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ROTARY INTERNATIONAL



PRESS RELEASE

PROMINENT SPEAKERS GATHER TO PROMOTE PEACE AND ELIMINATE POLIO

Rotary District 5300 Exhibits Art for Polio and Peace

PASADENA, CA, MAY 10, 2008: Prominent speakers, a world renowned artist, sculpture and poet, Mark Strickland, and a number of notable Rotarians engaged their time and expertise to benefit our communities, our children, and the world through Rotary International's endeavor to promote peace and the permanent eradication of Polio. The free multidisciplinary, multicultural conference, hosted by Dr. Garbis Der Yeghian and District Governor Charles M. Barr of Rotary International District 5300, was held on Saturday at Travis Auditorium located on the Pasadena campus of Fuller School of Psychology in California.

The theme of the event, "**Engaging The Other – The Power of Compassion**", was introduced by Conference Chair, Dr. Garbis Der-Yeghian, Past Rotary District Governor and President of Mashdots College, the only Armenian Institution of higher education in the united States. The distinguished panel of speakers included the Honorable California State Senator Dr. Jack Scott; Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca; Rabbi Steven Jacobs, President of Progressive Faith Foundation; Mr. Salam Al-Mrarayati, Executive Director of Muslim Public Affairs Council; Reverend Leonard B. Jackson, Senior Advisor to Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa; Grand Master Tong Suk Chun, President of World Cultural and Sports Foundation; Dr. Henry Safavi, President of American University for Humanities; Mr. Robert Jones, Director of Field Operations, National Insurance Crime Bureau and Retired FBI Manager; Reverend Alexia Salvatierra, Executive Director of Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice in California; Dr. Andrea Shields, Executive Coach-Psychologist; Kenneth R. Boyd, Past District Governor of Rotary International. The afternoon session was coordinated by C.

Ray Carlson, Rotary International District 5300 Director of International Projects, and focused on “Entrepreneurship: Create Jobs; Create Hope; Create Peace.”

Hamo Muskofian, a noted Diplomatic Journalist and Editor was present and recorded the event for the foreign media.

World-renowned artist, sculpture and poet Mark Strickland spoke briefly about “In Vertical” an original work, he generously donated for auction during the Peace Conference, with all proceeds to benefit the Rotary District 5300 PolioPlus Campaign. The campaign was initiated with a matching \$100 Million Grant to Rotary from The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Mark Strickland’s original water color banners and the oil on canvas wall hanging was exhibited at the conference to expose the effects of cultural turmoil on the enduring human spirit. Mr. Strickland also generously signed ten of his limited edition works, for sale at the conference, with all proceeds donated to PolioPlus. For information on Mark Strickland “In Vertical” Peace Conference art to benefit PolioPlus, contact Shirley Pozzuoli, Rotary District 5300 at polioplus2008@gmail.com.

Established on February 23, 1905, Rotary International is the world's first international service organization. Currently Rotary boasts a membership of more than 1.2 million business and professional men and women who belong to more than 32,000 clubs worldwide. Its clubs focus on a broad spectrum of service activities such as hunger, the environment, violence prevention, illiteracy, drug abuse prevention, polio eradication, youth, the elderly, AIDS awareness and education, and other local and global projects. Rotary clubs around the world are united under the motto "Service Above Self."

The Rotary Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation that supports the mission and efforts of Rotary International to achieve world understanding and peace through global humanitarian, educational, and cultural exchange programs. The Rotary Centers for International Studies in Peace and Conflict Resolution provide Rotary World Peace Fellows the opportunity to pursue a master's degree in conflict resolution, peace studies, international relations, and related areas. Each year up to 60 Rotary World Peace Fellowships are offered on a competitive basis. The Fellows are chosen from countries and cultures around the globe based on their potential as leaders in government, business, education, media and other professional areas. Rotary Center alumni have demonstrated their ability to further global understanding and peace in their work for United Nations agencies, national governments, international businesses, and non-governmental organizations. Interested individuals may learn more about this and

other Rotary programs by contacting: Shirley Pozzuoli, sjpozzuoli@msn.com or by calling 909-238-8994.