

**San Marino Rotary**  
**Fang Fang Ho's President Year**  
**2018-2019**

It is almost impossible to put into words the circle of gratitude I feel serving as your President of Rotary Club of San Marino. Many members have shared their appreciation, but I feel I should be the one thanking all of our seasoned members and now many of our new members for making my job so, well, simply awesome.

I am grateful and honored to have blossomed as a leader under the sponsorship and mentorship of Lucille Norberg, groomed from member to dignified Rotarian. It should come as no surprise that she was awarded 2018 "Congressional Women of the Year" by Congresswoman Judy Chu.

My heartfelt thanks to Board members who abide by the Rotary "Four Way Test" in their contributions and votes on club matters. Dennis Kneier, Paul Brassard, James Nash, Aaron Gil, Rick Polite, Shawn Chow, Gilda Moshir, Calvin Lo, Denise Wadsworth, John Donovan, Mike Driebe, Fary Yassamy, Len Therrien, Isaac Hung, Will Bortz and Greg Johansing, all who have exemplified such fiduciary duties for the club. Never before had we appointed Directors of Emeriti to guard the board with extensive advice, than during my year. Thanks to PDG Lee Mothershead and Lucille Norberg who promptly accepted these executive positions.

As we met weekly, we inspired one another because we make a difference, because we are diverse, because we are daring. I am the first Chinese woman President, since the inception of San Marino Rotary in 1939. I praise the Club for embracing me and being open-minded and for trusting and having confidence in my leadership.

Who doesn't love chocolates? Our meetings were started with a round of "We are here today "To Be The Inspiration"! This was the theme for Rotary 2018-19. When members sign up for district conference, they get a box of chocolates. When they participate and answer correctly regarding charity funds, international, and global grants - they get the "Be the Inspiration" pin. in addition, every committee chair gets a 7-8 min slot to present their projects at the podium, and each committee member can express freely why they participated and how it impacted them. Member engagement, chocolates and pins, were one of the key reasons for the consistent full-house attendance not to mention the wonderful programs from week to week.

Mentioning the Rotary 6 areas of focus and updating Rotary polio eradication efforts were constant in almost every meeting. Members got to know the 6 areas of focus: Water and Sanitation, Disease and Prevention, Basic Education and Literacy, Maternal and Child Health, Peace and Conflict Resolution, Economic and Micro Enterprises.

I welcome the spectrum of diversity of our 14 new inductees:

Dana Barcelona Boner, Senior living managing director

Andrew Kindler, Scientist, retired engineer for JPL

John Johns, CEO, retired engineer and businessman

John Chang, Wine trading, wine educator

Cicily Gardea, Executive, Boys Scouts of America

Arlene Romero, Executive banker

Ting Wang, Executive banker

Evi Darmali, Interpreter/Educator, proficient in Bahasa

Stephanie Johnson, Retired IT senior project analyst

Peter Yanni, Financial planner

Mike Killackey, Attorney

Maurice Saldebar, Civic leader, Coffee business

Nora Hoyos, Marketing/Business development

Steven Sciorba, Community outreach director for senior living

We mourn the loss of 3 members, but are encouraged by the difference they made in the club:

-Wray Cornwell (1929-2018), was our House chair for years. He was in charge of all set up for each Rotary meeting. He was honored with the "Most Dedicated Rotarian" Award during District Governor's visit to the club, a few months before he passed at age 87. He also delivered his seasoned member craft talk some 6 months before his passing.

-John McDonald, past president 1957-58, passed away at the remarkable age of 100.

-Bob Eichel, past president 1997-98, served as our treasurer for years, Paul Harris Fellow and a member of Rotary's Major Donor Bequest Society. He was 87.

I have carefully implemented the "Five year vision plan" started by past president, Gilda Moshir:

First, for "Membership promotion and retention". As Membership has been my focus for the year. My membership motto was, "Membership is an action, not numbers. When our action is right, numbers multiply."

During pre-presidency prep work for membership, I worked closely with Membership chair Gilda Moshir, she had vowed to put in an intensive efforts to boost membership. We came up with a 20 member "ambassadors" Team as friendly approachable members liaisons', quarterly "meet and greet" tea parties at member's house. We also formed a "Mentor Delegates" team of seasoned members to volunteer to be mentors for the newbies in the hand holding process. As a result, we had a record breaking year. We inducted 14 new members. Membership was at its peak at 115, the highest number for the last 10 years.

Second, for "Community outreach and involvement with community and schools", Vocational chair Linda Wah led her committee to sponsoring Career Mentoring for (PCC) Pasadena City College Students - Over 100 students met with career mentors. There were 6 San Marino Rotarians who participated as mentors in Finance, Construction, Law enforcement, Engineering, IT, Business Entrepreneurship.

We also sponsored (HMS)Huntington Middle School Career Day. Mentors are San Marino Rotarians from various profession, trades and industries. Pioneering projects include Students from (SMHS)San Marino High School's Civic Engagement with (CCSM) Chinese Club of San Marino - Voter Registration table set-up at our annual fundraising event, San Marino Motor Classic to outreach for voters.

Third, "“Collaboration with other clubs”, as Immediate Past President Denise Wadsworth called it, “Playing on each others playgrounds!” Social chair Grace Yang organized a Chinese new year celebration for our quarterly “Rotary on the Town” social event together with the San Marino Chinese Club. It was a great night of comradery fostering the diversity in the San Marino Community's clubs.

Fourth, for " Public relations” expansions, we got tremendous support from our local newspapers (Outlook and Tribune) for their columns and publishing pictures of our featured speakers and meetings. Extensive thanks to PR chair Bill Payne for the supervision of the 2 half page ads that bridge our club to the community. I thank Chris Datwyler, Len Therrien and Aaron Gil for administering our social media and Facebook pages, which updates weekly with our activities and events.

Fifth, " Projects to address Homelessness”, Los Angeles County Supervisor, Kathryn Barger spoke about fighting homelessness. With the leadership of program chair, Barbara Bice and her committed team, our Rotarians donated close to 400 pairs of thick socks via Friends in Deed, a local non-profit organization that provides supportive services to meet basic human needs, so our homeless and at risk neighbors can rebuild their lives.

Ken and Winifred Veronda continued the legacy of the Guatemala Literacy Projects at their own cost. During Thanksgiving holidays, they flew to Antigua, and with Antigua Rotary met with 950 Maya Kanjobal refugees from June's volcano that devastated their villages. They collaborated with Southwestern alumni and Antigua Rotary. officers to donate turkeys, roasted ham, and held a Thanksgiving dinner for the refugees.

I’m particularly proud of the Daring deeds that we undertook in our International Projects, which have synchronized with the Rotary 6 Areas of Focus. For some members this may have been their first time out of their comfort zone. Chair Shody Chow and his army of 20 committee members worked impeccably year long. We initiated 5 international projects this year.

-As part of the San Marino Rotary Readers Program, 200 Spanish books were donated to Avila Camacho Elementary School in Tijuana, Mexico, in June 2019.

-We provided funding to The Water tanks and furniture for school projects in Kabaale, Uganda, to purchase five 5,000 liter water tanks, and install gutters for the classroom nursery block, teachers’ housing block and new staff housing quarters, as well as tables and desks for the dining hall for the school in Kabaale operated by BCDC. This project falls within Rotary’s focus on improving basic education and literacy.

-Providing Fish Tanks for Farm School in Sen Sok, Cambodia has been a fun and insightful event for a team of club members as they flew to visit the site. This project required concrete fish tanks and growing systems to a farm school to teach aquaponics, a system of aquaculture in which the waste produced by farmed fish supplies nutrients for plants grown hydroponically. San Marino Rotary is working once again with Community First, a non-profit operating in Cambodia. This project falls within Rotary's focus on helping communities economic development. HMS Interact Club also participated in its funding. The visiting team returned and we were empowered by an amazing presentation.

-A little money goes a long way for the Coconut Plantation project in Siem Reap, Cambodia. The non-profit ODA (Opportunities for Development with Art) based in Cambodia operates schools in Cambodia for underprivileged students to attend English and computer classes. Fluent English is the key to employment in and around the booming tourism industry in Siem Reap, and ODA's schools directly address the need of improving students' future employment opportunities. A small coconut plantation is planned on available land to generate income for the school. The project involves the cost of pump and pump house, water tank, irrigation pipes, fencing and seed coconuts. Once the water supply and fencing are in place, other gardening and aquaculture projects can be added. This project falls within Rotary's focus on helping communities develop and improving basic education and literacy.

-We did well for the Corazon House Build in Tecate, Mexico. In the marginalized communities in Tecate, Mexico, many families live in shacks and improvised shelters, often with no paved flooring. About 40 Rotarians from San Marino and South Pasadena, their family members and friends traveled together on April 13, 2019 to the hamlet of Valle de Las Palmas to build a solid, substantial colorful house 16x20 foot for a needy family with the assistance of the non-profit organization Corazon. My daughter was reluctant to go with me as thinking it's so sweaty and dusty. By the end when we handed the house key to the family, she was touched with tears, "Mommy, can I come back next year?"

One of the Rotary Citations from RI President Barry Rassin was to form and foster a Rotaract Club. In my year, I am fortunate to have Re-chartered a Rotaract club at Cal State University Los Angeles (CSULA), spearheaded by Bill Payne and Denise Wadsworth from the San Marino Club, and partnered with Linda Wong and Edgar Garcia-Mora, president and president elect from the Alhambra Club. The original Rotaract Club was formed by two San Marino Rotarians as advisors, Bill Payne and Steve Garrett in 1992. An interesting event that happened during the Rotaract club was active, the former boxing legend Oscar de la Hoya was named an Honorary Member of the club. The club was gratuitously dissolved few years after the Rotaractors graduated from college.

Our Teacher's Mini Grant for the classroom fetched \$40K from our William Steele Endowment Fund. We were impressed by the innovative and unique projects the teachers designed for our students. All 7 schools in the San Marino community were granted generous funds. Thanks to Gilda Moshir and Shawn Chow and their committee reviewing stellar applications and selecting worthy projects.

San Marino High School graduate, Jacqueline Chen, who was attending Harvard University, was accepted as our global grant scholar for her distinguished work in disease prevention and treatment. She was granted \$31,000 from The Rotary Foundation global matching fund.

Community grants committee led by Michelle Cox received exceptional recognition when all community non profit organization recipients were invited for a reception presentation chaired by Barbara Bice.

San Marino Charities is another arm for the major funding of all expenditures of projects and grants. AG Isaac Hung is the driving force as the president of this board, and secretary Len Therrien, have delivered countless goodness to the community and globally. Together with treasurer Dennis Kneier's well organized treasurer reporting and accounting making SM Charities our club's core asset. Most funds were distributed from our proceeds of the annual SM Motor Classic fundraising. This year, more than 130 Ferraris were displayed at Lacy Park with our 40 club volunteers working under the hot sun selflessly.

This is also the first year we ever had a local school scholarship chaired by Gilda Moshir. The Barth Rotary Scholarship of \$2500 is intended to be used for educational expenses, when a student is enrolled in his/her selected college. The scholarship was open to only San Marino High and Southwestern Academy seniors who are pursuing a trade school, a community college or a 4 year. The application was primarily focused on the spirit of volunteerism. The 6 applicants that applied dwindled down to 3 that we interviewed and one was chosen. Derwin Lopez from Guatemala was chosen to get the award. He was a student at Southwestern Academy.

I must thank the foundation committee chaired by Will Bortz, for their outstanding performance. Foundation Committee is comprised of Shody Chow, Mike Driebe, Aaron Gil, Lucille Norberg, John Jones, Grace Yang, Isaac Hung, Jo Schmal, and Denise Wadsworth. Served as Secretary, Chris Datwyler. This year, I am especially proud of newly inducted member John Jones. He adamantly took the role of record keeping. Without the generosity of our members, we would not have raised over \$44,551 for RI contribution. Our Annual Funds was \$31,723. All exceeded initial set goals entered at Rotary Central. Our all-time RI giving has long exceeded its million dollar mark, showing a significant amount of \$1,442,691.000. John Jones emphasized "Every Rotarian, Every Year" to give \$100 to the Rotary Foundation. Mike Driebe advised on the importance of designating Annual Fund -SHARE on Rotary Direct forms, Bequest Society, District 5300 Society and PHF Society.

Paul Harris Recognition Luncheon remains our traditional event at the Huntington Library. This year we celebrated our 40th year, and the Honorary Paul Harris Awardee went to SM resident, Bob Horgan. He dedicated 44 years on Grad Nights, so our high schoolers could spend the last night of school graduation party in a safety zone. Our key note speaker was Dr. Gaelen Stanford-Moore, who is our Global Scholar recipient year 2016-17 with an impressive education. She received her Masters' in Epidemiology and Public Health at Cambridge University (UK).

Dr. Gaelen, a South Pasadena High grad and Rose Princess, graduated from UC Berkeley with highest honors, with a degree in Molecular Biology, with a minor in Global Poverty and Practice. At Cambridge, she focused on prevention and treatment of HIV-associated complications and cancer of the head and neck, which disproportionately affect patients of low socioeconomic status. Dr. Gaelen will be a surgical resident at UCSF through June 2023, after which she plans a career as a surgeon- scientist.

I asked Dr. Gaelen if i could give her something small, she replied our club had already given her too much (she meant the global scholarship), I handed her a pin and asked her to read what's on it. "Be the Inspiration!" she responded out loud. I looked toward the luncheon attendees and looked back at Dr. Gaelen, "Will you promise to be the inspiration to us and the world?"

This year's Hands on Bike Project claimed another successful year with DDF Funds (District Designated Funds), giving out 300 bicycles to the children from the low income families. Thanks to chairs Aaron Gil and Isaac Hung and their team of committed volunteers. The effort credits must include our project partners from the Pasadena Rotary Club, Altadena Rotary Club and the Salvation Army. This year we also used the DDF Funds for 2 Cleft lift surgeries for PDG Roger Shulte's District 5300 International project

During my year, we amicably supported a newly chartered Rotary Club of Greater San Gabriel Valley, by a fifth generation Rotarian, the youngest Rotary Presidents, Bryan Arredondo and Victor Mendoza lead the club.

SM charities board has budgeted proceeds of our annual fundraising from Motor Classic, and for the first time, SM Charities President, Isaac Hung, treasurer Dennis Kneier and I presented a check of a \$50,000 to Mayor, Steve Talt at City Hall. This is an important community accomplishment from our club having the ability to contribute to the bathrooms construction fund at Lacy Park.

At District 5300 Conference, we struck all 8 major categories of service with flying colors. District Governor John Chase awarded our club with the District Gold Awards. The 8 categories are: Club Service, Vocational Service, Community Service, International Service, Youth/New Generation Service, Membership Development, Rotary Foundation and Public Image.

During DG visit we gave out a Pioneering award, for the first time, the "Person of Action" Award. The purpose of the award is so that Rotarians will develop a passion to take action, seeing problems, and find solutions, so others may follow. The award went to Aaron Gil. Aaron is an enthusiastic Rotarian who helps out whenever he sees a fit in any projects, regardless of big or small. He is truly a club icon for "Service Above Self". Aaron was also nominated as president elect, Aaron accepted the position as our club president for year 2020-2021. The award ceremony was so inspiring that we established a "Wray Cornwell Person of Action" Award named after our respected late House chair, Wray Cornwell, as an annual award for the years to come.

Chaired by immediate Past President Denise Wadsworth, the Bill Steele Service Awards were presented to Chris Datwyler and Bill Payne. Denise called them the "God Fathers of San Marino", both recipients of this highest honor. This award is for motivated Rotarians who have demonstrated "Service Above Self" and lived in the spirit of Bill Steele (a late SM Rotarian who built a legacy of giving) gave their time and energy to the club relentlessly.

Lastly, on my change of guard demotion day, I gave special thanks to Bill Payne for his attention to guide me and helped me faithfully for those last minute "what to say" scripts, ideas and approach for our weekly meetings. Dennis and Liz Kneier for their loving friendship. I awarded the Club President's Award of Excellence to International project chair Shody Chow, for "Leadership, Achievement, Inspiration", deemed deserving in every aspect of his contribution. Excellence in Club Service was awarded to Past President, Gilda Moshir in Membership Development. Not to mention her 24/7 supportive drive for my presidential year.

Created value for the club, I thank Ken Veronda and Russ Osmonson, for their contribution in writing our weekly Rotoscope with such humor and information. So much thanks to Chris Datwyler for being so dedicated as our webmaster. Thankful to social chair, Grace Yang and Dennis Kneier, for making our glamorous Holiday party at Stephanie Duncan's house a first class event. Thanks to Ginny Hsiao who chaired the 4-way speech that moved up to compete at district level. Thankful to Rob Feidler, chairing RYLA, an excellent program for our local high school students. Debbie Priester who chaired the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade year after year and leading the TLC students with Bob Houston leading the school Robotic team. Jonathan Duong, and the Hung brothers, Myron and Ashley, Benny and Joey Hung who help the July 4 floats. Also thankful to Community Extraordinaire Bob Houston for weekly one sheet updates of community events. Art Contest chaired flawlessly by Grace Yang with a full house attendance. Business Plan Competition, Isaac Hung led business plan competitors from SMHS and included South Pasadena High School for the first time, excelled at District competition resulted in placing 2 South Pasadena High School and 1 San Marino High School students. Judges included participation of Rotarians who are entrepreneurs and established businesses. Youth chair Denise Wadsworth's selection of the "Student of the Month" rocked the house when San Marino High School Principal Issaic Gates presented with certificates. Thanks to a beautiful Queens and Courts event chaired by Tony Chou. Thankful to Georg Eittinger who chaired the Music Competition with such grace and charisma. Devlin Chung and Gilda Moshir revived the SM High School Interact a job well done. Last but not least, Programs chaired by President Elect Greg Johansing, and his elite members Bill Payne, Barbara Bice and Nicole Basseri making highlights of the meeting so delightful and memorable!

I am privileged and humbled to serve as your President. You all have helped me "Be the Inspiration" this year. I know our club will continue to grow because of the strength of diversity, because we strive to make a difference, and because we challenge each other to be daring. To readers of this report, I ask the same question I queried Dr. Gaelen, "Will you promise to be the inspiration to us and the world?"

In reference to RI President, Barry Rassin's quote: ***"Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change- across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves"***

My year ended a spectacular year. I believe we will keep the momentum going in President Greg Johansing's year like chariots of fire!!