



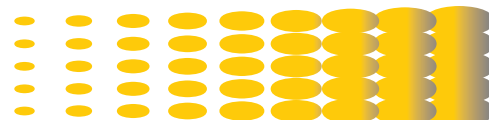
FEBRUARY 2009

GOVERNOR'S MONTHLY LETTER

3850



NEWS BRIEFS



ROTARY CLUB OF ILOILO LAUNCHES PROJECT AGAINST INFANT MORTALITY

By Pres. Dr. Manuel J. Posecion

On February 7, 2009, the Rotary Club of Iloilo (RCI) initiated the Newborn Screening Test (NST) Project in its adopted barangay, Brgy. San Rafael, Mandurriao, Iloilo City. Shown in the picture is RCI President Manny J. Posecion comforting the mother of baby boy Fusin while a pediatric obtains a blood sample from the baby.

Newborn Screening is a simple procedure to find out if a baby has a congenital metabolic disorder that may lead to mental retardation or death if untreated.

The Rotary Club of Iloilo finances the screening test of all babies whose parents are indigent or do not have PhilHealth Insurance Coverage in its adopted barangay.



GOV ASKS...

Q. You meet someone who has only a vague idea of Rotary.
How do you describe Rotary in less than a minute?

ROTARIANS SPEAK UP!



If you are looking to meet new friends and at the same time help the community in a meaningful way even just sharing your time and talent, then Rotary is for you!

PP LINDON SEEDIET
RC Dipolog



A group of people who move the world.

PRES. NOVY LAGRADILLA
RC Jaro Centraline



Rotary is Fun! And sharing not what comes from your pocket but what comes from your heart.

PP ALEX R. ONG
RC Central Iloilo City



"Rotary is ordinary people around the world working together to protect the environment, develop our communities, end POLIO, improve sanitation and accomplish other extraordinary things."

PRES. ROD P. SOLIDUM
RC Metro Kalibo

Inside

This Month

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About the cover

Gov. Ems is surrounded by RYLA participants from all over Panay at Neptune Pittman's Garden, Buenavista, Guimaras.



Smile and the whole world smiles with you.

I had not seen so many cleft lip and palate patients in my life, majority of which were children. Uplift Internationale's Medical Mission team, headed by Dr. Jaime Yrastoza, came all the way from the United States to bring hope to these children and put a smile on their young faces.

It is amazing how when international organizations with a common cause come together—many lives are changed. Though divided by continents and differentiated by language, ethnicity or creed, people are pretty much the same. Our need to love and be loved, to have a sense of dignity and purpose, and to be happy are just some of our basic yearnings as human beings.

During the mission, I had the privilege of working with Uplift's Outreach team as an interpreter. We interviewed each patient's parent or guardian about where they lived, how far they traveled to get to the hospital, what structure was their house made of, family income, and such delicate personal questions which, I felt, had to be handled with tact and sensitivity. We went on to ask questions about their child's personality and if he or she liked school and had many friends. It was not surprising to learn that they were often bullied by other children because of their deformity. They would either retaliate and get into trouble or be shy and withdrawn. However, kids are resilient, give them love and they bounce back!

There was this little girl in the pre-op ward named Phoebe, she kept crying the whole time I was interviewing her parents. She complained of being hungry. Waiting for surgery that day, she was only allowed nourishment from an IV. We gave her a coloring book and some crayons, almost instantly her face lit up. It was the most precious thing I had ever seen. As we started to leave the ward, she blew us kisses and waved goodbye. This simple tender moment will stay with me for a very long time. It is a testament of how joy can be found in the littlest of things.

RYLA Rocks!

The recent RYLA Youth Camp held in Guimaras was a huge success. PP Louie tells us the beginnings of this youth camp and its emphasis on teaching values. Then I asked Rotakid Clouds Lunn, who could not stop talking about her RYLA experience, to write an article about what they did and learned. This future Rotarian-in-the-making is just as bubbly as her mom, Megs, whom I applaud for "Rotaraizing" her at a very young age. We really should start them young, so that in a couple years time we won't have a problem with recruitment!



PE Pia M. Nava
Editor in Chief



Dear fellow Rotarians,

I grew up in a small village, the same village where my family had lived for many generations. I lived close to many members of my extended family, and our family traditions were very strong. In those days, few Koreans ever traveled abroad, and there was very little Western influence. My home, my language, and my culture were all I knew.

When I was in my 20s, I made a decision that would shape the rest of my life. With my father's encouragement, I traveled to the United States to work and to study. I chose San Francisco as my destination and spent nearly two years there, taking classes and learning English. I made my way working at several entry-level jobs.

It is difficult even today to describe what an impact that experience had on me. Everything, and everyone, was different. I was used to seeing only Korean faces; in San Francisco, I saw people from all over the world. I worked hard on my English and in my job. I learned what it was like to be the person who did not understand, who cleaned up after others, who took orders but never gave them. I learned how large the world outside my village really was. And those experiences sent me back to Korea changed.

When I returned to join my father's business in Seoul, I knew what it was like to be a worker at the bottom of an organizational hierarchy – and that affected how I treated my employees. I knew what it was like to do physical labor all day – and that gave me increased respect for those who worked in every kind of job. Perhaps most important, I knew how much of the world lay beyond my own experience. I knew that there were so many different countries and cultures, so many different



people in the world. I knew that as much as we are all different, we are all essentially the same. And I knew that everyone, everywhere, sometimes needs help from others.

In Rotary, February is World Understanding Month – a time to focus on the importance of goodwill and understanding for peace. It is a time for all of us to pause and consider how we are pursuing Rotary's fourth Avenue of Service – International Service – because it is our international service, and our international fellowship, that will do the most to help us all build a more peaceful tomorrow.

Dong Kurn (D.K.) Lee
President, Rotary International



We as a people are known for our hospitality, friendliness, helpfulness. These traits have been forged by deep seated values that define us as a nation, as a people, as Filipinos.

It is our values such as unity, cooperation, brotherhood, and service to others that move us to respond generously to personal tragedies, natural calamities and national emergencies. But above all, it is our deep and abiding love for our family, our friends, our community, our fellowmen that awaken in us the spirit of service. Rotary has played a very important role in helping us develop this love of service. It has opened opportunities for us to help, to serve. It has developed our willingness to serve by the many examples and models it has given us. It has paved the way for us to be an inspiration to others so that they, too, might develop their love of service.

In one of the plenary sessions of the Rotary International Assembly in Anaheim, California in 1997, Rotary International awarded the Rotary Award for World Understanding to Dr. Catherine Hamlin. Dr. Hamlin is co-founder and Director of Fistula Hospital in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia with her late husband, Dr. Reginald Hamlin. Husband and wife were from Australia who answered the call to service by Queen Elizabeth of England in 1959 to establish a school in Midwifery in Ethiopia. Dr. Catherine Hamlin is the world's leader in treatment of vaginal fistula.

In 1959, maternity clinics in Ethiopia were far and wide. Pregnant women (because of prolonged labor) became incontinent and the result of this was abandonment by the family. A "pariah" in her own home.

Uplift Internationale (UI) is a Colorado, USA incorporated non-profit humanitarian organization for volunteer health-care providers and support personnel seeking to donate their expertise and time to provide free reparative surgery and care to indigent children in rural Philippines. Its founder, Philippine born maxillofacial surgeon, Dr. Jaime A. Yrastoza, a Rotarian from RC of Whiteridge Colorado led UI's first team in 1989 to Ormoc City, Leyte. In 1994, UI narrowed the focus of its humanitarian efforts to rendering surgical and adjunctive care to children born with facial deformities primarily clefts of the lip and palate. Since their first surgical mission to Ormoc City, it has spread its wings to Kalibo, Aklan, Antique, Kabankalan and most recently to Iloilo.

Understanding the need for their expertise, Dr. Catherine Hamlin and Dr. Jaime A. Yrastoza, selflessly volunteered themselves. And this is how we are in Rotary—exemplifying Rotary's motto, "**Service Above Self**".

DG Emma M. Nava

RYLA/Youth Camp on Values

By PP Louie Gonzaga
RC Bacolod North



of Bais City to sponsor participants. The response was tremendous and, today, RYLA/Youth Camps average about forty (40) participants in size!

For her term, DG Emma Nava asked RCBN to assist in organizing RYLA/Youth Camps

So, what is this RYLA/Youth Camp all about, why does it have to last two-and-a-half days? This is a camp that emphasizes a learning process based on internalizing values and putting these into action through games, workshops, and discussions. Each lecture/lecturette is followed up with either a game or a workshop. This, in turn, is internalized with personal and group discussions and sharings. Each participant is encouraged to keep a diary of his/her insights after each activity and be ready to share these with the group. Participants are encouraged to seek out the positive values among themselves: the objective here is to bring out the best of each one.

With Incoming District Governor Edgar Sy's support, the dream to carry the RYLA/Youth Camp to Mindanao will come about! Initial plans are to hold one for Ozamiz/Dapitan/Dipolog/Oroquieta Centennial/Jimenez area and another for Pagadian/Ipil-Sibugay/Zamboanga area, sometimes in November, 2009. Calling all Mindanao Clubs, your support will make the RYLA/Youth Camp a reality.

It began twelve years ago when, then Pres. Noel de Paula got the inspiration to hold a Youth Camp on Values for Public High School sophomores (aged 13-15). This was a unique camp that focused on four (4) Loves: Love of God, Love of Family, Love of Community, and Love of Environment. Speakers were chosen and activities were lined up. A professional facilitator was hired to guide some members of the host club. Then school principals and the DECS Superintendent were contacted to generate their support. Thus, Rotarians fanned out to the target schools and began to interview the candidates.

With all these preparations in place, the Rotary Club of Bacolod North embarked on its first Youth Camp on Values with twenty four (24) participants! Held at the Kaftrees Resort, in Murcia (some 25 km East of Bacolod City), these spartan beginnings produced 24 young students who went on to become leaders in their respective schools, some graduating to become scholars in colleges and universities, and now most of whom are responsible professionals in our society.

For the next eight years, Rotary Club of Bacolod North (RCBN) sustained the Youth Camp until it naturally evolved into a leadership camp with the concept of Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) as its focus. Then, RCBN invited all Negros clubs plus its sister club, Rotary Club

all over the District. One of the first clubs to rise to the challenge was Rotary Club of Guimaras. With much enthusiasm the first RYLA/Youth Camp for Guimaras was held last February 6-8, 2009, at a posh resort in Guimaras. Forty-two (42) youngsters began as shy individuals and emerged, two nights later as youngsters starting to "spread their wings" with much confidence! Members of Rotary Club of Bacolod North were there to guide members of Rotary Club of Guimaras in making this "dream" of DG Ems a reality!



By Clouds Lunn



The first ever Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) in Guimaras was held last February 6-8, 2009 and hosted by the Rotary Club of Guimaras. It was participated by 42 youth leaders with ages ranging from 13-17 years old. The delegates were from Antique, Roxas City, Guimaras, Iloilo and of course, the "lone ranger" from Aklan – me! I am so proud to be a RYLA alumna.



Leadership has been the main thing they have been teaching RYLA participants in the past 12 years. And, all these years they have realized that love is the foundation of everything. We were taught of the four kinds of love—love for community, love for family, love for God and love for oneself—including their characteristics. Also taught to us were steps on achieving one's goals, defeats we may encounter on the road to the reality of life, how to become a good leader and leadership itself.



Our different values and attitudes were made known to us through games, by the speakers and other activities. Lessons were learned and friendships were made through these activities as well. We were also taught fine dining, and the one rule that was quiet a bit hard to follow was—elbows off the table! Also included in our lessons in fine dining was etiquette. We also developed a bigger love for nature, due to the fact that the venue was a botanical garden owned by Rtn. Neptune Pittman, who has planted a wide range of varieties of plants, both from our country and other lands.

We will always remember the acronym **VOICES**: **V**ision, **O**bjective, **I**ntrospection SWOT (strength, weakness, opportunities and threats) **A**nalysis, **C**oncrete steps, **E**xpected output and **S**ource of inspiration. Surely, ten years from now you will all see us as successful leaders.

Thank you to the organizers and facilitators of RYLA. It really made a difference in our lives. Mabuhay po kayong lahat!

All in all, we had a fun learning experience and met so many new friends, who we will surely never forget.





Wasup everybody?!

It's the middle of the school year and I'm having such a great time here. Everything has gotten better compared to my first few weeks in school. It was hard that time. On my first day of school I wished I was back home in Iloilo with my family and friends. It was really terrible; I didn't know anybody and I ate lunch alone. It was just horrible. Also, I was always hungry. No more rice in the morning, just cereal.

I joined the volleyball team and got into the varsity team not the junior varsity. I was in the starting six! I was proud of myself because I got to represent my country and show my skills in volleyball. After the season, there were no activities for me to do after school. So I joined the high school play as an asst. stage manager. It didn't go well because I got bored doing nothing and watching the students practicing over and over again. Recently, I joined the YMCA volleyball club and play every Thursday at 8-10 pm at the high school.

My high school is a very good school. They use iMac and smartboards in the classrooms. It's really cool. The school system here is very different because they have 4 different levels. Work load is overwhelming. Thankfully, I don't have to deal with all that because I don't take any math and science classes. If I did, I would surely fail. Since this is a non-credit year, I can pretty much opt to take subjects I like. As of now, English is my most challenging class, while Spanish is the easiest class ever. US History and Personal Finance are very interesting subjects. I have had art classes, like drawing and painting, and TV communications for the first semester. I also had gym. Right now, I have two study periods which is cool and an ELL class which is almost like a study for exchange students.

My first host family were the Roys. Paula, Darren, Jessie and Drew. Darren and Paula are both accountants in a golf club. Jessie, my host sister, is in my English class. Drew is in college and plays baseball. He was also the team captain of the football team when he was a senior in high school. I seldom see him and every time he comes home for the weekend he would be with his girlfriend. He is a nice guy. Not as smooth sailing with Jessie though, who pretends I don't exist. Anyway, they have a very nice home in a private neighborhood. They live 10 minutes away by car from town. They have a neighbor, who I believe, is one of the nicest persons ever. Her name is Sandy Schwartz and she gave me almost court side Celtics tickets!! I went with Darren to the game and I was really

happy to see my idols in action at TD Banknorth, home of the Boston Celtics. With the Roys, I went apple-picking, saw HS football games and toured around at Harvard Square, Cambridge. I learned how to play ping-pong because they have a table tennis board.

Also, I got to witness Rosh Shana—a Jewish

holiday—with them, as well as, eat Jewish food. The only thing

that was not great was that I felt isolated from the town because the house is in the middle of the woods. On the whole, it was wonderful being with them (despite my not-so-friendly host sister.)



My second host family are the Dirks. They are really a very nice family. They have 3 kids, Isabel, 8, Claire, 6 and Henry, 3 and a half. Host Dad David works at the bank; Katy is a house mom and organizes what they call the Gospel Brunch in Boston. At first, I was concerned about moving with them because I did not want to baby sit the kids (if ever) as I am not used to being around HYPER and WHINING kids. I walk to school everyday...surviving the cold. I help around a lot in the house because my host mom has a bad back. The kids torture me all the time! They like jumping on me while I'm lying on the couch. I experienced my first snow storm with them, so I went sledding and built a huge snowman. Because of my excitement, I lost the cell phone that my first host family lent me in the snow! That was the first time that I had cried so much over a phone. Paula said it was not a problem and Katy lent me her old phone. I am really careful with my stuff right now.

We went to New York and it was fun. We watched Mary Poppins and it was phenomenal! The sets were flying and it was the best play that I have ever seen in my whole life. But by far, the most interesting part of my stay here is that I was at President Barak Obama's inauguration. My host parents are democrats so we made the trip from Massachusetts down to Washington, DC where 1.8 million people were in attendance...it was so crowded. Shame I didn't get to buy Obama souvenirs because I had to watch out for the two kids. It was a historic event, and there I was, a yaya to two little tykes. By the time we were about to leave for home, we were robbed! Someone smashed the window and took Katy's purse that had her ipod and camera. Good thing I had brought my bag along. So we had to prolong our stay in Bethesda, a town next to DC, to fix the window. It was an 8 hour drive and, boy, I was so tired to go to school the next day. I decided to be absent and went to school the day after instead.

My winter break was awesome. I went to Kuya Gilon's home in Long Island, NY and met his friends and family. Gilon Sacks was a former exchange student our family had hosted back in 1991 when my older sister Pia left for New York. I really had fun with him and I do not know how to describe it in words. He told me all the stories while he was in Iloilo, where he had the best time of his life. He showed me where Ate Pia went to school at Port Jefferson. Her school is so much smaller compared to mine. He promised to take me to Florida for spring break.

I'll soon be moving in with my third family, the Mullaney's. They have four kids, three boys and a girl. Unfortunately I'll only be with them for two months. I'll be heading home in May for my college interview.

See you all in May!

Needham Times Blog

The snow people could take over

Posted on December 23, 2008 by Deb Filcman
Filed Under Fun!, Needham people, snow |
<http://blogs.townonline.com/needham/?p=11792>



The Dirk Family of Webster Street built this monstrous, 8-foot snowman in their yard. Pictured from left to right are Claire Dirks, Alyssa Nava, an exchange student from the Philippines who had never seen snow before, Mr. Snowman, David, Henry, Isabel and Katy Dirks.

It reminds me of that old fairy tale about the childless couple who built a snowman came to life but when spring came... anyone remember what the fairy tale was called? Yeah, I didn't think so, but just thought I'd ask.

Two Barangays Benefited from the 'E-Literacy in the Barangays' Project of Rotary Club of Metro Roxas

By Pres. Esteban Evan Contreras II



the visit of District Governor Emma Nava last August 28, 2008, held at the ESLA Pag-ulikid Training Center, Barangay Lanot, Roxas City. The computers and the books were enthusiastically accepted by the two (2) barangay captains for their constituents. The Club also conducted a trainers training on basic computer literacy for five (5) participants from each barangay-beneficiary. The trainers were then be tasked to conduct the training in their respective barangays. Reading materials and hand-outs were also provided for the trainees' reference.

In Brgy. Poblacion, a total of 50 out-of-school youths and young adults received basic education on computer literacy, while in Brgy.

Jolangajog, a total of 20 out-of-school youths and young adults, plus 15 grade school children, availed of the free basic education on computer hardware and software.

The club plans to sponsor at least two barangays each year for this e-literacy project, which is an initiative of President Nonoy Evan Contreras.

No matter where one finds employment, there's a good chance a computer will be a basic tool one will have to use. It's in the best interest of anyone wanting to find employment to start off by being computer literate. It will help in securing a job, earn extra income and help advance one's career. On the other hand, self-employment is also a good alternative. Encoding services pay the minimum price of P5.00 per page.

E-Literacy in the Barangays Project is one of the focuses of this Rotary year's officers to make dreams real for the financially challenged kids/youths that need to be computer literate—to prepare them for school work and equip them in landing a job in the near future—especially in this time of financial crisis and employment shortage. In the meantime, computer literate students will be able to save money on typing jobs as they can encode their schoolwork/reports themselves and only pay the hourly rate for the use of the computer in an internet shop/café.

Barangay Poblacion, Pilar, Capiz under Punong Barangay Mitch Patricio and Barangay Jolangajog, Pontevedra, Capiz under Punong Barangay Eduardo R. Bibit, respectively, were the first two (2) barangay-beneficiaries of the Club's e-literacy project. The club provided computer hardware and necessary books on computers in each barangay. The turn-over ceremonies coincided with





Rotarians make Salaan fiesta very meaningful

By Rtn. Bong Bue
RC Metro Zamboanga

"Ta rindi 'yo muchas gracias. Este el mio alegre fiesta!" (I am so grateful. This is my happiest fiesta.)

Thus is how Mrs. Ceferina Gregorio described her feelings after receiving a donated wheelchair from the Rotary Club of Metro Zamboanga last December 8, 2008 during the fiesta celebration of the east coast hinterland barangay of Salaan.

Mrs. Gregorio, who had a stroke a few months ago, is the wife of a Salaan barangay tanod. She has been the third recipient of a wheelchair from the club under the leadership of president Serge Probadora.

The turn-over of the wheelchair was witnessed by Salaan barangay chairman Rodrigo Saavedra together with other barangay officials.

"Bien grande ayuda este con Mrs. Grogorio que uno del dimio mga constituyente aqui," (This is a great help to Mrs. Gregorio – one of my constituents.)" Saavedra pointed out. Also present during the affair were PP Roel Batausa and Rtn. Bong Bue.



HAPPIEST FIESTA. Rotary Club of Metro Zamboanga president Serge Probadora, PP Roel Batausa and Rtn. Bong Bue motored to Salaan to turn over a wheelchair to a tanod's wife in the presence of Salaan barangay chairman Rodrigo Saavedra.

RC Silay's Boys & Girls Week: with a twist

By Pres. Patrick Joseph Aguilar
RC Silay

Rotary Club of Silay is one of only 3 clubs in Negros Occidental which holds the Boy's & Girls Week Celebration. For the past 20 years, the Club has sponsored the annual Silay City Boys & Girls Week Celebration, in coordination with the Silay City Government. This is one of the major annual activities of the club; which is highly anticipated by the major high schools of Silay.

The activity allows high school students to experience local governance for a week. Each participant holds a local government position, from the Mayor down to City Dept heads. It is a chance for students to see first hand how things are done by their local officials. This promotes understanding

among the private sector and government, which enhances cooperation in our common goal of community service.

The major difference of RC Silay's system is in the selection process. While other clubs choose the participants through voting & election; Silay participants undergo a strict selection process in order to qualify for the position. First, both the club and the participating school administration evaluate the students capability according to their academic excellence & psychological/attitude readiness. Second, all participants undergo a Leadership Training Seminar; conducted by PP John Etabag and sponsored by his company Hawaiian Philippines Company (HPCo). This activity signals the start of the month long preparation for the actual celebration. Third, all participants pass thru a panel interview composed of Rotarians; they are then graded and ranked according to each position.

For the 2008 Boys & Girls Week, we have initiated some changes in order to make the celebration more interesting. We have expanded the coverage to 5 schools from the previous 3. This has allowed more students to join & experience the activity. We plan to further expand it to 7 schools by 2009. We also incorporated a campfire & relative activities during the closing & evaluation process, for which the students truly enjoyed.



PHOTO ESSAY

district
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Photo by: Rtn. Ruben Logarta
Club: RC Metro Bacolod



Photo by: Rtn. Jerome Barrios
Club: RC Metro Kalibo



Photo by: Pres. Raymond Lintag
Club: RC Basilan



Photo by: Rtn. Frederick Lim
Club: RC Zamboanga City



Photo by: Rtn. Jerry Lames
Club: RC Roxas



Photo by: Pres. Rod Solidum
Club: RC Metro Kalibo



Photo by: Rtn. Babak Niaraki
Club: RC Central Iloilo City



Photo by: Rtn. Karl Imanoeel Obias Aonan
Club: RC Oroquieta Centennial

FINALISTS

PHOTO ESSAY

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F I N A L I S T S



Photo by: Rtn. Sixto Kwan, Jr.
Club: RC Zamboanga City



Photo by: PP Harold Tating
Club: RC Antique



Photo by: PP Kerwin Baldovino
Club: RC Zamboanga City North



Photo by: Rtn. Bryan Micah Lim
Club: RC Dipolog



Photo by: Rtn. Osbert C. Malinao
Club: RC Zamboanga City



Photo by: Rtn. Jerry Olson
Club: RC Metro Roxas



Photo by: Rtn. Victor Tanco, Jr.
Club: RC Metro Roxas

WILDCARDS

Meet IDG Edgar “Diotay” Sy

By PP Art Jimenez
RC La Paz



In 1905 Paul Harris thought of organizing a club in Chicago where business friends could also be social friends. And thusly out of friendship, fellowship and giving, rather than, receiving was Rotary born.

In 1988, a smiling, baby-faced businessman from Bacolod City thought he gave a shipping executive a favour by joining Rotary. Little did he know he was actually doing himself a favour until he found gratification in helping others through the Rotary Club of Bacolod. Now after 21 years of being a Rotarian, his peers have elevated him to a position where he could be of greater service to those with less in life.

Meet Incoming District Governor **Edgar “Diotay” Sy**.

Like all top ranking Rotarians, Diotay served his club in various capacities for 11 years before accepting its presidency in RY 1999-2000. “The District Governor then was Atty. Yolando ‘Lan’ Villaruz,” he told **GML**.

First off, President Diotay did some household chores, so to speak. The club agreed on a dress code during its weekly meeting. Diotay made each meeting something to look forward to, thereby increasing the club’s average attendance percentage to 88 percent. Naturally, Rotarians with 100 percent attendance were duly recognized and awarded.

Diotay also emulated his membership sponsor by recruiting not one, but 11 new club members even as he joined the elite group of Paul Harris Fellows.

The club likewise had a successful fund-raising project that brought in some P800,000.

Thus financially entrenched, Diotay’s presidency plunged into a dizzying frenzy of service activities, many of which were new projects. Under his leadership, for examples, RC Bacolod organized three Rotary Community Corps; renovated the PNP Crime Lab Building and the Bacolod

Youth Center; and donated cash and goods to various groups and charities.

There were, of course, the club’s ongoing projects for the street children, in- and out-of school youths, medical missions, *Ilimnan sang Katawhan*, Search for the Most Outstanding City Government Employees, career guidance, and fellowship games, among others.

Prior to his election as RI’s chief executive in District 3850, PP Diotay functioned as Chair of the Youth Exchange Committee, Assistant Governor, and Chair of the Annual Giving to TRF.

When he sits as our DG, PP Diotay said he will adhere to the major thrusts of the new RI President. Pending this, he plans to focus on water, literacy, health, TRF contribution of at least US\$100 for every Rotarian every year, membership development, club extension, and on joint club projects for greater impact on the intended beneficiaries.

To attract new members, IDG Diotay said “We should show them how Rotarians improve the lives of the needy.”

Persons qualified to become Rotarians should also be familiar with the “different on-going programs of The Rotary Foundation, like the GSE, scholarship grants, and the Rotex.”

IDG Diotay also has a wish for the IPPs: “Usually, Past Presidents slow down their activities in the club after their terms. I’m hoping they would remain active and participatory even after their terms.”

Asked what advice he has for Rotarians to remain Rotarians, the IDG tersely replied: “Learn to love in giving.”

Speaking of love, our IDG has fallen for a classmate who eventually took up Nursing and became a registered nurse. He and Naty got married at St. John’s Institute’s Church in Bacolod on romantic Valentine’s Day in 1982. Their marital relationship is based on, aside from love, “trustworthiness and honesty.”

Mrs. Naty Sy “handles the marketing and purchasing of our sugar trading business,” said our future DG.

But outside of her business and family work, Ann Naty lends IDG Diotay a motivating and helping hand as he prepares for his governorship come July 1 this year.

With Naty holding Diotay’s one hand, he extends the other to his team who, in turn, offer their hands to all Rotarians in District 3850.

This writer could not agree more for after all, The Future of Rotary IS IN YOUR HANDS!

Operation Taghoy

By Pres. Melrose Lunn
RC Kalibo

The charm of a smile, the pleasure of a whistle, the easy flow of speech. Children born with facial deformities are robbed of these functions of the mouth—functions we take for granted. – Uplift Internationale (UI)

Dr. Jamie Yrastoza who had the vision and determination to create and lead the organization inspired me to join the organization four years ago. The recently successful two-week Operation Taghoy in Iloilo and Kalibo, respectively, were my third and fourth trips with the team. It started in Kalibo when I was still new to Rotary, then the trip to Antique, and the last two in Iloilo and Kalibo again.

The passion of our surgical team in mending the faces of our children is but a sight to behold in the operating room. The feeling of being there in action is an experience the heart alone can understand and express. The families and children who opened their hearts to us and made the last two weeks one that none of us will ever forget.

Being with Uplift Internationale (UI) has given me a focused desire to be with handicapped children. I thought, these children are my hope to live a life worth living and worth fulfilling. What on earth I am here for? It was answered even before I became a widow, when I was accepted to Rotary membership almost 6 years ago. It became clearer when the late Rtn. Lew joined our Creator almost four years ago. The rest is what you see of me—a stronger person, dedicated and committed to Service Above Self in making dreams real for the world's children.

The foremost thing that glued me to UI is that the organization knows how to value people. Your contribution of yourself is as important as anybody else's and the things we do in the team.

The Antique trip made me realize that this organization has a unique objective of

making things happen for children with facial deformities. As I continue learning about the organization in my own capacity and later through the help of some team members, thru constant conversation and correspondence, I believe I was destined to be with UI. We are volunteers who serve above self to mend one child at a time.

On the other hand, serving with UI has never been easy. Being the only Filipino official volunteer in



There is more to it than saying "Yes, I volunteer." It is easier said than done when you are already in the core. Nevertheless, just being there for them is more than happiness to me.

With the help of our local Rotary clubs and Rotarians, they make it easy for all of us to move around because of their open hearts and minds to the mission. They are one of us in the mission.

The experience of transformation in a child—putting a smile in the faces of the children and their parents, too, are the greatest moments ever to me, to each member of the team. I feel I have become an instrument to make this earth a better place to live in. I may not have all the capacities to change the world, but I am proud to change the life of a child, one at a time.

My term as club president is close to resting. With UI, we wish to bring the organization to other places in the Philippines. We hope to do more and to see more of our fellow Rotarians who are open to UI's mission and vision:
MENDING FACES, ONE CHILD AT A TIME!



Antique then, opened more windows of stress, sleepless nights and hard days in running errands for the team to the best of my ability and even pushing the limits of my capacity to serve. Coordinating with some key officials with different characters and personalities is a but a challenging job description as a liaison/outreach volunteer.





KABANKALAN

CITY ... is a 2nd class city in the province of Negros Occidental

The city is strategically located at the southern part of Negros Occidental. It prides itself as a service provider in education and health services, a major hub in commerce, trade and industry, information and communications technology, as well as host to a number of government and private offices.



HOW TO GET THERE

Kabankalan is less than two hours drive south of Bacolod city by private car while public utility vehicles reach the place in about two hours.

WHAT TO DO



Sinulog Festival– Kabankalan's showcase in the array of festivals in Negros Occidental. Sinulog transforms the third Sunday of January of every year into a day of riotous revelry as dancers painted in black soot stomp to the wild beating of drums.

Sinulog sa Kabankalan is a hilarious festivity held in commemoration of the triumph of the townspeople against the moro pirates through the intercession of the Sto. Nino.

Udyakan sa Kabankalan – A pre-Sinulog presentation of its history, culture and development through songs, dances and drama.

WHAT TO EAT

Bibingka, Chicken inasal, ginamos and shrimp paste.



WHAT TO SEE

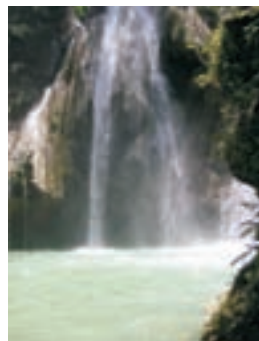
Balicaocao Highland Resort – Gently nestled on the hill more than 500 feet above sea level,



Balicaocao offers perfect ambiance for the rest and leisure, while making a breathtaking view and panorama of the coastal towns of southern Negros Occidental, the blue waters of Panay Gulf and the Island-Province of Guimaras.



Carol-an Lake and Valley – Homeland of an indigenous people ruled by its legendary chief Manyabog whose death led to the infamous tribal suicide.



Mag-aso Cave & Falls – Still pristine in its form, back dropped by the large mountain range, Magaso Falls releases smoke like shower of mist as it cascades down the natural pool with its turquoise green water.

Agustina Falls – A natural pool formed by the yearly inundation, Agustina tells of a mythical lady who was enchanted by the black bird and in whose name the pool was attributed.



Other Natural Tourist Spots

Other natural tourist spots include Magballo Cave, Fatima Cave, Tagukon River, and Tampalon Cave. The city itself has interesting, landscaped areas including City Plaza, Kabankalan Show Room and City Plaza Water Fountain.

For more information, check out www.kabankalancity.gov.ph, www.travbuddy.com, or www.negros-island.com

AG IN PROFILE RAY OLAC



Name: **PP RAY A. OLAC**
 Rotary Club: **ROTARY CLUB OF KABANKALAN**
 Classification: **Mechanical Engineering**
 Years in Rotary: **17 years**

Why did you decide to join Rotary?

Rotary is very impressive in almost all aspects.

What is the highest point of your service to Rotary, so far?

Being the Assistant Governor for Zone 7 RY 2008-2009

Who is your greatest influence, either philosophically or career-wise, and how do they influence you?

Majority of the Past Presidents I've known with their professional progress as seen.

When you were young, what did you want to be when you grew up?

To live a balanced life, physically, materially and spiritually.

Do you have a motto? What is it?

The Golden Rule.

If you were granted three wishes, what would they be?

Successful children; flourishing married life and a better life.

What aspects of serving Rotary bring you most joy?

On Rotary's outreach projects.

What do you do for leisure (hobbies/sports)?

Travel on a motorcycle and playing tennis (sometimes).

What's your favorite holiday destination?

The seaside of our barrio where I grew up.

What is your favorite Book?

Discovery books.

What is your favorite Movie?

Somewhere in Time.

When you have gone, for what do you want to be remembered?

On how well I touched the lives of other people through Rotary.

Monthly Attendance Report December 2008 and January 2009

Zone	No.	Club Name	Club No.	Charter Year	Members to-Date	No. of Mtgs.	January Attendance %	January Ranking	December Attendance %	December Ranking
I	1	Antique	17015	1975	24	4	96.86	2	90.66	7
	2	Iloilo	17045	1933	48	4	55.23	37	50.00	35 (tie)
	3	Iloilo South	17047	1971	22	2	100.00	1	100.00	1
	4	Iloilo West	28828	1992	20	3	82.02	20	82.30	19
	5	Miag-ao	58693	2002	DNR	DNR	DNR	DNR	DNR	DNR
II	1	Iloilo City	17046	1975	25	4	82.01	21	91.65	5
	2	Jaro Iloilo City	25131	1988	15	2	60.00	34	DNR	DNR
	3	Central Iloilo City	27338	1990	16	3	59.30	35	69.00	27 (tie)
	4	Jaro Centraline	29746	1993	18	4	83.33	16	97.78	2
	5	Jaro South	31664	1996	12	4	70.00	30	70.00	26
III	1	Metro Iloilo	17066	1979	63	4	57.65	36	59.56	31
	2	Midtown Iloilo	24342	1987	23	4	87.33	9	94.40	3
	3	Guimaras	27277	1990	DNR	DNR	DNR	DNR	45.00	26
	4	Molo	27939	1991	DNR	DNR	DNR	DNR	DNR	DNR
	5	Lapaz	30821	1995	DNR	DNR	DNR	DNR	87.00	12 (tie)
	6	Dumangas	31821	1996	37	4	82.50	18 (tie)	83.30	17
	7	Metro Passi	76428	2007	23	4	72.83	27	DNR	DNR
IV	1	Roxas	17080	1964	31	3	90.32	6	89.47	9
	2	Kalibo	17053	1967	48	3	85.45	12	87.50	10
	3	Metro Roxas	22518	1982	82	5	93.00	4	91.00	6
	4	Boracay	50661	1997	DNR	DNR	DNR	DNR	DNR	DNR
	5	Metro Kalibo	54828	2001	22	3	88.89	8	87.30	11
	6	Metro Roxas Central	74422	2006	25	4	90.91	5	90.00	8 (tie)
V	1	Silay	17084	1973	19	3	76.00	25	73.00	24
	2	Escalante	17037	1976	DNR	DNR	DNR	DNR	DNR	DNR
	3	Metro San Carlos	51747	1999	DNR	DNR	DNR	DNR	DNR	DNR
	4	Victorias	17091	1966	11	5	87.00	10	84.00	16
VI	1	Bacolod	17016	1937	DNR	DNR	DNR	DNR	87.00	12 (tie)
	2	Bacolod East	17017	1983	22	4	63.10	32	66.67	28
	3	Bacolod West	27374	1990	22	3	84.00	15	85.00	14 (tie)
	4	Bacolod Marapara	29076	1992	35	4	84.87	14	85.71	13
	5	Bacolod Central	31518	1996	18	4	82.00	22	66.00	29
	6	Bacolod South	17019	1969	21	4	83.00	17	83.00	18 (tie)
VII	1	Bacolod North	17091	1973	40	4	62.94	33	65.00	30
	2	Kabankalan City	17052	1974	30	4	71.00	29	69.00	27 (tie)
	3	Metro Bacolod	25280	1988	22	4	82.20	19	82.20	20
VIII	1	Dipolog	21409	1950	28	4	41.00	38	51.00	34
	2	Jimenez	17050	1975	19	3	80.00	23 (tie)	85.00	14 (tie)
	3	Dapitan City	25485	1986	DNR	DNR	DNR	DNR	DNR	DNR
	4	Oroquieta Centennial	69314	2005	28	4	89.51	7	84.65	15
IX	1	Ozamiz North	17073	1974	24	4	85.00	13	90.00	8 (tie)
	2	Pagadian	17074	1975	DNR	DNR	DNR	DNR	56.00	33
	3	Pagadian West	17075	1977	DNR	DNR	DNR	DNR	76.00	22
	4	Ozamiz	17072	1995	DNR	DNR	DNR	DNR	DNR	DNR
X	1	Zamboanga City	17094	1948	42	4	82.50	18 (tie)	80.70	21
	2	Basilan City	17022	1960	22	4	72.50	28	78.43	20
	3	Zamboanga City East	17095	1974	20	4	86.25	11	74.07	23
	4	Zamboanga City North	17096	1980	22	4	64.77	31	72.00	25
	5	Zamboanga City Central	26956	1990	26	3	73.00	26	57.00	32
XI	1	Zamboanga City West	17097	1971	43	3	94.57	3	91.85	4
	2	Metro Zamboanga	22275	1974	29	4	78.00	24	83.00	18 (tie)
	3	Ipil Sibugay	59175	2002	DNR	DNR	DNR	DNR	DNR	DNR
	4	Bongao, Tawi-Tawi	69302	2005	10	3	80.00	23 (tie)	50.00	35 (tie)

FAST FACTS TAKEN FROM JANUARY 2009 MAR:

- Out of 53 Clubs in our District, 25 (or 47.2%) attained a monthly attendance average of 80% and above.
- There are still 9 clubs (or 17%) with less than 20 members.
- There are only 9 clubs with a membership of over 35.
- There are 13 clubs that did not report (DNR).



EXECUTIVE DECISION OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

SUBJECT: Modification (Clarification) of District Boundaries

STATEMENT: The governor of District 3850 has requested the revision of the district boundary description to more accurately reflect the area which it serves. The revision does not affect the boundaries or boundary descriptions of any of the adjoining districts.

The district boundary description would be changed

From:


THE PHILIPPINES - That portion including the provinces of Aklan, Capiz, Antique, Iloilo, Negros Occidental, Basilan, Sulu, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Misamis Occidental and Tawi.


To:

THE PHILIPPINES - That portion including the provinces of Aklan, Capiz, Antique, Iloilo, Negros Occidental, Basilan, Sulu, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Misamis Occidental, Tawi and Guimaras.

DECISION: The Board of Directors of Rotary International, the general secretary acting on its behalf, in accordance with the provisions of section 17.010.4 (10) of the Rotary Code of Policies, approves the revision of the district boundary description for District 3850, effectively 1 July following the date of this decision.





For the Board of Directors of RI


Date

Gov Asks

Q: Can a club dismiss a member on suspicion of corrupt practices in his or her workplace?

Rotarians Speak Up!

Please send your answers to:
gml3850@gmail.com

Answer to January Crossword Puzzle



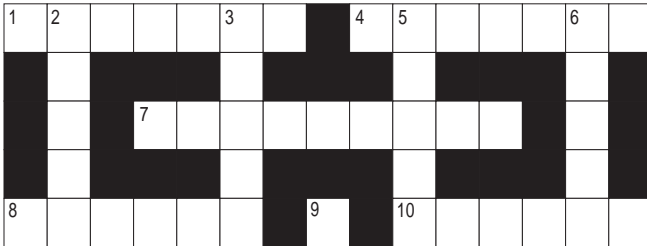
In Memoriam

**PP Salvador T. Rigor
RC Metro San Carlos**



PP Salvador "Lanny" T. Rigor Jr. of RC Metro San Carlos died on the 16th of February 2009 due to a massive heart attack. He was 69 years old. He is survived by his wife Ma. Lourdes and his three children Rayboy, Robbie and Bambi.

Crossword by PP Art Jimenez



ACROSS

- 1 Fortress
- 4 Hotel where '09 DisCon was held
- 7 Three-part movies
- 8 Annual Rotary event (abbrev.)
- 10 Last Greek letter (plural)
- 11 Wood inserted in a mortise
- 12 Foolishly credulous
- 15 Started
- 17 Fellow from Jakarta
- 18 Slays

DOWN

- 2 Excuse
- 3 Finding right direction
- 5 Divorcee's fees
- 6 PP Ems led the GSE Team here
- 9 Tempting
- 13 Kind of monument
- 14 Means to
- 16 False god

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Control your e-mails ...before they control you

By PP Robert Harland
RC Bacolod Marapara

E-mail has become a nightmare for many people. They find themselves overwhelmed with messages and spend more time than they want shackled to their computers answering them.

The simple answer to the problem is to spend less time on e-mails. Easier said than done? Not really. Here are a few tips garnered from those e-mail users who've learned how to spend less time struggling to cope with a daily deluge of messages.

Treat each message like paper: there are four things you can do when a piece of paper arrives on your desk – toss it, refer it, action it, file it, or you can even read it! The same goes for e-mail messages.

Daily trawl: when you open your computer, go to 'Sender & Subject' first and delete as many messages as you can without opening them. You soon get to know which messages can be "go"



immediately. Be generous with the 'delete' button.

Refer it: if you are referring the message and no follow-up or record is needed on your part, then delete the original. If you need to keep a copy transfer it immediately to the appropriate folder.

File it: for important messages and on-going projects, open a separate folder and make sure you transfer mail as soon as you've actioned it.

Read it – once! Try not to save messages to 'read later' as 'later'

usually never comes and you end up with an inbox stuffed with unread messages.

If you don't have time to send a full response right away and if it's important, e-mail back saying you've received the message and you'll get back to the party shortly.

Never leave an email in your inbox: always take action.

Deal with it when it arrives: if you spend a lot of your working day in front of a computer, it is a good idea to scan for new messages on a frequent basis – there might be something important or urgent.

But you don't have to be a slave to the inbox. If you have it on your system, you can always turn off the sound that alerts you to new messages and check your e-mails at scheduled intervals throughout the day.

Keeping copies: a copy of an outgoing message will be saved in the "sent mail" folder, which means you don't need the original message anymore, so it can be deleted.

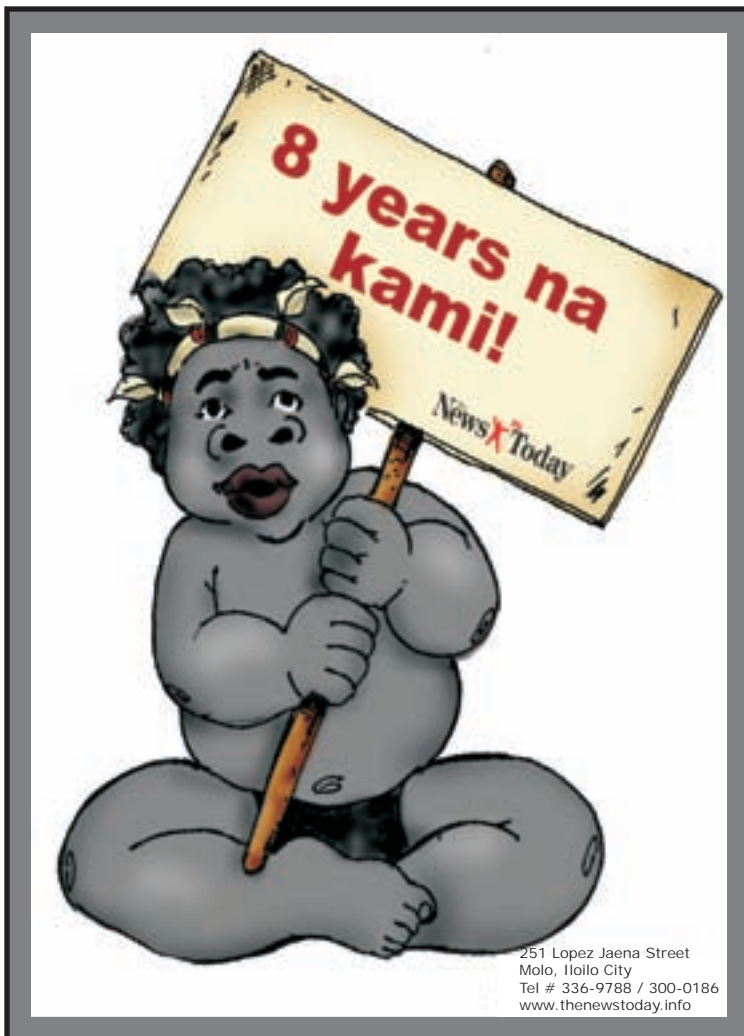
Regular clear-out: if you have non-urgent and personal messages or messages that come into the 'really not sure what to do' category, put them in a separate folder. When you have a spare moment go through them in the hope most can be deleted.

Spam: if you are unfortunate enough to be on endless mailing lists and constantly receive unwanted offers and ads, discuss anti-spam solutions with your local computer support center or your company's Internet provider.

Personal e-mails: it's easy to get distracted in the office with personal e-mails. If you find yourself spending a lot of time answering or sending such messages, consider having a personal e-mail address at home.

If you enjoy receiving and sending jokes, it's best to keep such mail for your personal e-mail address at home. Apart from the distraction, many companies monitor employees' e-mails.

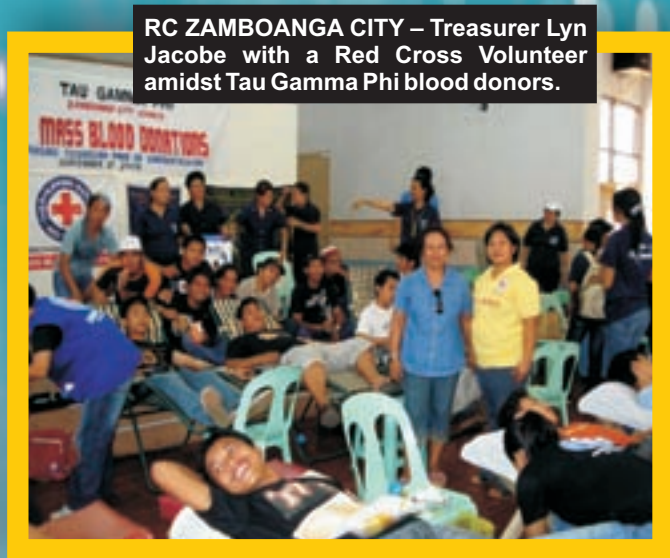
Nobody is perfect: even the most organized person can be sidetracked when an interesting message is received. But follow these simple steps and you'll find yourself controlling your e-mails rather than e-mails controlling you!



251 Lopez Jaena Street
Molo, Iloilo City
Tel # 336-9788 / 300-0186
www.thenewstoday.info



RC ZAMBOANGA CITY WEST – Posting of new image of Rotary billboard at Nunez Extension.



RC ZAMBOANGA CITY – Treasurer Lyn Jacobe with a Red Cross Volunteer amidst Tau Gamma Phi blood donors.



RC ESCALANTE – Pres. Muling Bascar distributed the gifts to inmates.



RC METRO ROXAS CENTRAL – Distribution of free wheelchairs to indigents.

PHOTO ACROSS 3850



RC ZAMBOANGA CITY NORTH – Medical mission for pregnant mothers at Barangay Sangali last September 13, 2008.