



**...by changing the world,
one positive act at a time.**

December 2006

**Suzi Howe, Governor
Rotary District 5890**

**Volume 102
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SERVICE Above Self

Rotary Club of Houston makes Baker Tribute a Record Success

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More than 800 people filled the Imperial Ballroom at the Hyatt Regency Downtown Houston on November 20th to witness Secretary James A. Baker, III receiving the Rotary Club of Houston's 45th Distinguished Citizen Award (DCA). It was the most successful DCA event in the club's history, with more than \$500,000 being raised for the Rotary Club of Houston Foundation.

Honorary Co-Chairs were President and Mrs. George H.W. Bush and Secretary and Mrs. Robert Mosbacher, Sr. Rotary Co-Chairs were Meredith Iler and Michael Barnes.



On a glorious November evening, Rotary co-chairs Meredith Iler and Michael Barnes opened 2006 DCA

With South Dakota Senator John Thune serving as a very efficient Master of Ceremonies, the first speakers were Secretary Baker's sons, Doug and John, who praised their dad for his integrity and patience, and told of his five P's: Prior Preparation Prevents Poor Performance. Next speaker, former Secretary of Commerce Bob Mosbacher, named Baker one of the greatest public servants of our time. Bill Barnett, chairman of the Baker Institute at Rice University told how Baker

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once said that his value after such high Washington positions would only last 2 or 3 years. Since that was spoken in 1993, Barnett concluded that Baker was not good at prophecy. Finally, His Royal Highness Prince Turki of Saudi Arabia praised Baker for his leadership on the world stage and his pivotal role in co-chairing the Iraq Study Group.



Secretary Jim Baker receives his award from 95th Club President Vicki Brentin and Club Foundation President Phil Hampton - a proud Rotary moment.

Baker said that after spending the first half of his life on the sidelines, he suggested that life is more meaningful and satisfying if one gets in the parade. Mr. Baker's memoir: *Work Hard, Study . . . and Keep Out of Politics! Adventures and Lessons from an Unexpected Public Life*—was published in October 2006.



The evening concluded with a surprise presentation of a new home to Corporal Paul

Gardner, USMC, in honor of Secretary Baker's service in the Marines. Joining Mayor Bill White and Mayor Dave Wallace in the presentation were Congressional members Sheila Jackson Lee, Kevin Brady, Michael McCaul and Shelly Sekula-Gibbs; war hero, Captain Scott O'Grady; Judge Robert Eckels; Secretary of State Roger Williams; and business leader Meredith Cullen.

Reflecting on the evening, President Vicki Brentin said; "Secretary Baker truly lives our motto of "Service Above Self". What a deserving recipient of our Rotary Distinguished Citizen Award."



Ambassador Hushang Ansary, Secretary Jim Baker, Meredith Cullen, and Secretary Robert Mosbacher, Sr. at Rotary Club of Houston's 2006 Distinguished Citizen Award



Former Texas Secretary of State George Strake, Secretary Jim Baker, Annette Strake. George Strake is a former recipient of our Distinguished Citizen Award and an honorary member of the Rotary Club of Houston

Projects Are Available

Governor Suzi Howe reports that her office has received several proposed projects from Rotary clubs in Mexico in District 4150. Some are from the Club Puerto Vallarta Pitillal. They are:

1) To provide 15 custom made prostheses for people, with little or no income, at a total cost of US\$12,000. The projected funding includes US\$3,000 from a sponsoring District 5890 club; US\$1,000 from the Pto. Vta. Pitillal club; US\$2,000 from 5890 DDF; US\$1,000 from the District 4150 DDF and US\$5,000 from TRF.

2) To provide manual hospital beds, bed wear and linen for senior citizens in a Shelter Center, at a total cost of US\$12,000. The projected funding includes US\$3,000 from a sponsoring District 5890 club; US\$1,000 from the Pto. Vta. Pitillal club; US\$2,000 from 5890 DDF; US\$1,000 from the District 4150 DDF and US\$5,000 from TRF.

Club Rotario Bahia de Banderas has proposed several also. Two of them are:

1) Casa Comunidad is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping children and adults develop the necessary skills to be successful, positive contributors to their multi-national, bilingual community. Their need is for funds to support and enrich their current programs. Funds will be used to purchase needed furniture, computers, and materials for English, Art and computer classes. The budget is \$25,000 USD. Their club will provide \$6,250 USD and 5890's sponsoring club a like amount. These two sums are assumed to include DDFs. TRF will be asked for \$12,500 USD.

2) The club has as its goal to provide uniforms, school supplies to 150 middle school students. Without this support, these students from lower income families can not continue to attend school. In addition to their uniforms and supplies, the students will receive economic support for tuition and transportation from the Becas Vallarta A. C. The total need is \$24,000 USD. Their club will provide \$6,000 USD to be matched with a like amount from a 5890 sponsor club. \$12,000 USD will be requested from TRF.

The sponsoring club from 5890 will have the opportunity to visit with project leader during the District Conference this spring.

Council on Legislation Update

In 2007 the Council on Legislation will meet from April 22-27 in Chicago. This body is the legislature for Rotary International. It repeals, amends and creates the laws governing Rotary International, the Districts and the Clubs and only meets once every three years.

The time to make proposals ended June 30, 2006 and we are now studying the proposals and preparing to discuss, debate and vote. I recently received two volumes of proposed legislation to the Council made by the clubs, districts the RI Board, and the General Council of RIBI.

In addition to the proposal, each had to also have a financial impact statement. In total, there are 520 pieces of proposed legislation. The clubs of District 5890 made two proposals: district finances and membership.

The financial proposal is to allow the district to appoint an independent audit committee to audit the books of the district. The current rules allow for only an outside accountant to do a review engagement. A review is not an audit. The committee approach will allow for a more in-depth inspection of the books as for example: to compare financial activity to authorized expenditures by comparison to the approved budget or approval of the finance committee; and, a more detailed review of support documentation.

The membership proposal by District 5890 would allow Foundation alumni to join a club even if the classification for the proposed alumni is filled. This exception to the classification limit is already permitted for transferring or former members of a club.

*George M. Yeiter
District 5890 Delegate*

Volunteer Service Grants

The Rotary Foundation Board of Trustees has agreed to lower the service stay from 10 days to 5 days. This is an excellent opportunity for Rotarians to travel abroad to help plan a project or providing a service. Previously, a VSG required a minimum stay of 10 days at the project site. If you would like more information regarding a VSG for yourself, please visit <http://www.rotary.org/foundation/grants/vsg/index.html>

Cecile Schutter

Gifts aplenty as holiday season begins

Each year the Katy Rotary Club coordinates efforts to provide toys for children in the Katy Independent School District that are in need. This year, individuals of the Katy Rotary Club, Carol Frentz of the ATA Black Belt Academy, Mike and Katy Capel and Jean Black of Champion Ford, made providing toys to kids possible.

Jean Black served as coordinator for Champion Ford and employees and customers of the Ford dealership on the Katy Freeway are making a difference in the lives of children who deserve a blessed Christmas. It has become tradition for these local businesses to give and open their hearts to others. They show tremendous generosity for the cause.

The toys were collected and were sorted by gender and age and delivered to Hutsell Elementary Thursday afternoon. Keiko Davidson, Principal of Hutsell Elementary, along with her staff headed by Magdalena Figueroa, insures that these families have a Merry Christmas.

In addition, the Katy Lions Club has joined in by collecting and donating toys to this annual event for the school. A special thank you goes to Alvin Cox and all the Katy Lions for their support. This caring and giving spirit is emblematic of the Katy community and their long tradition of caring for those in need.

Tara Stanley, Staff Reporter

Fall dance vacation to Mackinac Island, Michigan

We are putting this "feeler" out to see what interest might exist in a Weekend at the Grand Hotel at Mackinac Island Michigan in October 2007. If there is interest then we will proceed to explore group rates. Information on the weekend and Hotel follows our signature or go to:

http://reservations.ihotelier.com/crs/p_prod.cfm?HotelID=2735&ProdID=2887&kill-cookie=1&LanguageID=1 > Ballroom Dancing Weekend to link to the Grand Hotel website.

We took this trip about 7 years ago and it was great. You can also do extra excursions into Canada. It is the Fall Season of the year. There is dance instruction during the day or you can tour the island.

There are no motorized vehicles on the island. Transportation is via bicycle, horse & buggy, or walking. It is unique to say the least.

In addition to the beauty, there is a lot of history here. For those into Ballroom style dancing, this is indeed a Grand Hotel for a romantic interlude. The ballroom is a beautiful grand ballroom circa the end of the 19th century. This is very different. It is much like a cruise ship. You eat in two sittings (early and late) and the evenings are suit and tie with Saturday night being formal with Tux and evening gowns. Saturday evening is the grand ball in the Grand Hotel Ballroom. Very elegant experience with music by the Sammy Kaye Orchestra on both Friday and Saturday nights!

If you are interested then email George and we will keep you on our update list. Send this as an email to other dance/vacation friends who might also be interested. We will not make any decisions until July but need to book before it sells out. Here are two websites:

<http://www.mackinac.com>
<http://www.mackinawinfo.com/area%20attractions.htm>

George & Beverly Yeiter

...a Rotary Moment

"Building membership is, of course, crucial to building Rotary. Rotary is nothing without its members and its clubs, and as members age, we must find new ones to take their places. More than that, we must always be growing in order to meet the many new needs that arise in our communities every day."

William B. (Bill) Boyd

RI President - 2006-07

Director Rotary International, 1998-2000.

Member of the Rotary Club of Pakuranga, New Zealand.

Suzi's Suggested Links

From time to time, Suzi will put new links here for your information and amusement.

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishboat/boat/paddlingtrails>

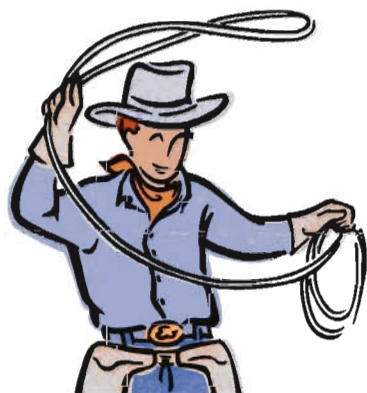
District 5890 2006-07 Multi-Club Project

The Rotary East End Initiative has been successful in establishing several public health projects including Back –to-School Immunization Events, the Espiritu de Salud/Spirit of Health Mobile Health Unit, the El Centro de Corazon Pediatric Room and most recently the El Centro After Hours Urgent Care program. The Initiative is now broadening its reach to include education activities.

Please join District Governor Suzi Howe in her vision to support a Montessori program in the *Casa de los Ninos Barbara Bush* – a state of the art literacy center that will be part of a major expansion for the Community Family Center and make a huge difference for East End families. This multi-club project will equip a Montessori classroom and also establish a ROTARY PARK in the *St. Luke's playground* that adjoins the *Casa de los Ninos Barbara Bush* and the *John D. McGovern Gymnasium*.

DG Suzi has already pledged \$25,000 from District funds and is asking interested Rotary clubs and individual Rotarians to also contribute funds. Rotary's partner, St. Luke's Episcopal Health Charities, will support these efforts with a challenge grant to match the Rotary funds raised for this project. Donations of \$1000 and higher from Rotary clubs and individual donors will be recognized on a plaque in the Rotary Park.

Contact: Suzi Howe suzihowe@earthlink.net or Vicki Brentin Vicki@brentin.com



Suzi Howe
District Governor
Rotary District 5890

Announces

Rotary Night at the Rodeo
Thursday March 8, 2007
Alan Jackson



Cost \$35 – includes Bar-B-Que Dinner in Reliant Center and access to the World's
Largest Livestock Show!
(Does not include parking)

Tell your President now how many tickets you want.
Rotarians and Guests are Welcome!

The Presidents of the Top 10 Clubs ride in the Grand Entry with Governor Suzi
Howe.

GREAT DOOR PRIZES!!!

A Custom Hat from The Hat Store 5587 Richmond Ave
A Custom Belt and Buckle Set from Maida's 5727-K Westheimer Rd

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL 2006-07 CALENDAR

January - Rotary Awareness Month

February - World Understanding Month
23 Rotary's 102 Anniversary

March - Literacy Month
12-18: World Rotaract Week

April - Magazine Month

June - Rotary Fellowship Month
17-20 RI Convention: Salt Lake City

Have you asked anyone this week to join your Rotary Club ? Membership is every Rotarian's business!

The Rotary Foundation - Matching Grants

The District Grant Committee would like to remind all clubs that the cut off date for Rotary Foundation Matching Grants is March 31, 2007. We would like to encourage clubs to submit their MG applications as soon as possible. TRF receives over 3000 applications and the bulk usually comes just at the deadline which creates a longer period for approvals. If you are planning to apply for a grant, please do so NOW. D5890 has a limited amount of Grant funds, which although is generous, we encourage clubs to apply. The experienced clubs are busy applying so the funds are being used. Don't wait for the last minute and be disappointed. **SUBMIT NOW!**

Do not submit your application directly to TRF. It must come through the District Grant Committee. You can contact me at 713.665.4767 or cs@westuttravel.com.

Take advantage of this wonderful source of funding for your international and community projects. And don't forget, your annual contributions through the sale of District Raffle Tickets is what supports the big picture of TRF.

*Cecile Schutter, D5890
District Foundation Sub Committee Chair 2006-07*

<i>Area Club Membership Chairs</i>	
Clubs Assigned	AMC
Weimer, Columbus, Eagle Lake, Sealy	Scott Brasher
Brenham, Washington County	David Barr
El Campo, Palacios, Wharton, Bay City	Larry Jackson
Sweeny, West Columbia, Brazosport Angleton	Marilyn Lidberg
Richmond, Rosenberg	Billie Jones
Sugar Land, Oyster Creek, Fort Bend	Bill Griffin
Katy, Katy Sunrise, Bear Creek-Copperfield, West Houston	Steve Ratcliffe
Champions Sunrise, Willowbrook, Tomball, Cypress-Fairbanks	Demetta Landry
Greenspoint, Humble/Intercontinental, Kingwood	Bev Fitzgerald
Gulfway/Hobby Airport, Pearland, 288 Corridor	John Clayton
Pasadena, Deer Park, La Porte, Galena Park/Jacinto City	Amber Cobb
Northshore, Highlands, Baytown	Charlie Buscemi
Pasadena South, Space Center, Seabrook	Linda Nagle
Houston Westchase, Sharpstown, Bellaire/Southwest Hou, Braes Bayou	Keith Lovelace
Mem.-Spring Branch, Houston Heights, Galleria, River Oaks	Bill Jones
West U. University Area, Astrodome-Houston	Merinda Watkins-Martin
Alvin, Harrisburg	Chris Schneider



Houston's Largest Tree Planting Ever!

A District 5890 Family of Rotary Event

Saturday, January 27, 2007

8 AM – Noon

WHO? All District 5890 Rotarians, their families and friends are invited to participate in the largest Houston Area tree planting ever.

What? The City of Houston, Trees For Houston and TxDOT are sponsoring this volunteer planting of Twenty thousand, five gallon trees. Rotarians will all work together at one location. Houston's Parks and Recreation Department will provide water, refreshments and lunch for all volunteers.

Where? Trees will be planted on Will Clayton Parkway between Hwy 59 and Lee Rd. Rotary will be assigned a specific site prior to the planting date. RSVP to Cezar Gonzalez (281-360-2500 or cezarg@ymcahouston.org) of the Humble Intercontinental Rotary Club by January 13, 2007 for parking information and to participate!

Why? Planting a tree creates a healthier and more visually pleasing environment for our families, our children and our grandchildren. Plus, you will have fun getting together with your fellow Rotarians for this project.

What to Bring – Volunteers are requested wear a Rotary pin or hat, work clothes and to bring a shovel or a rake and work gloves.

District 5890 Attendance Report - 11/30/06																	
	Members 7/1/06	Net Gain	Members 11/30/06	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov		Members 7/1/06	Net Gain	Members 11/30/06	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
288 Corridor	64	1	65	61%	73%				La Porte	42	4	46	75%	76%	84%	81%	81%
Alvin	43	4	47	72%	81%	79%	82%	79%	Memorial Spring Branch	44	4	48	63%	59%	52%	48%	55%
Angleton	53	2	55	66%	69%	61%	61%		North Shore	101	(10)	91	75%	72%	73%	76%	71%
Astrodome-Houston	16	1	17	100%	68%	56%			Champions Sunrise	24	2	26	59%	71%	76%	62%	68%
Bay City	17	3	20	62%	69%	70%	50%	46%	Oyster Creek	37	(2)	35	72%	65%	78%	70%	81%
Baytown	104	2	106	85%	87%	84%	83%	85%	Palacios	13	-	13					
Bear Creek-Copperfield	17	2	19	67%	83%	79%	85%	89%	Pasadena	168	(6)	162	55%	59%	61%	44%	57%
Bellaire S.W. Houston	53	(8)	45	90%	81%	89%	84%	85%	Pasadena South	44	(1)	43	75%	73%	83%	77%	74%
Braes Bayou	10	-	10	81%	82%	84%	80%	81%	Pearland	31	(3)	28	71%	77%	92%	84%	90%
Brazosport	104	(2)	102	65%	71%		60%		Richmond	62	3	65	59%	53%	63%	63%	
Brenham	100	(9)	91	60%	66%	54%	48%	60%	River Oaks	39	2	41	73%	70%	70%	70%	68%
Columbus	26	(6)	20	55%	58%	70%	64%	60%	Rosenberg	31	(4)	27	78%	76%	77%	71%	81%
Cypress-Fairbanks	17	2	19	82%	83%	84%	73%	82%	Scabrook	48	6	54	71%	73%	70%	64%	73%
Deer Park	48	1	49	70%	67%				Sealy	34	3	37	67%			69%	76%
Eagle Lake	23	-	23						Sharpstown	20	-	20	80%	85%	88%	84%	82%
El Campo	96	(2)	94	74%	76%	84%	82%		Space Center	118	5	123	66%	66%	67%	60%	60%
Fort Bend County	18	(1)	17	74%	82%				Sugar Land	103	(11)	92	68%	73%	85%	67%	61%
Galena Park/ Jacinto City	38	(2)	36	39%	59%	50%	49%	43%	Sweeny	23	2	25	76%	87%	76%	80%	83%
Galleria Area	33	1	34	77%	77%	77%	75%	75%	Tomball	99	4	103	63%	66%	65%	72%	71%
Greenspoint	11	3	14		71%	56%	64%		University Area	61	(7)	54	60%	59%	66%	58%	63%
Gulfway-Hobby Airport	35	-	35	94%	94%				Washington County	75	2	77	68%	77%	82%	82%	79%
Harrisburg	79	1	80	71%	70%	73%	78%	70%	Weimar	25	3	28	79%	78%	83%	76%	84%
Highlands	18	1	19	84%	77%	82%	71%	76%	West Columbia	48	3	51	63%	76%	71%	63%	58%
Houston	303	(7)	296	37%	34%	39%	37%	38%	West Houston	21	2	23	83%	89%	89%	82%	80%
Houston Heights	64	2	66	51%	54%	56%	54%	52%	West U Place	108	11	119	84%	65%	62%	61%	54%
Houston Westchase	15	4	19	66%	81%	82%	81%	76%	Wharton	57	-	57	52%	60%		55%	62%
Humble Intercontinental	66	4	70	79%	74%	66%	69%	69%	Willowbrook	46	(4)	42	71%	82%	75%	78%	76%
Katy	27	3	30	57%	66%	61%	69%	63%		Total			3,057	12	3,069		
Katy Sunrise	24	4	28	100%	85%	91%	94%	62%									
Kingwood	13	-	13	81%	100%	83%	73%	83%	- Clubs Not Reporting Attendance				3	4	9	7	12

GARDEN WITH THE GOVERNOR AT THE ROTARY GROVE

a District 5890 Family of Rotary Event



Sunday, April 1
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

District 5890 Centennial Grove
Hermann Park

(100 yards west of Zoo entrance)

We will start the day with a short interdenominational service at the Grove. Then District Governor Suzi Howe will preside over a day of fun and volunteer gardening projects in the Grove and adjacent areas. Bring family members of all ages, Rotary friends, and prospective new members. Come celebrate the Rotary Centennial Grove park improvements, and bring the park alive with Rotary spirit and fellowship.

- Wear light clothing and footwear suitable for family fun and/or light gardening projects (new plantings, spreading mulch, etc.) Work gloves, garden trowels, hand rakes, and shovels recommended (please mark and identify your tools!). Bottled water will be provided.
- Please bring your own picnic lunches and outdoor games.
- Park amenities include water play area, pedal boat rides, train rides, and the zoo. All park and zoo admissions will apply.
- Complimentary parking available at the Ben Taub visitors parking garage.

Please register for e-mail updates from Steve Sucher at suchers@uhd.edu, or by phone at **713-221-8288**.

Sponsored by the District 5890 Family of Rotary and Rotary Grove committees, and the Hermann Park Conservancy.

Contribute to The Rotary Foundation



A wonderful spa trip for two people at the **Hosteria Las Quintas Eco Spa**, in Cuernavaca, Mexico.

One of the three ways to qualify for the drawing:

- \$1,000 per year as a Paul Harris Society Member
- \$10,000 Major Donor Contribution
- \$10,000 Bequest Society Member

Prize includes 4 days/3 nights with Breakfast daily, plus:

- ♦ A 30 minute Oxygen Therapy Session for two
- ♦ A 50 minute Flotation Tank session for two
- ♦ A 50 minute Deep Back Massage for 2
- ♦ A Shamanic Chakra Balancing Ritual for two

Qualified participants must complete your Rotary Foundation Contribution/Recognition Form and send to cs@westuttravel.com or fax to 713-665-8299.

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