Stan continued…“Pope John Paul II is a very warm and gracious human being. As is well known, he speaks many languages and he spoke with us in fluent English. The Pope was not only gracious and cordial but extremely interested in our mission of working toward “World Understanding and Peace Through Rotary”, commended us on it and gave us his blessing in our mission.”

Stan explained further…“that our meeting was for the purpose of advising him that of all the people in the world he had been selected to receive Rotary’s “World Understanding Award” as the person who had made the greatest contribution toward world peace.” Stan said….“You have been chosen for your untiring, unceasing work for peace.”

“His Holiness in dignity and typical humility quietly responded, “I shall keep working, I shall keep working.”

Stan reflected on this meeting and on how these are words for us Rotarians to live by.

“I shall keep working for peace”
To Keep Working Means to Build Bridges to the Second Century of Rotary, Attend the District Assembly, April 21 and 23

Success in 2005-2006 starts with attending the District Assembly. On Thursday night, April 21st, there will be a variety of breakout sessions, followed by dinner and our special Keynote Speaker, Lisa Whaley, who will speak on “How Our Differences Make a Difference.”

On Saturday Morning, April 23rd, our Keynote Speaker will be PDG of District 5160, Allan Frumkin, followed by sessions focusing on Foundation and Membership.

The District Assembly is for all Incoming Board Members, Committee Chairs, New Members, and all Rotarians. I will be there and I hope to see you there with all of your club members.

August 13, 2005
Rotary Day at the A’s

Mark your Calendar, this is the day we get to go to the Stadium and watch our beloved A’s while we raise funds for our Camp RYLA.

The most important question of that day has not been answered. I would like to lobby for the answer that I think we are all hoping for. I hope that our District Governor Elect is practicing her pitching.

Last year, the night before our game, the A’s honored Rotary and allowed me to throw out the first pitch. I have film of it and it is a good pitch, but it is a little low and certainly could be improved on.

The Rotary Club of F.U.N. Chartered & Changing Meeting Locations

The Rotary Club of Fremont, Union City, and Newark Sunset, alias the FUN Club, had a chartering ceremony on March 17, 2005, that showed us how one can build some interesting bridges within and between clubs.

They are changing their location so that they will be able to include meals. They are meeting in a private room of the Brand New ‘Fremont Vista Retirement Home.’ It is located at 35490 Mission Boulevard, in Fremont, California. The telephone number there is (510) 796-4200.

They meet on Thursdays at 7:00 PM. And by the way, it is a dinner meeting which costs $10.00. You read it right, only $10.00. It almost sounds like the price of dinner at Madame Galli’s in Chicago in 1905. We’d better all go: we can’t afford to stay home at those prices!

Building Bridges of Humanity to Rwanda

I am so thrilled that we have gotten our Matching Grant to upgrade the Intensive Care Unit of the Butare University Teaching Hospital in Rwanda. The upgrade of the ICU will mean that we will be able to save lives in an area that has had terrible tragedies in the not too distant past.
May 20, 2005
Lunch at the District Conference,
Lt. General Romeo Dallaire
Building Bridges
to Humanity in the Face of Evil

We have Lt. General Romeo Dallaire as our speaker at the Friday lunch of our District Conference. He was the Colonel of the badly understaffed United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda during the Rwandan Genocide which started in April of 1994.

A documentary was made of his and his wife’s visit back to Rwanda on the 10 year Anniversary of the Genocide. The following is part of a newspaper clipping of that film’s showing at the Sundance Film Festival:

Redford offers rare support for festival film
Normally neutral Sundance founder praises Canadians’ movie on Rwanda
By Katherine Monk

PARK CITY, Utah

Robert Redford shook hands with the man who shook hands with the devil Saturday, bringing his celebrity wattage and personal stamp of approval to Peter Raymnot’s movie based on Lt.-Gen. Romeo Dallaire’s experience in Rwanda.

“This is why Sundance was created: To showcase movies like this,” Redford said in his brief, but heartfelt, introductory remarks to the public screening of Shake Hands with the Devil.

Offering respect for Dallaire’s humanity in the face of evil, and his underlying commitment to the people of Rwanda when the world turned a blind eye to the genocide, Redford acknowledged the Canadian’s work in the field.

It was a simple, but significant move.

According to festival organizers Redford has never introduced a film in competition before, limiting his personal visibility at the festival to opening night remarks at the gala.

The celebrated director and actor not only introduced the documentary, he sat in the public theatre and watched right past the end credits – and attended the question-and-answer session at the end.

Dallaire said he was also touched by Redford’s gesture. “I think it was the simplicity of what he said and his sincere acknowledgement of the catastrophe that will stay with me – also a very warm, almost fraternal expression of empathy with me,” said Dallaire.

“We had an opportunity to exchange acknowledgements for what he does, and I took heart in his encouragement to continue the fight for humanity.”

As far as I know we will not have Robert Redford as our speaker, or even in our audience, but we will have a speaker that influential movie stars respect and want to hear!
After District 5170’s Centennial District Conference
We go to the Windy City
Attendance Records are being broken by District 5170

I called Rotary’s Home Office a few days ago and I found out that we have 388 of us going to Chicago. I know we are all going to have the experience of a lifetime. I have even heard a few people saying things like “…what happens in Chicago, stays in Chicago…”

I just want you all to know that I am thrilled we’re going but I am not responsible for what happens in Chicago.

Rotary International Centennial Parade, We can be in it!!!

District 5170 is in Zone 24 and therefore this is for us:

TO: All Zones 23 & 24 Rotarians
FROM: Mary Margaret Fleming, Chair
Zones 23 & 24 Float Committee

RE: WALKING IN THE
RI CENTENNIAL PARADE

Zone 23 & 24 is allowed to have 500 members of their Family of Rotary walk behind their Zones Float in the RI Centennial Parade on Saturday, June 18, 2005, in Chicago, IL. Walking individuals are known as “out walkers.” The parade officially begins at 10:00 AM and ends at 12 NOON.

Here are the details thus far:

- THE FIRST 500 NAMES THAT ARE SUBMITTED to me via e-mail, will be accepted to walk in the RI centennial parade. Please list the District number, and names of participants individually, i.e.
  - District 5230: Fleming, Catherine Fleming, John Fleming, Mary Margaret

Email to: fleming@mbay.net

NOTE: RI Parade Chair, Major Graham Allen, has told me that the number of “out walkers” may be subject to change by the City of Chicago.

Participants must be prepared to:

- Dress uniformly: Wear solid black slacks; wear solid white tops (either blouse, shirt, T-shirt, jacket); wear comfortable solid white shoes (can be all white sport walking shoes). That means that slacks, tops, and shoes are solid colors and do not have any other color, stripes, and/or any ornamentation added to them. Those not dressed as specified will not be admitted. NOTE: We will provide red sash that reads “Western USA.”

- Walk 10 abreast, 50 rows (trying to keep the rows even and uniform).

Things we do not yet know:

- Where and what time the float will assemble
- Where and what time “out walkers” will assemble
- Parade route

Be assured that you will be kept informed as new and additional information becomes available, by periodically checking the Zones 23 & 24 web site www.rotaryzone2324.org

Dear Rotarians of 5170
Thanks for all the Bridges you Build!

Building Bridges

Sincerely,
Ron Sekkel