

# Rotations

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## President's Message:



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY ED.

**1976** was an eventful year for the Ed Stokes family. Diablo Foods burned to the ground, and Ed joined Rotary. Twenty-six years later Diablo Foods is an unqualified success and a destination store for thousands of Contra Costa patrons. Diablo Foods has been nationally recognized as one of the finest



grocery stores in Northern California and last year Ed was elected into the Grocery Association Hall of Fame. What about Rotary you ask. Well, Ed and Rotary have grown together. In 1984/5 Ed served as President of the Lafayette Club. He is a Paul Harris Fellow, a major donor, and has served as the District Governors Representative. He is involved in the breath & life of almost every project we undertake. His generosity and humanitarian endeavors within the Lamorinda communities are legendary. The photo's throughout this special issue of our newsletter reflect many events and functions associated with his earlier Rotary days, including the photo above of the 1984 Rotary International convention he and Betty attended in England. Join us tonight in personally wishing Ed Stokes a "warm & fuzzy" happy birthday.

## What is Polio?

Polio is a highly infectious disease caused by a virus. Initial symptoms are fever, fatigue, headache, vomiting, stiffness in the neck and pain in the limbs. The disease can cause paralysis, which is almost always irreversible. In the most severe cases, polio paralysis can lead to death and asphyxiation. The virus enters the body through the mouth and multiplies in the intestine. It invades the nervous system and can cause total paralysis in a matter of hours. Aren't children today immunized against polio as babies? During 2001 there were fewer than 600 virologically confirmed wild polio virus cases in the world. Since 1985, the number of cases has fallen by 99%, as of April 2002, only ten countries are reporting transmission of the wild poliovirus.



## About PolioPlus



Children in Myanmar participate in a polio National Immunization Day launching ceremony.

In 1985, Rotary launched the PolioPlus program to protect children worldwide from the cruel and fatal consequences of polio. In 1988, the World Health Assembly challenged the world to eradicate polio. Since that time, Rotary's efforts and those of partner agencies, including the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and governments around the world, have achieved a 99 percent reduction in the number of polio cases worldwide. Rotarians stand at the brink of a great victory and look forward to celebrating the global eradication of polio in 2005, the organization's centennial year.

## Polio Eradication Fundraising Campaign

### Fulfilling Our Rotary Promise: Eradicate Polio

In 1985, Rotary launched PolioPlus, one of the most ambitious humanitarian programs ever undertaken by a private-sector organization. PolioPlus was the catalyst for the World Health Assembly's resolution in 1988 to eradicate polio. Today, thanks to Rotary's US\$500 million commitment and its leadership in mobilizing volunteers, the world is on the threshold of eradicating the poliovirus.

### Why do we still have Polio?

The greatest obstacle to victory is adequate funding. A \$275 million shortfall must be overcome in the period 2002-05. For this reason, the RI Board of Directors and the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation have unanimously decided to launch a one-year campaign to help fill the funding gap. The campaign seeks \$80 million in cash and pledges during the period 1 July 2002 through 30 June 2003. (Pledges





may be paid over a three-year period.) The money is needed for vaccine and its delivery through National Immunization Days, and surveillance systems needed to identify remaining pockets of the disease. Up to \$25 million of contributions to the campaign will be matched by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The World Bank will provide further support.



### **Aren't children today immunized against polio as babies?**

Routine immunization protects about 80% of children today, but many have not been reached. In some countries, lack of infrastructure, war, and poverty mean some children are left vulnerable to the virus.



### **Why should I support this campaign?**

\*Eradication will end the need for routine polio immunization

and its attendant costs, freeing up US \$1.5 billion in savings each year for other health purposes, such as HIV/AIDS. \*No more polio-caused pain, death, or disability. \*Eradication throughout the world will prevent polio from spreading back into countries now free of the disease.

\*Opportunity to be a part of this great humanitarian endeavor.

### **What is Lafayette Rotary's involvement?**

Each Rotary club is requested to set its own campaign goal. Many plan community fundraisers to help reach the goal. As of mid-August, contributions exceed \$5 million. Approximately 35,000 Rotarians are engaged in the campaign leadership team. Lafayette has pledged to raise a minimum \$10,000





for this effort. All proceeds from this evening will go to this endeavor. April 28th, 2003, the Lamorinda Rotary Clubs (Lamorinda Sunrise, Moraga, Orinda and Lafayette) will join forces and host a charity golf tournament at Contra Costa Country Club. Currently, Lafayette Rotary is raffling a BMW automobile (drawing scheduled for the COC



Bash on December 11th). A portion of the auto raffle will benefit our Rotary pledge to PolioPlus. The remainder will go toward building a permanent concert/activities stage at the Lafayette Reservoir.

Thank you Tom Courtright, a Rotarian and the Owner of Orchard Nursery.

