history of this premier UNICEF fundraiser that its proceeds will be devoted to a specific cause. In addition to being a wonderful community service project for any Rotary club, the 2001 Trick-or-Treat program is projected to contribute some \$6 million towards the Rotary-UNF private-sector appeal to help fill a \$400 million gap in funding for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

"Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF" has taught generations of children in the United States to care about their less advantaged peers around the world and about the importance of compassion and volunteerism. Now, it offers a great opportunity for Rotarians to introduce millions of children to Rotary and its commitment to global service and polio eradication. Rotary clubs are encouraged to begin identifying schools and other groups that work with children, and speak with their leaders about "Trick or Treat for UNICEF."

A complete package of information about this campaign was to have been sent to Rotary, Rotaract, and Interact club presidents in the United States last week. However, due to the recent tragic events in New York where UNICEF is headquartered, the mailing has been delayed. All U.S. clubs should receive the information by 1 October.

Campaign materials can also be downloaded from the Rotary Web site at <http://www.rotary.org/foundation/polioplus/unicef.html>.

To order collection boxes, or to obtain more details on "Trick or Treat for UNICEF," and promotion ideas, visit the campaign's homepage at <http://www.unicefusa.org/trickortreat>.

## "Trick-or-Treat"



## Columbus Day

"Columbus Day honors Christopher Columbus' first voyage to America in 1492. Columbus Day became a legal federal holiday in the United States in 1971. It is celebrated on the second Monday in October. Before 1971, a number of states celebrated Columbus Day on October 12.



Cities and organizations sponsor parades and banquets on Columbus Day.

The first Columbus Day celebration was held in 1792, when New York City celebrated the 300th anniversary of the landing. In 1892, President Benjamin Harrison called upon the people of the United States to celebrate Columbus Day on the 400th anniversary of the event. Columbus Day has been celebrated annually since 1920." ~Above Excerpted from The World Book Encyclopedia~



## Rotarians set up funds to assist victims of 11 September events

U.S. Rotary clubs and districts in the New York area have set up funds to assist victims of the aerial attacks on 11 September. Rotarians and others who wish to contribute towards these efforts are encouraged to work directly with the following clubs and districts:

District 7230 (Westchester, Bronx, Manhattan, Staten Island, and Bermuda) has established the "Rotary District 7230 NYC/WTC Disaster Relief Fund" to support education programs for the children of deceased rescue workers. Contributors can make checks payable to Rotary District 7230 NYC/WTC Disaster Relief Fund, P. O. Box 2, White Plains, NY 10605, USA. They may also wire transfer contributions earmarked for Rotary District 7230 NYC/WTC Disaster Relief Fund directly to Chase Manhattan Bank, Account Number: 261501937865, ABA/Routing Number: 021000021.

For further information, contact District 7230 Community Service Chairman Jim Kushner by telephone: 212-569-3542; e-mail: [disasterfund@rotary7230.org](mailto:disasterfund@rotary7230.org); or visit the district Web site at <http://www.rotary7230.org>.

District 7250, which encompasses Brooklyn, Queens, and all of Nassau County on Long Island, has established the "7250 Foundation Disaster Fund/WTC-911" to collect funds to aid the families of victims of The World Trade Center disaster who live in the district — an estimated 60 to 70 percent of the total number of families affected.

Contributors can make checks payable to "7250 Foundation Disaster Fund / WTC — 911," District 7250 / WTC-911 GPO Box 270 Oyster Bay, New York 11771-270. Additional information about this effort may be obtained by e-mail: [rotary7250@yahoo.com](mailto:rotary7250@yahoo.com) or by visiting the district's Web site at <http://www.rotary7250.org>.

The Rotary Club of New York has also set up a special fund to assist victims of the World Trade Center attacks. Contributors can make checks payable to "New York Rotary Foundation of the Rotary Club of New York," The Rotary Club of New York, 28 West 44th Street - Suite 1508, New York, New York, 10036, USA. Or they can wire transfer contributions directly to The New York Rotary Foundation, Chase Manhattan Bank, Account Number: 0331041640, Routing Number: 021000021.

For further information, contact Andreas Runggatscher, the club's executive director, by telephone: 212-819-0809; or e-mail: [ny.rotary@verizon.net](mailto:ny.rotary@verizon.net); or visit the club's Web site at <http://www.newyorkcityrotary.org>.

## Rotary upheld as model of volunteerism at United Nations event

Rotary International was a participant at the 54th Annual Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) Conference held at United Nations Headquarters in New York this past week. The event opened on 10 September with addresses by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and other leaders in the international community.

Based on the theme "NGOs Today: Diversity of the Volunteer Experience" and with the 2001 UN-sponsored International Year of Volunteers (IYV) as its backdrop, the meeting explored issues that challenge the worldwide community of NGOs, many of which are guided by the spirit of volunteerism. In addition, the event focused on the diversity of volunteer experiences around the world, and identified ways in which this spirit can be used more effectively to support the goals and principles of the United Nations.

Speaking on 13 September to an audience representing 150 NGOs and UN agencies, Rotary Foundation Trustee Chairman Luis Vicente Giay highlighted Rotary's experience with the PolioPlus program, which relies on an army of Rotarian volunteers across the world.

Trustee Chairman Giay upheld the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, a partnership between Rotary and other agencies, as a model for cooperation among different organizations in the delivery of international service. "Together with our partners, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, and the United Nations Children's Fund, Rotarians are confident that we will finish the job of eradicating polio by 2005," he said. "The success of The Rotary Foundation, both in terms of its fundraising and its top caliber programs, is attributable to one common factor: the Rotarian at the grassroots level who desires to make a difference."

Speakers who commended the pioneering role Rotary has played in the war against polio included Sharon Capeling-Alakija, executive coordinator for UN Volunteers, and Gillian Martin Sorenson, UN assistant secretary general for external relations.

In the closing speech, Nane Annan, the UN secretary general's wife, encouraged NGOs to support projects aimed at eradicating preventable diseases. Despite the tragic events on 11 September, which interrupted an event scheduled to have ended on the following day, the conference successfully highlighted the importance of volunteerism in the world.



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*The Blastoff*



## The Rotarians 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?



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Editor: Sheila Self  
Photographer: Bob Mitchell

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Home Phone: (281) 333-4333  
Fax: (281) 280-1901

[sheila.self@barrios.com](mailto:sheila.self@barrios.com)

Mail to:  
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[etmaudlin@aol.com](mailto:etmaudlin@aol.com)

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(Bulletin, Programs,  
Roster/Directory, Telephone)  
[dhgregg3@cyberbay.net](mailto:dhgregg3@cyberbay.net)

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(Membership Development,  
Attendance, Classification,  
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[marcs@ws-law.com](mailto:marcs@ws-law.com)

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(Community Service, Health & Safety  
Scholarships, Senior Citizens)  
[MDalto@sjcd.cc.tx.us](mailto:MDalto@sjcd.cc.tx.us)

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(Rotary & SCR Foundations,  
World Friendship,  
Ambassadorial Scholarships)  
[jfox6@houston.rr.com](mailto:jfox6@houston.rr.com)

*International Service B –* **Dick Kidder**  
(GSE Activities, Int'l  
Youth Exchange, World Health)  
[Dick.Kidder@Airliquide.com](mailto:Dick.Kidder@Airliquide.com)