



Centro Sentinel

District 5520 Award Winning Newsletter

July 2008



www.rotary5520.org/santafe

A Letter to My Great-Great Grandchildren

By C. Neal Davis, Ph.D.,
ACFRE, PDG (5100)

Recently, I finished reading a book related to fundraising. Actually, it focused on planned giving, but the conclusion was that we have much more to offer our children, grandchildren and beneficiaries than our money, no matter how much we have or don't have: each attitude, each, value, each virtue, and each flaw gets passed on to those who know us and those who follow us. The authors of this book, titled *Breaking the Midas Curse*, asked this question on the cover: "Why does hard work and financial success lead to disaster for so many families, and how can you save yours?" They asked a question that I could not answer: they asked their readers to tell all they know about their great-great grandparents. In a word, my answer was "nothing!" Actually, I, like everyone else, would have 16 great-great grandparents. I know nothing about any of them; they would have lived

between 150 and 200 years ago.

Be that as it may, and I am sure that I inherited characteristics from each of these 16 individuals, these two authors—Perry Cochell and Rodney Zeeb—made a more helpful but equally challenging suggestion: they recommended that each of us write a letter to our great-great grandchildren.

We can all do this. We should all do this.

They won't be around for another 150 or 200 years, but they will still be made of skin and bones, they will still be affected by their environment, and wonder of wonder, they will carry lots of genes in their jeans that are the result of who we are and what we believe today.

In one of my sleepless periods recently, I decided to write this letter. If I wrote it again, and I probably will, it would be different, but here is my attempt to cross into an uncertain future for some special people who will be my offspring (and, if each of my six children have two chil-

dren, each of these 12 grandchildren have two children, and each of their 24 children have two children, I am writing to some 200 individuals, counting spouses, in the late 22nd Century...):

If someone asked me "What are the most important truths I could pass along to others in the future, what would they be?" Here they are:

- When you disagree with someone, try not to be disagreeable.
- Get all of the education you can get; education and character are permanent possessions.
- Reputation and recognized success are very important, but they are not nearly as valuable as character, integrity, and vision.
- Learn to be a giver, by giving time, talent, money; give requested advice and a listening ear.
- A little impatience is not a bad thing. A life not fully lived is a life wasted.

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- The choice of a spouse is impossible to overemphasize; don't fail in this decision.
- Don't plan to fail, but realize that you sometimes will; and don't fail to plan or you will fail much more often.
- Say "thank you" much more often and sincerely than other people do or than anyone expects.
- Be kind to everyone, including strangers.
- Read voraciously.....books, magazines, newspapers, directions, signs, everything. I recommend that you "read your age" for a lifetime (e.g., read 20 books per year at age 20, 40 at age 40, etc.).
- Reading fiction is not always harmful, but reading only fiction distorts life. Do read biographies of great people, study the religions of the world, seek truth and inspiration and embrace the concept of self-help.
- Plan to grow because of the books you read, the friendships you cultivate, and all of the hours you work without compensation. You often "earn" more during volunteer hours than during hours doing the job for which you are paid.
- Find your own guidelines for living. Here are some that I suggest:

The Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you"

The motto of Rotary International: Service Above Self

The Rotary Four Way Test:

Is it the Truth?

Is it Fair to All Concerned?

Will it Build Goodwill and Better Friendship?

Will it Be Beneficial to All Concerned?

- Travel. Go as many places as possible, as often as possible, with a notebook, camera and an open mind.
- Invest in something bigger than your dreams (whether it is a service club project, a program focused on children, animal welfare, health, culture or the redemption of man). Be open to gigantic possibilities, but remember:

The way to eat an elephant is one bite at a time; The way to live a life is one day at a time; The way to help others is one person at a time.

So much for my letter to my far-in-the-future Davis great-great grandkids. I have sent these suggestions to my six kids and they may well be lost before my grandkids ever see them, much less my great-great grandkids. In any event, we are players in a long-running mystery called life and we need to get as much out of it as we can. More importantly, we should try to leave more than we had when we started.

One of the really great Americans was Will Rogers, a cowboy humorist from Oklahoma. One of his most quoted statements was made at Boston's Tremont Temple Baptist Church on June 16, 1930:

"When I die, my epitaph, or whatever you call those signs on gravestones, is going to read 'I joked about every prominent man of my time but I never met a man I didn't like.' I am so proud of that. I can hardly wait to see it carved. And when you come around to my grave, you'll probably find me sitting there proudly reading it."

When push comes to shove, there is no better guideline yet invented than The Four Way Test for measuring our thoughts, words and deeds, whether it is spiritual, social, political, economic, socio-psychological, physical or uplifting for youth, these four questions can and should serve as guidelines for self-measurement in terms of what we believe, what we say, what we do and who we are:

Is it the Truth?

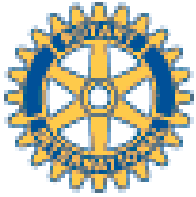
Is it Fair to All Concerned?

Will it Build Goodwill and Better Friendship?

Will it Be Beneficial to All Concerned?

In conclusion, we are to live as if everyone is watching and to leave a legacy that goes down to our kids, grandkids, great-grandkids and beyond.

C. Neal Davis, Ph.D., ACFRE, PDG (5100)
Rotary District 5520 Convention
Taos, New Mexico (5-11-07)



What is Rotary?

Rotary is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders that provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards in all vocations, and helps build goodwill and peace in the world. Approximately 1.2 million Rotarians belong to more than 31,000 Rotary clubs located in 166 countries.

The main objective of Rotary is service — in the community, in the workplace, and throughout the world. Rotarians develop community service projects that address many of today's most critical issues, such as children at risk, poverty and hunger, the environment, illiteracy, and violence. They also support programs for youth, educational opportunities and international exchanges for students, teachers, and other professionals, and vocational and career development.

The Rotary motto is Service Above Self.

Santa Fe Centro Rotary is doing all it can to promote these worthy objectives and goals within our club.

The Four Way Test
1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it **BUILD GOODWILL** and
BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all
concerned?
...and here at Centro Club

...
The Rotary Motto
Service Before Self
Rotary concerns itself with truth,
fairness, improved relations between
people and world peace.

Don't just be a Rotarian,
Live it!

From the Secretary

Our attendance for June 2008 was 72%! Good job, Centro.

Please keep letting me know of any meetings, service opportunities, or committee events you attend outside of our regularly scheduled Tuesday morning meetings. Tracking these has greatly enhanced our attendance numbers.

Your Humble Secretary,

Susanne Kennedy

susanne@deltamortgageonline.com

(505) 603-2066

Schedule of Events

- **July 4** Pancake breakfast on the plaza. Contact Chris Harris, Santa Fe Rotary Club, for details.
- **July 11** 4:00 p.m. Board retreat at Garrett Robinson's office.
- **July 15** New Member Orientation by Joan Rutherford.
- **July 19** Installation of new officers and pot luck dinner at the Eldorado Community Center. Meat will be provided. Members bring everything else! 4:00 p.m.
- **September 30** Rummage Sale.

July 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 7:00 a.m. Club Meeting	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 7:00 a.m. Club Meeting	9 10:00 a.m. Reading at Mandefield Head Start.	10	11	12
13	14	15 7:00 a.m. Club Meeting	16	17 7:00 a.m. Board Meeting	18	19 4:00 p.m. Officer installation
20	21 Happy birthday, Megan!	22 7:00 a.m. Club Meeting	23	24	25	26
27	28	29 Happy birthday, Rhonda!	30	31		

Weekly meetings are held at the Piccolo Café at 7:00 a.m. every Tuesday morning. Located in the old Carlos Gospel Café in the New Mexico Bank and Trust building on the corner of Washington and Marcy Streets (across from the Bull Ring). There is no charge for parking. Breakfast is \$10 (buffet and beverage) and coffee is \$5 (with your choice of muffin or fruit cup).

If you have suggestions for future speakers, contact Kathy Segura at SeguraK@usa.redcross.org.

Upcoming Speakers

July 1—Josh Gonze, Founder
Friends of Capitalism

&

Todd Christensen, Location Scout/Manager
Making movies in New Mexico

July 8—John Gravel, Civil Air Patrol
What is the Civil Air Patrol?

July 15—Joan Rutherford, Past President
New Member Orientation

July 22—Ramon Abeyta, County Manager

July 29th—Miciah Prull
Developing world connections from a young adult's point of view, first hand experience in Swaziland

Santa Fe Centro Rotary



Vic Brenneisen
Centro Co-Founder



Frank Lee
Centro Co-Founder



Garrett Robinson
Centro President



Tom Lindsay
District Governor



Dong Kurn Lee
RI President



Carl Luff

Santa Fe Centro Rotary Board

President—Garrett Robinson
 President Elect—Carl Luff
 Secretary—Susanne Kennedy
 Treasurer—Steve Johnson
 Sergeant-at-Arms—Preston Robinson
 Director, Club Administration—Megan McFarlane
 Director, Public Relations—James Armijo
 Director, Community Service—Barry Gerst
 Director, RI Foundation—open
 Immediate Past President—Victoria Edwards
 Appointments: Club Trainer—Jean Constant; Speakers' Bureau—Katherine Segura; Newsletter—Rhonda Williams.

Santa Fe Centro Rotary Club Membership

	Work	Home	Email
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John Barraclough (Honorary Member)	983-3387	988-4007	john@barraclough.com
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Rotary International
www.rotary.org

Rotary District 5520
www.rotary5520.org

Centro Sentinel Submissions:
 Please email all news about you, your Rotary friends, and any other Rotary activities by the last Thursday of the month to:
 Rhonda Williams, Newsletter Editor

Rhonda@barraclough.com

Santa Fe Centro Rotary Foundation

The Santa Fe Centro Rotary Foundation was formed on March 28, 2006. It is a public charity as defined in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and is eligible to receive tax deductible contributions (Federal Tax ID 20-5353265).

John E. Barraclough, Jr., is the Registered Agent and the mailing address is: c/o Barraclough & Associates, P.O. Box 1847, Santa Fe, NM 87504-1847. Board members are: Megan McFarlane, Chairman, Rhonda Williams, Secretary, J. Barry Gerst, Treasurer, and Joan Rutherford and Victoria Edwards, members. Please contact Rhonda Williams for additional information.