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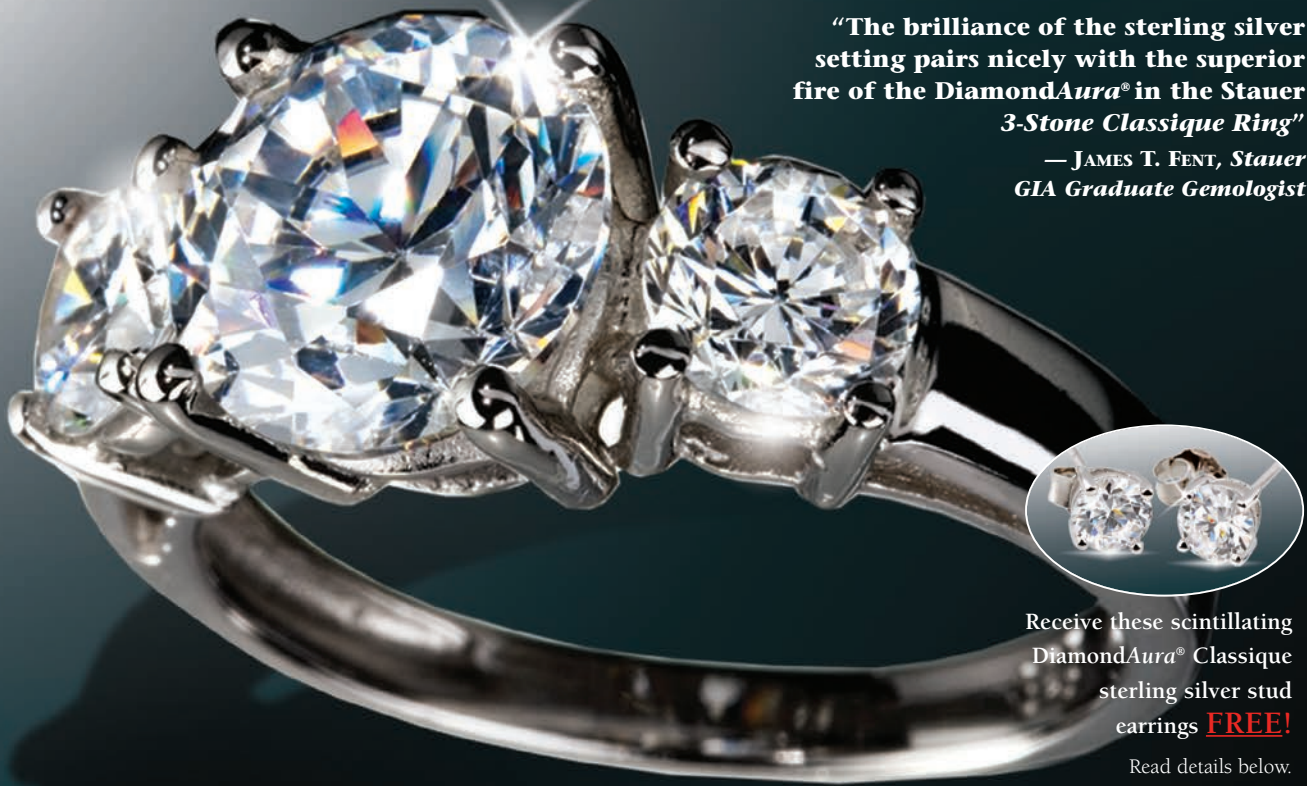
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**— JAMES T. FENT, Stauer
GIA Graduate Gemologist**

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Color	"D" Colorless	"D" Colorless
Clarity	"IF"	Clear
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2 ½ c.t.w. ring	\$60,000+	\$145

scientific process, but will only say that it involves the use of rare minerals heated to an incredibly high temperature of nearly 5000°F. This can only be accomplished inside some very modern and expensive laboratory equipment. After several additional steps, scientists finally created a clear marvel that looks even better than the vast majority of mined diamonds. According to the book *Jewelry and Gems—the Buying Guide*, the technique used in DiamondAura

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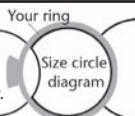
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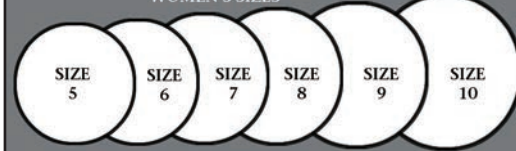
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WOMEN'S SIZES



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Breaking Research News**Life is short...or maybe not.****Top Harvard researcher says it's "the Holy Grail of aging research."*****...as seen on
CBS "60 Minutes"**

Don't wait for the drug companies to drive the price through the roof; get the benefits of this breakthrough *natural* extract for pennies a day!

BOSTON, MA—Leading medical scientists are learning that resveratrol, a natural substance found in red wine, is rewriting the rules on the science of aging.

Researchers at the **Harvard Medical School** and the **National Institute on Aging** already discovered that the red wine extract offset the negative effects of a high-calorie diet in mice and significantly extends their life span (*NY Times*, Nov 2, 2006). Now, the latest research indicates that resveratrol may be even more powerful than first anticipated.

At this moment, drug companies are rushing to create prescription drugs that mimic the awesome health benefits of this simple natural extract. A leading pharmaceutical company has already spent \$760,000,000 on purchasing the research and development.

The powerful secret of tomorrow's anti-aging pill can be yours today.

You may have thought that an anti-aging pill would only be available far into the future. But the effects of resveratrol have been proven as scientific fact... today. Even better, resveratrol is a naturally-occurring substance found in the skin of grapes and red wine, not manufactured in some laboratory. The key to living longer may be found inside your favorite bottle of red wine.

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"We have something (resveratrol) that **extends the life of every species** it's (been) given to. We're 50 years ahead of where I'd thought we would be 10 years ago," said a leading professor of pathology at Harvard Medical School, reported by the *NY Times*.

and roots, provides the equivalent of the resveratrol in **278 five ounce glasses of Pinot Noir**.

Such a potent concentrate delivers all of resveratrol's remarkable benefits, promoting circulation, blood flow, immune system, energy and healthy arteries.

Has the "The French Paradox" finally been explained?

Resveratrol is conjectured to be a partial explanation for "The French Paradox," the puzzling fact that people in France enjoy a high-fat diet yet suffer less heart disease than Americans and live significantly longer lives (in some cases up to 40%).

Even though French diets are crammed with loads of bread, cheese, rich cream sauces and decadent desserts... the resveratrol in red wine may have acted as their secret weapon. It is thought that the resveratrol protected them against

unhealthy triglycerides, high cholesterol and skyrocketing blood pressure.

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Don't wait decades for giant drug conglomerates to figure out a way to charge you a fortune for the same benefits you can get for pennies on your own. Call today!

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SERVING TOGETHER

MESSAGE FROM
THE PRESIDENT



Retention of members
increases the service
capability of clubs.

Employ a Double Membership Strategy

Helen Keller, who had all the reasons in the world to lack a positive outlook, once said, “Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.” Lions, every instance of our service is a shining moment of optimism and faith. We believe we can uplift lives and improve our communities. Indeed, that’s what Lions have done for 93 years.

We need to keep sharing that optimism with our fellow club members and keep them in the fold. Let me emphasize that membership worldwide is up thanks to strong recruiting efforts. But it could be even better if clubs made a greater commitment to retention.

Lions, we need a **double membership strategy**. We need to extend clubs and we need to improve retention. This really can be done only at the club level. The Lions who are leaving are your club members, your friends. You know their hearts and minds and what keeps them happy and satisfied. Certainly, a large organization such as ours will lose many members every year because of non-payment of dues, club cancellations, death and other reasons. But nearly 40 percent of members who left us last year resigned in good standing. They simply decided their club was not meeting their needs.

Retention starts with induction. We need to recruit qualified members: people who want to serve, who can pay their dues, who have some stature in the community. Then we must nurture them as Lions. The first four years are critical. Make them feel welcome and important. Listen to them. Heed their advice. A club can’t cater to the wishes of the few but must respond to its entire membership. Make sure meetings are punctual, lively and interesting and that club activities are frequent and engaging. Most clubs do this most of the time. Let’s be able to say all clubs do this all the time! **Plant your Ginkgos and make MOVE TO GROW sustainable.**

Lions Clubs International has excellent tools to improve your club such as self-evaluation kits and pamphlets on improving club dynamics and meetings. A better club will lead to better retention.

Retention is critical for us to do even more service and to keep clubs strong and healthy. Our purpose is to serve society but to do that well we have to serve our clubs, too, by making them attractive for members. I know that Lions never fail when challenged. Take this as another challenge. Move to Grow this year and move deliberately and intelligently to hold on to your members.

Eberhard J. Wirfs
Lions Clubs International President

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

COURT CASE CASH BENEFITS LCIF

Attorney Philip D. Stern, a Lion from Maplewood, New Jersey, transformed harassment into humanitarian service when he resolved a recent class-action suit.



The case claimed that a debt collector unlawfully left messages for consumers without making proper disclosures. At Stern's suggestion, the court approved a \$95,000 award to Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF). Stern, the 16-E district governor, presented the donation to Al Brandel, LCIF chairperson, in September before nearly 3,000 Lions at the USA/Canada Leadership Forum in Memphis. "The fact that Phil was able to secure this opportunity for LCIF through his profession is a true testament to how dedicated our Lions volunteers are to providing humanitarian support worldwide," says Brandel.

LION WRITER DIES

Paul Martin never lost his sense of humor. When a doctor at the Mayo Clinic hesitated when Martin asked him how long he had left, Martin jumped in and blurted, "Well, I'm glad you didn't look at your watch." A longtime feature writer for LION Magazine and author of two history books on Lions, Martin, 87, died of cancer in October. He had been a member of the Riverside Township Lions Club near Chicago since 1986. He wrote more than 500 magazine articles for *Parade*, *Good Housekeeping*, *American Legion* and other prominent magazines. During World War II he served on reconnaissance missions in planes that took off from battleships. He wrestled, boxed and hosted a TV show before settling in as a writer. He wrote *We Serve* in 1991 and co-authored *Lions Clubs in the 21st Century* last year.



settling in as a writer. He wrote *We Serve* in 1991 and co-authored *Lions Clubs in the 21st Century* last year.

E-CLUBHOUSE A SUCCESS

Lions are knocking down the doors to get in the e-Clubhouse. Within a week of its launch 218 Lions clubs used the e-Clubhouse to create their own Web site and 800 clubs



took advantage of it within one month. Offered by Lions Clubs International, e-Clubhouse enables Lions to build their own Web sites. The free resource has preformatted templates with fill-in-the-blank fields. The end result is an attractive, user-friendly Web site that matches the Lions brand while preserving a club's individuality. "We upgraded to an e-Clubhouse. It was easy and made for a much better Web site for our club," said Jim Moen of Saskatchewan, Canada. For information, visit www.lionsclubs.org.

PILOT'S FAMILY GIVES BACK

Remember Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger, the pilot who safely landed a jet in the Hudson River in New York? Dave Johnson certainly does. The Lion from California was collecting goods for the victims of the Auburn 49 Fire when a Lorrie Sullenberger arrived with a truckload of furniture and other items. He asked her if she was related to a local realtor and she told him who her husband was. The arson fire in September torched 50 homes and 10 businesses. "We're all trying to accomplish the same thing. Let's get these families back to the exact spot they were before it happened," Johnson, a member of the Meadow Vista Area Lions Club, told the *Auburn Journal*.



Lorrie Sullenberger and her husband Pilot Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger.

NEW LIONS QUEST WEB SITE DEBUTS

The new Lions Quest Web site created in January includes vibrant colors, new features and a more user-friendly layout. A new international page includes more information about Lions Quest around the world, and short video vignettes highlight Lions Quest in action. For information, contact info@lions-quest.org or visit www.lions-quest.org.



COIN FLIP FLAP

A mayor has denied that a coin flip decided whether Lions could collect donations at intersections in town. Mayor Gary Graham of O'Fallon, Illinois, told the *Belleville News* he was only joking when he flipped a coin after alderman were deadlocked on whether to allow Lions to solicit donations. He said he already had decided a city ordinance prohibits such collections on consecutive weekends and he tossed the coin to amuse an 8-year-old girl who was at the meeting as "mayor for the day."



WELCOME TO THE CLUB!

LION: Mary Tvedt

CLUB: Lions Club of Casper, Wyoming

OCCUPATION: Registered dietitian, certified diabetes educator

INTRODUCTION TO LIONS: Baptism by fire — I was accepted into the Lions Club of Casper in April of 2009. The club asked me almost immediately to serve on the Diabetes Awareness Committee. Thereafter we started planning our community program to coincide with World Diabetes Day. It was a successful public education/diabetes awareness seminar that featured speakers and educational booths, covered by local media. The club seemed like a perfect fit as it promotes appropriate eye care and is interested in having an impact on diabetes risk reduction as well.



New Lion Mary Tvedt helps promote diabetes awareness.

OTHER INTERESTS: Youth activities such as 4-H are another area of interest to me. I serve as a co-leader for a local 4-H club in which my children are involved.

THE BEST PROJECT IN WHICH I'VE BEEN INVOLVED: So far, that would be the World Diabetes Day Seminar. I'm so proud of the club and its members! Many stepped up to make this "world-class event" happen in Casper.

THE LAST GREAT BOOK I READ: My family's photo albums. We recently celebrated a milestone birthday with my father and many friends and relatives.

THE CLUB DOESN'T KNOW THIS ABOUT ME: I really enjoy time to play in the snow in the winter. It's too bad when the wonderful fluff of snow disappears before I have the opportunity to enjoy it after a snowfall. I enjoy ice skating as well. Summer fun includes water activities, such as water skiing, as time allows.

HOW TO DESCRIBE ME: Very outgoing, energetic and committed to what I believe.

PROJECT TO SUGGEST: There are many activities proposed by our current diabetes awareness committee that are geared to help the adult population at risk for dealing with diabetes. I would also like to see our Lions club along with other service organizations become involved with the youth in our area to promote wellness and prevention of Type II diabetes.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

CLUB OF THE MONTH

LIONS CLUB OF BRANDON, MANITOBA, CANADA

FOUNDED: 1938

MEMBERSHIP: 22 members

COMMUNITY SERVED: City of Brandon (pop. 40,000) and the province of Manitoba for larger projects including the Lions Eye Bank and the Lions Medical Assistance Fund for Manitoba and Northwest Ontario.

MEETING MATTERS: The club meets at 6 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday in the Lions Den of Lions Manor.

CLAIM TO FAME: The club united with four other Brandon Lions clubs to build a 219-suite, life-lease senior living complex named Lions Manor in 1989. Ten years later, another building housing 60 units was built. In addition to ensuring quality care for the area's aging population, the Lions Club of Brandon purchased and constructed seven playgrounds—each designed to accommodate Little League baseball.

PARK PLANS: Lions have partnered with a community group that wants to revitalize one of the parks. With the enthusiastic support of the city of Brandon, the newly named Lions Memorial Community Park will feature a wheelchair-accessible walking trail, tables and benches, a "kiddies" playground, picnic area, fenced dog park and upgraded baseball facilities when it soon officially opens.

Jake Braun helps young friend Scotty Sherb obtain a higher view while they check out the park renovation work.



Lions contributed \$5,000 and other individuals, businesses and groups donated to the park's renovation, which took three years. Memorial plaques will commemorate Brandon Lions and the newly-designed entrance archway will prominently display the park's new name and the emblem of Lions Clubs International.

LIONS KEEP GOING STRONG: Fundraising plays an important role in the ability of Brandon Lions to stay strongly committed to the success of their community projects. They deliver phone books to residences and businesses to earn money. They also run a televised bingo game carried on the local cable access channel.

WHY BE A LION: "Our club celebrated its 70th anniversary last year and our ages range from 40 to 85. Not only are we deeply committed to working with and serving our community, we are also ready to help each other," says President Jake Braun.

OVERHEARD

"You see 100 kids and you give out 10 pairs of glasses. See 100 adults and give out 99 glasses."

— **Armand Radke**, a Detroit Lakes Lion in Minnesota on a mission trip to Mexico. From *Detroit Lakes Online*.

"After a year later, people forget you. We want to come in a year later and say we have not forgotten."

— **Janet Mincer** of the Loma Rica Foothills Lions in California on a blues and bikes music festival to raise funds for victims of wildfires in 2008. From the *Appeal Democrat*.

11 YEARS AGO IN THE LION

FEBRUARY 1999

A giant eye chart projected onto the House of Parliament and Big Ben at the stroke of midnight kicks off World Sight Day in London.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

BY THE NUMBERS

60

Duration in seconds of an egg eating contest of the Winlock Lions in Washington.



50

Banners hung in Chaska, Minnesota, promoting the 2009 PGA championship last August. The Chaska Lions have organized the banner project for all the major golf tourneys held at the Hazeltine National Golf Club since 1991.



79,364

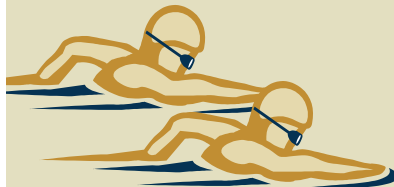
Pairs of eyeglasses recycled by the Lake Tomahawk Lions in Wisconsin since 2002.

160

Families who received free food on a Friday morning in a giveaway sponsored by the Tallmadge Lions in Ohio.

9,668

Laps swum by 1,200 islanders in a fundraiser of the Guernsey Lions in the Channel Islands.



15

Pedestrian crossing signs donated to the city by the Northampton Lions in Massachusetts. The three-foot high signs include a Lions logo.



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IDEAS THAT ROAR

BIG IMPACT WITH LIONS CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS

Brandon's Playground Wish Comes True

It started as a child's simple request. Brandon Sims, now 11, asked his great-aunt and great-uncle for help in improving the playground at the Arkansas School for the Blind last year. A tree had fallen on the slide, blocking its use, and the playground had generally fallen into disrepair after being built in 1987. "It was a really old playground and everything was so rusted that I was afraid kids would get hurt," he explains.

What he got was more than just a little help. The school was given a spectacular new playground installed with assistance from 54 Lions clubs across the state. The equipment is expected to last at least 15 years and be enjoyed by an estimated 10,000 children who will run, jump, cheer and play like other kids their age. Brandon made a wise choice when he turned to Wanda and John Barnett, both longtime members of the Gravel Ridge Lions Club.

They knew how to put the building of a new school playground worth \$125,000 into motion. Lions received a \$25,000 LCIF matching grant and steep discounts on equipment from manufacturers to build what is now known as Brandon's Playground. Businesses and individuals contributed to the project along with parents and hundreds of Lions, who not only drove the campaign to raise the money but also refurbished picnic tables and supplied the labor

to install playground equipment.

The school cut trees to expand the area and did other prep work to prepare for a new, expanded playground. There are still traditional favorites like new swings and an ergonomically designed seesaw to give kids a good workout, but many other pieces of unique equipment are also now firmly rooted in the ground. A "rockscape" made of recyclable plastic has the look of natural rock and gives the kids a place to climb on, around, up and down. Another unique attraction is the drum circle based on traditional African and Caribbean instruments. With this assortment of outdoor plastic instruments strung together, kids can beat out their own original rhythms and sounds.

Making Brandon's wish come true "was not always an easy journey," Wanda Barnett says. Lions kept at it, however. A year after Brandon first asked Gravel Ridge Lions for their assistance, the new playground was installed and ready for use.

Brandon, who wants to be a meteorologist when he grows up, points out that the new slides are his favorite place to play. In fact, he admits that his new hobby just might be enjoying the playground instead of working on his magic act, complete with pulling a "rabbit" out of a hat. "I'm very grateful. Thank you, Lions," he says.

Lions discovered that assembling the odd jumble of poles, ladders, beams and ropes into shape over four days was definitely not child's play.

SERVICE IDEA ASK FAMILY FOR PROJECT HELP



INVITE INTEREST

Sponsor an open social event to attract new Lions. Your best recruitment tool is showing others how much fun the bond of service can bring to their lives.

It's a Blast!

Stratton-Eustis Lions sponsored the 13th annual snow sculpture and lighting decoration contest for the 2009 Polar Blast festival. Located in northwestern Maine, Stratton-Eustis, composed of residents from two communities, unite with two local associations to sponsor the snowy celebration. Lions sell food outdoors to raise funds to support their year-round service projects.

Patricia Franz says, "The Polar Bear Blast is a unique activity and we're out there with our hot dog cart selling dogs, hamburgers, coffee and cocoa—and the temperature can be below zero with wicked winds!"

The weekend's activities are split between the two communities. "We're very small here," points out Franz, "with maybe 700 people in all the communities within a 700-mile radius." Snow sculpture competition is open to businesses and families. "We usually judge between two and six in each category but we have problems if it rains after they're done. Last year it rained and it didn't leave much to judge!" she says.



The Foster family of Stratton puts the finishing touches on their winning snow sculpture before judging.



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LIONS ON LOCATION

YOUR GUIDE TO THE GREAT WORK WE'RE DOING AROUND THE WORLD

Life's a Beach for Japanese Club

1 ASIA JAPAN

One of the most scenic places in Japan is Amano Hashidate. The sandy beach stretches for more than two miles, and 8,000 pine trees form a wall of green. Some 2.5 million outdoors lovers come here every year from Kyoto, Osaka and other crowded cities.

The Miyazu Lions Club has kept the beach safe and attractive since 1967. Lions staff a first-aid tent. Two or three of the club's 57 members are on duty every afternoon. Jellyfish stings are common. Lions expertly clean the wound with sea water (regular water may make the injury worse) and carefully apply ammonia. Looking anxious, injured children are quickly treated so they can get back to their fun.

Lions patrol the beach periodically to pick up trash. Lions also serve as an informal "information desk" by providing visitors with train schedules and tourist packets. Lions even serve as volunteer lifeguards on busy weekends.

Twice a year the club sponsors an extensive cleanup of the beach. In April, before the beach is packed, the club asks volunteers to be part of Clean Hashidate: One Person One Square Foot. In August, in conjunction with the club meeting, members gather at 6 a.m. on the sand as the sun rises to sweep the beach clean not only of empty cans and bottles but also stray twigs and wood. Keeping nature clean and inviting takes a lot of human intervention.



Lions provide first aid.

(Right) Lions regularly clean the beach.



LIONS ON LOCATION

YOUR GUIDE TO THE GREAT WORK WE'RE DOING AROUND THE WORLD

2 EUROPE FRANCE

A Bridge Not Too Far



A favorite destination of seasoned travelers, Thonon sits at the foot of the Alps on Lake Geneva in France. Hikers, skiers and mountain climbers trod over the paths from the town to the peaks. Two years ago during a club outing Lions noticed that a pivotal bridge over a stream was falling apart. So the Thonon Lac et Montagne Lions assembled tools and timber and made the trek to the bridge. They dismantled and removed the rotten pieces and repaired the bridge. They left a simple reminder of their labor: a plaque on the planks with their club name and date of the bridge renovation.

(Left) Lions saw a need and fixed it.

(Below) Lions test the weight-bearing capacity of the renovated bridge.



Amazing Race



The 10K and marathon race in Perpignan draws 1,000 competitors: fast runners, slow runners, blind runners and two-wheeled runners (paralyzed people using special bicycles). The winners are the underprivileged in Perpignan, a city of 300,000 in southern France. In three years, the race raised 43,000 Euros (\$64,000) for audible signals at traffic lights, sign language translation for the deaf for audio portions of the city's vast Internet site, computer-related materials for the hearing impaired and baby monitors for a hospital. Funds also were used for tandem bikes to allow blind cyclists to join the race.

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Raising Awareness of AIDS

3 ASIA INDIA



An actor (wearing Lions clothing) performs a play on AIDS while real Lions look on.

An estimated 2.3 million people in India live with HIV; only two nations have more. Yet educating people about the disease is problematic. The nation has many languages and hundreds of dialects. A stigma surrounds the disease. Many Indians do not understand what causes the disease and people living with HIV often are shunned and sometimes attacked.

The Khopoli Lions Club reached out to the poorly edu-

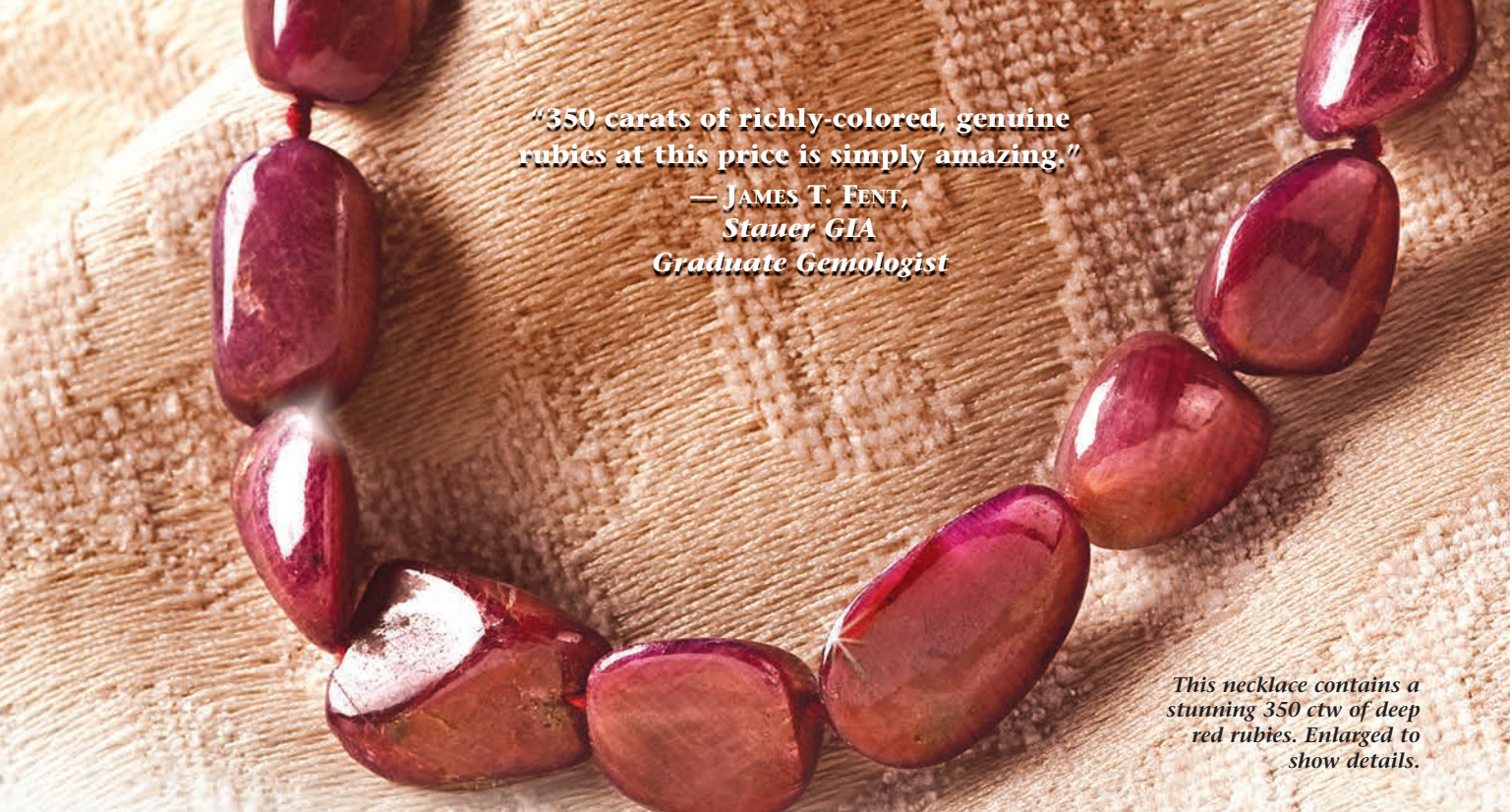
cated by sponsoring a street play on AIDS. An acting troupe performed at a fair that draws 20,000 people. Said Prashant Sathe, club president, "The project was well appreciated by local people. Many came up to us and admitted they never knew about certain causes that could lead to the disease and the preventive measures that can be taken." The project generated significant media coverage, he added.

Breakfast and Dancing

4 SOUTH AMERICA VENEZUELA

Members of the Maracaibo Cacique Mara Lions Club in Venezuela serve breakfast, make a generous donation and dance with seniors at a retirement complex in Maracaibo.





"350 carats of richly-colored, genuine rubies at this price is simply amazing."

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This necklace contains a stunning 350 ctw of deep red rubies. Enlarged to show details.

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If you want to melt her heart, forget subtlety. Go for fireworks. Our **Polished Ruby Necklace** features a whopping **350 carats** of smooth-tumbled, genuine rubies. The **Polished Ruby Necklace** is a grand gesture guaranteed to make her swoon.

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BIG, BOLD SYDNEY

You don't do anything halfway in this glorious city—and the Opera House is just the beginning.

by Helen O'Neill





Big, bold and brilliant, Sydney

is a mass of contradictions—ostentatious yet laid-back, carefree yet hardworking, dazzling yet demure. Its population bubbles at around 4.3 million and it can boast of being one of the most multicultural places in the world. This summer that boast will never be truer: Lions will meet there June 28-July 2 for the 93rd International Convention.

Sydney is framed by beauty. To Sydney's north roams the Hawkesbury River; the east opens out into the Pacific Ocean; to the south sits the Royal National Park and the west rises up into the magnificent Blue Mountains range. It is renowned for being sunny, urbane, culturally thriving and having more than 70 beaches. Even so, the first port of call for any new visitor has to be that jaw-dropping harbor.

Step onto Circular Quay, the main ferry port of Sydney Harbour. This is where, to the husky rhythms of didgeridoo-playing buskers, thousands of locals travel to and from work every day.

Jet-boats, yachts, tugs, floating taxis and cruisers dart about these sparkling waters; so clean that sharks and whales still swim across them. Private helicopters sweep overhead. And etched out across the spectacular skyline is one of the most famous buildings in the world—the Sydney Opera House.

Designed by Danish architect Jørn Utzon (who famously become so infuriated with the whole process that he refused ever to set sight on the finished result), this extraordinary edifice's signature silhouette is something even Sydneysiders never tire of. It opened in 1973, won World Heritage listing in 2007 and is, by any standard, a very busy place indeed.

Sitting inside its sweeping white sails, visitors can watch everything from cutting edge, contemporary performances to the classics of ballet, theatre and—of course—opera. The complex's lower level houses a particularly good drinking hole, the harbor-hugging Opera Bar. Even its forecourt regularly takes centre stage—as a venue for raucous rock concerts and as a crowded vantage point during the Australia Day celebrations (every January 26) and the spectacular fireworks that light up the harbor on New Years Eve.

There is nothing like getting up close and personal with the SOH (the behind-the-scenes tours are particularly good fun) but arguably the best view is to be had by traversing the city's other great icon—the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

Locals dub this bridge “the coathanger” and scaling these huge arches (it involves steeling your nerve, slipping into a grey safety suit and attaching yourself via safety



The Museum of Contemporary Art is a mecca for art lovers.

wire to its railings) takes over three hours. The adventure climaxes at 134 meters above sea level and the view is phenomenal—an unparalleled 360-degree, harbor-city panorama. Restrictions prohibit personal equipment, including cameras, so every climber gets a souvenir photograph of themselves at the bridge's zenith to take home (www.bridgeclimb.com).

Visitors with vertigo need not worry as the other million-dollar image of Sydney Harbour is much easier to snap. All that requires is a ride on a ferry. Time-strapped tourists have a special trick—buying return tickets to the lively beachside suburb of Manly or to Taronga, home of Sydney's impressive zoo, and then coming straight back.

But Circular Quay harbors more than just views. This is a gateway to the kind of good living that Sydneysiders revel in.

Sydney is often called a cultural melting pot (its denizens hail from 180 countries and speak 140 different languages)—and no where is this more obvious than in its much-celebrated cuisine. This precinct alone offers some of the best modern Australian restaurants (think Asian flavors, super-fresh seafood and exquisite European know-how) in the country. The Opera House's own acclaimed restaurant, Guillaume at Bennelong, Quay and Aria are just three—but expect price tags to match. Views and expertise this spectacular do not come cheap.

The lush greenery of the Royal Botanic Gardens (home to the Wollemi Pine, dubbed a long-lost “dinosaur” tree), is an easy stroll away, and here lies another tasty



treasure, thanks to both its restaurant and café—perfect for watching fruit bats flap lazily around the manicured tropical rainforest.

Coffee, cocktail and mocktail-lovers are all well-served here, thanks to water-view bars and cafes such as Aqua Luna, ECQ, and the New York-style Blu Horizon situated inside the Shangri-La Hotel. Those yearning for lager and lederhosen tend to make a beeline for The Rocks, Sydney's oldest town quarter.

Tucked along the cobblestone streets, inside picture-perfect colonial architecture, are boutiques, opal outlets, cozy pubs and European-style beer kellers. Cadman's Cottage, the city's oldest building (circa 1816) is in George Street, and Sydney's quirky, historic Observatory is just a short walk up a nearby hill.

This side of Sydney's harbor is also a mecca for culture vultures. Aboriginal and modern art fans head to the Museum of Contemporary Art, while performance arts are on show at the nearby Sydney Theatre Company and Sydney Dance Company.

Darling Harbour, Sydney's newer waterside development, is just a few blocks away. Sydney Aquarium (think penguins, sharks and dugongs—the mysterious “mermaids

of the deep”) is a family favorite but this area is also dotted with nightclubs and yet more harborside cafes, restaurants and bars (the funky Cargo Lounge on the King Street Wharf offers mango daiquiris, Cuban cigars and sunset water views).

Those cruising for the best bite in Australia need not look much further. Tetsuya's, generally regarded as the best restaurant in the country, is just around the corner at 529 Kent St. The Japanese-French, seafood-orientated degustation menu is legendary in culinary circles and advance booking is absolutely essential.

If more wallet-friendly fare is on the menu, make a beeline for Sydney's bustling Chinatown precinct. A particular favorite among the busy yum-cha outlets and noodle houses is BBQ King (18 Goulburn St.)—a multi-level restaurant famed for its chili salt prawns, street-side queuing and opening hours so long it attracts many late-night revelers from the clubs of Oxford Street and the City.

Sydney by day offers a host of delights. With one easy walk through the city, visitors can enjoy the effortless grandeur of Macquarie Street (New South Wales' parliamentary and legal HQ) and Hyde Park Barracks (designed by convict architect Francis Greenway, this houses a

Bondi Beach offers fun in the sun.



museum which stands as testament to the excesses of Australia's colonial past).

Stretched out opposite is the large, manicured green walkways of Hyde Park—home to joggers, picnicking families and a seemingly endless stream of outdoor chess players. And from here Bondi Beach, the most famous patch of sand in Australia, is just a 20-minute express bus-ride away.

Finding it is as easy as buying a pre-pay ticket from a news agent and jumping on bus number 333—a ride that is a tour in itself.

First stop is Oxford Street, full of bars, clubs and the site of Saturdays' Paddington arts, crafts and design markets. Here too lies a string of classic Aussie outlets: Dinosaur Designs (who craft distinctive, chunky jewelry out of multi-colored resin) and top fashion labels including Akira Isogawa and Alannah Hill. The 333 then glides past Centennial Park (a huge circular sprawl of woodland, lakes and playing fields), beyond Bondi Junction (another vibrant shopping district) and then heads straight down Bondi Road to the vast Pacific Ocean.

Some come here for seaside saunters, and the cliff top walks north to Watsons Bay and south to Coogee Beach are both spectacular. But Bondi has a character all its own. This place is a magnet for Sydney's beautiful people, be they models, actors or well-muscled surfers.

The cafés (try Speedo's at the beach's north end) offer silky-smooth espressos and fruit-packed smoothies. Those after a good feed, as they call it here, can do worst than feasting on gourmet fish and chips from Fishmongers (42 Hall St.); best eaten on the grassy park overlooking the sand.

The beach's south end is dominated by the Icebergs complex—the wind-swept ocean pool, a high-end restaurant frequented by celebs and executives, and the family-friendly Icebergs Club, which caters for everybody else. Carry ID with your address on it for free visitors' entry; those living within a 5km radius have to join to get in.

(1) Sydney Aquarium is a family favorite.

(2) The streets of Sydney bustle with shoppers.

(3) Royal Botanic Gardens is an oasis of serenity.

(4) Try the Marron Salad with Truffle at Tetsuya, regarded as the country's top restaurant.

Photos courtesy of Tourism New South Wales



1



2



3



4



In Bondi, as everywhere in Sydney, it pays to push past the obvious. Gould Street, a short one-way lane running parallel to the beach, has top-notch organic fare, funky surf shops, and an eclectic rack of designer outlets (cult boutique Tuchuzy even carries cutting-

edge kiddie wear for tiny beach babes).

But more lies beyond Sydney's eastern beachside suburbs. Kings Cross, long-known as Sydney's red light district, is a nexus of backpacker hostels, wild nightlife and some seriously stylish restaurants. Newtown, in the city's inner west, boasts a bohemian blend of grunge and urban chic, plus a wealth of well-priced, multicultural eateries, quirky cafes and funky retro clothes stores along its central thoroughfare, Kings Street.

Glebe, a touch further south-west, houses street-side cafés, a great bookstore (Gleebooks at 49 Glebe Point Road) and an eclectic Saturday market.

Balmain, west of the city on a peninsular and easily accessible by ferry from Circular Quay, also has a Saturday flea market, a wealth of hip cafes and eateries and historic, character-filled pubs rivaling those of The Rocks.

As befits a city that adores its food, some districts are draw cards for gourmands—including Pyrmont (site of Sydney's breezy fish market), Haberfield and Leichardt (for those enamored of Italian cuisine), and Cabramatta (home to so many Australian-Vietnamese the street signs are in two languages).

Waterloo, situated between the city and the airport, has good food, too,

Australian Icons

Hollywood superstar **Russell Crowe** has a home in Sydney at the end of the Finger Wharf in Woolloomooloo and likes to stroll around town with his family.



Visible from outer space, the **Great Barrier Reef** off the northeast coast is the world's largest coral reef system consisting of 2,900 reefs, 900 islands and billions of tiny organisms known as coral polyps.



Born in Hawaii, actress **Nicole Kidman** grew up in Sydney and shares a mansion on the harbor in the city with husband Keith Urban, the country singer.



The **Outback**, which technically is the entire non-urban portion of Australia, also refers to the mostly arid countryside, full of rugged vistas and populated by the dingo, donkey and feral camel.



A salty, gooey yeast paste beloved by Australians, **vegemite** is ubiquitous as a breakfast food (spread on hot buttered toast), lunchtime sandwich and even as a remedy for hangovers.



The Lay of The Land

Number of Lions: 27,236 in 1,264 clubs

Weather: The average daily high in Sydney in January is 79 degrees. But “winter” in July is comfortable with an average high of 61 and a low of 47.

Currency: The Australian dollar comes in denominations of \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100, either in the modern plasticized bills or the old (but still valid) paper bills. Coins are five, 10, 20 and 50 cents and \$1 and \$2. The exchange rate as of press time was US\$1 equals A\$1.09.

Food and Drink: The traditional Aussie barbecue of lamb chops and sausages is never far away but Asia's influence is everywhere from Japanese sushi bars to Singaporean-style food stands. Sydney offers a globalized fare with a jumble of Italian, Greek and Indian eateries. Be sure to try a meat pie or sausage roll, popular take-away foods. Kangaroo meat is not hard to find. The country has a strong wine culture with more than 10,000 Australian wines on the market at any given time. Beer remains a staple; the old joke is that a seven-course Australian meal is a meat pie and a six-pack.

Aborigines: Australia's first inhabitants constitute about 1.5 percent of the country's population; many now live in major cities but remain Aboriginal. They suffered horribly as the white settlers took over the continent starting in the 18th century. Some were killed outright and others confined to reservations. Since the 1950s Australians began reassessing their relationship with Aborigines, and a milestone occurred in 1992 when the Australian High Court ruled the indigenous people has been wrongfully dispossessed of their land.

(check out Dank Street Depot) but is best known for having morphed from warehouse wasteland into a hub of art and design. Here large antiques showrooms rub shoulders with contemporary and indigenous art galleries.

Rosebery, the neighborhood next door, holds a particular treasure: the design house Signature Prints (3 Hayes Road; <http://www.signatureprints.com.au>). Drop in and get the lowdown on Florence Broadhurst, who since her mysterious murder in 1977 has become one of Australia's most influential and exotic image-makers.

It all makes for a heady mixture. “Where else in the world can you catch a ferry, ride a roller coaster, eat a five-star meal, see an opera, visit an art gallery, see where Sydney began— all with harbor views?” says author Erin Vincent, who was born in the southern Sydney suburb of Beverly Hills (“Nothing like the LA version,” she laughs) and moved back to the city in 2007 after 13 years in Los Angeles.

Born in the Australian state of Victoria, Noel Hodda has lived in Sydney for more than 35 years. “Sometimes I'll go to another city for work or a visit and think, ‘Gee, maybe I could live here,’” he says. “I entertain the thought until the plane sweeps in over the ocean or the Blue Mountains to land in Sydney, and I see, from above, the white surf breaking out of the blue sea against the sandstone cliffs. Any thoughts of moving are blown away as if on a spray of cool salt water on a hot day.” ■

This article first appeared in SKY. Helen O'Neill is a Sydney-based journalist whose articles appear in the USA, UK, Australia and Asia. Her latest biography about Australia's most enigmatic designer is *Florence Broadhurst—Her Secret and Extraordinary Lives*.

Giddy, Blokes and Bonzers

Coming “down under” for the International Convention? Then get yourself prepared.

For apart from a wide brown land full of natural wonders, the magnificent Sydney Harbour with its coat hanger-like bridge and Opera House, you’ll be meeting a lot of Aussies.

Now Aussies can be a peculiar breed.

You might know us from movies as something of a Crocodile Dundee “throw-a-shrimp on the barbie” type, maybe a cross between a Mel Gibson or even a suaver Hugh Jackman. Or an Elle McPherson, a Kylie Minogue or a Kate Blanchett.

But we’re much more than that, far more diverse and interesting.

Like Yanks (our affectionate terms for Americans), we have our roots in Pommie Land (that’s England) but our fabric has been molded and caressed by waves of immigration from all corners of the world.

So what are we like?

Well, we’re extraordinarily generous. In 2006 the World Bank rated us the fourth most generous country in the world. If you’re a visiting Lion then you’d be smart to take up that generosity. Accept our offer to come home and have a meal with the “missus” and kids (or the “hubby” and kids).

Yes, you know already that when we meet you we’ll say Giddy (good day), maybe ask “howyagoin?” (how are you going?).

If we like you, we might say you’re a good “bloke” (actually a British slang term we’ve adopted). Once, if you were of the female variety, we might have called you a “bonzer” or “beaut” or “sheila” (that’s a likeable woman), but now such old-fashioned terminology causes most Australians to cringe severely.

Or we might address you as “mate” (as in “Like a beer, mate?”). A “mate” is a good friend or colleague. If we call you a “bloody good mate” then we really like you. Once strictly used for males, the use of mate is now unisex. Australians care about their mates.

Don’t get offended if we play with your name. If it’s Brown you’ll likely become “Brownie.” Jones will be “Jonesey” and Smith “Smithey.” Again, it’s our way of saying we care.

But you’ve got to understand us. We’ve got our quirks.

A majority of us are sports mad. Sport is akin to religion. We love our cricket and footy (a local brand called Australian Rules; the “round ball game” or soccer is regarded by its Aussie followers as the true football), our League (that’s rugby league and it’s big in Sydney) and Union (rugby union).

If you’re interested, it’s worth taking a “Captain Cook” (that’s a look; yes, some of us still use rhyming slang) at a game of Aussie Rules, vaguely comparable to Gaelic football.

Champion sports men and women are more like gods down here.

And yes, we’re a little suspicious of authority (many of our earliest settlers were of convict stock after all), and some of us thrive on cutting down tall poppies (it’s more of a national diversion than truly serious).

As a nation we’re a resilient lot (you get that way living on one of the world’s driest continents and enduring regular natural disasters such as bushfire and flood). These hardships have shaped our character, made us more caring. As our prime minister says, it’s a case of “the worst of nature yet the best of humanity.” We’re passionate and can freely show our feelings (several of our leaders have cried on television).

Best of all, probably what you’ll like most about us is that we’re a laid-back, easygoing, “no worries” (you’ll hear that expression often), peace-loving (we’ve never had a civil war) bunch of people. Give us a beer (or a wine) and a few good mates to socialise with and we’re in our element.

The Aussie Lions you meet will be just as varied. Like Lions everywhere, you’ll find them a caring, sharing bunch with incredible respect for their fellow man.

So come on down in June. Say giddy. We promise you a true mate’s welcome.



Lions worldwide will gather in Sydney June 28-July 2 for the 93rd International Convention. Attendees will elect a new international president and directors, enjoy the parade and Flag Ceremony, honor the Humanitarian Award winner and revel in the camaraderie of fellow Lions. More information on the convention including tours, seminars and entertainment will appear in an upcoming issue. Also, visit www.lionsclubs.org.

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Tony Fawcett is the editor of LION Magazine in Australia.



Dario Vatta, president of the Norwood Lions, and Scott Stewart take part in the club's leaf pickup.

Photo courtesy of The CommunityPress/Mark Houlit

Hands On, Hearts Locked In

LIONS FIND HANDS-ON SERVICE REWARDING

Working in two- or three-person crews, Lions in Norwood climb into their pick-up trucks on a Saturday in autumn and cruise the streets. Their mission is to keep their Canadian town of 1,200 a little greener and much cleaner. Lions pick up paper bags bulging with leaves and deliver them to farmers and gardeners for compost. “People were burning the leaves. That’s not a good idea,” explains Scott Stewart, chairperson of the club’s environmental committee.

On a single day last fall about 20 Lions filled a dozen half-ton trucks with leaves. “When I say half-ton, I mean piled half again higher than the cab,” says Stewart.

For Lions such as Stewart, the chore is easily done for at least two reasons. “I’ve lived here 65 years. I know the streets and I know where the maple trees are,” he says. Plus, hauling bags of leaves is not exactly daunting to someone of his background. “I suppose if you live in town and don’t do anything it’s physical exertion. For a farmer it’s just another thing to do,” he says.

The Norwood Lions in Ontario is one club among thousands that does hands-on service. The clubs also typically hold fundraisers and understand that writing checks for good causes is something Lions are well-positioned to do. But there is something innately satisfying about lending

a hand by extending a hand, be it building a park, serving hot meals or picking up leaves. Anyone can drop a check in the basket on Sunday in church or respond to a direct mail solicitation for a charity. But Lions are able to couple their skills and know-how with their desire to serve their community.

Pride in Workmanship

Sebeka is a tiny town of 700 in central Minnesota near the banks of the Redeye River. Residents can enjoy lunch at a picnic shelter in the city park, watch a community concert at the amphitheatre along the local walking trail or take the occasional stroll through the pristine grounds of Red Eye Cemetery, perhaps to pay respects to a loved one.

Sebeka Lions made these activities possible.

They collected the timber and built those shelters in the park. They weathered sore knees and achy backs to re-shingle the amphitheatre roof. And Red Eye Cemetery always looks pleasant because Sebeka Lions maintain the grounds.

“We do a lot of the other activities that other clubs do, but I think the backgrounds of members in the club lend themselves to more hands-on things,” says Paul Sturm. “Our club’s first project was actually to bring in fill for a construction site for

apartments. That was a long time ago, but I was there, and I can tell you it was probably not a typical first project for a Lions club.”

The club does typical concession stand fundraisers and supports the Minnesota Lions Children’s Eye Clinic. But hands-on projects—the bricks-and-mortar type—come naturally. It’s what they’re good at. “I think there’s a pride in workmanship,” says Pat Volkerding. “To outline a project, make a list and gather materials, get to work, and then solve the problems you run into, that process is rewarding. The reward is almost more in doing the planning and the work than it is in the result, because you already have a good idea of what the result is.”

Sturm concedes that Sebeka may be better equipped than others for hands-on projects. “Most of our members are craftsmen, so we have the tools and the trucks that you need for projects like that.” Even so, hands-on Lions need to be resourceful. Without the supplies needed to go forward, the club needed help. For the first of three picnic shelters members would eventually build, the club asked Wadena County officials for their leftover timber. The club then exchanged the extra timber it didn’t need for other materials, and reached out to a few community members for their remaining needs.

"You can measure twice and cut once every time, but more often than not you find you still need something you don't have. So you reach out to other people," Volkerding says.

Rite of Fall

The trees burst with color every fall in the Poconos. It's a shame that many seniors are unable to witness the autumn glory. So 32 years ago Lion Chris Sweeney did something about it. He organized a ride for the elderly through the countryside of northeastern Pennsylvania. The caravan of cars is an annual rite for the Western Poconos Lions Club. This past fall 10 Lion-drivers and a Lionness escorted 40 seniors from four facilities on a ride in the mountains.

Arnold "Spike" Sisinni, a resident at Getz Personal Care Home in Jonas, enjoyed the tour. "Of all the seasons, fall is my favorite," says Sisinni, a former diesel mechanic.

Adele Argot drove her Buick and chatted with the senior in her car. Getting the seniors away from their normal routine turns on a switch inside them. "They talk about their lives. The memories start to flow," says Argot, an employee of Penn State University. "The experience is both a joy and a pain in the heart. I just ached for her [the senior]. She wanted to be in her own home [and not at a facility]."

The cars climbed Route 115 and ambled along Route 534. The trees were aflame with yellow and orange. "Great," exclaims Robert Jump. "All right!" gushes Bobby Ott, 73. Sweeney, a past council chair, has done this for three decades, but the thrill remains. "It's a part of giving back," he says.

Protecting the Elderly

Rick King, president of the Terrell Noon Lions Club in Texas, was not home when called about his club's hands-on service. He was busy placing dozens of flags along the town's streets to honor a soldier killed in October in Afghanistan. Shawn McNabb, a 2003 graduate of Terrell High School and a combat medic, died in a helicopter crash.

The club also displays flags on major holidays. One of its hands-on service initiatives is the Smoke Alarm Project. Taking referrals from a senior citizens center,

members visit homes of the elderly in the fall or early winter to replace batteries and smoke detectors, if needed. Typically, the club replaces 50 to 60 sets of batteries and 25 to 30 smoke alarms. The local Walmart donates the items.

Many of the seniors are lonely and eager to talk and even pray. Both King and Lion Otis Hanby are active in a Methodist church. "Some of them are blind. Some can't move around," says King. "If they're religious, we speak some religion. It's very rewarding to be with them."

King related the details of the smoke alarm project on another sad day in town. "Today was a long day for the Lions club," he says. "I walked into our meeting to be greeted by a local news reporter and camera crew. Another local man [Joe Lewis] had been killed in Afghanistan and they were looking for the Lions club president."

'We Built That'

Palmerston is an old railroad hub two hours west of Toronto in Canada. The town has 2,400 people and 34 Lions. Chartered in 1939, the club does fundraisers such as selling chocolate Easter bunnies, Christmas hams and even a live bull, holding a road toll and sponsoring a golf tournament and Valentine's Dance/Elimination Draw. But members also like to roll up their sleeves and get their hands dirty. "We're not just check writers," says Joanne Klonikowski, a past club president. "Our club is known by everybody in town for doing hands-on stuff."

Palmerston Lions worked with town officials to clean up the old railroad yard. A government grant enabled engineers to scrape off 18 inches of contaminated soil. Then Lions transformed the property into the 18-acre Lions Heritage Park. Lions helped fund a \$150,000 splash pad and, then donning their work clothes, installed a decorative fountain, laid a cobblestone path and erected playground equipment.

The equipment was installed "on the hottest day of the year," recalls Klonikowski. "We had to cement the poles in and put the equipment together." It was like Christmas morning putting together toys but to a larger degree—"on a massive scale," says Klonikowski. Lions had incentive to get the equipment in place. "There were kids on it when we were putting in the wood chips. They were standing there while we were working saying 'when will it be done?'" she says.

The club also renovated the old movie house, once closed but now staffed by volunteers including Lions. Club members tore out the walls and put in the framing for the new walls. "PDG [Past District Governor] Paddy Rundle was way up on the ladder whacking away and he's 78. I was shaking in my boots," says Klonikowski.

Klonikowski is only 45 and she recalls the morning-after sensation following working on the playground: "Oh, my aching knees." The age of some members is "an



Lorie Benward and Arnold "Spike" Sisinni take a closer look at the trees of autumn.



Palmerston Lions built a park and renovated the town's movie theater.



issue. Everybody does what they can. I'm amazed at what some of the older members can accomplish. Even the older ones are right into it," she says. The payoff is seeing the fruits of your labor. "When I go by the playground I see kids on it and I say, 'We built that.' It's a good feeling," says Klonikowski.

Staying Patient

The New Lenox Lions in Illinois built a 270-square-foot kitchen in the community room of a senior housing center. They installed the underground plumbing, electrical lines, heating and ventilations systems themselves after a lack of funds prevented it from being built with the rest of the center in 2003. Lions contributed \$20,000 and 400 labor hours to the effort. The room now serves as the base of operations for the town's Meals on Wheels program.

"The hardest part was working with the village and the county," says Bill Byerley. "The building is actually part of both the township and the village, so we had to make absolutely sure we had the proper permits from the village and the county. Everything had to meet two sets of building codes, so we were going back to the drawing board on a lot of issues."

One such code prohibited the use of an oven without a proper exhaust system, a sticking point that frustrated Lions who

wanted the facility to be able to accommodate larger events such as the club's spaghetti dinner. Members settled for microwaves and a mock-oven that serves as a food warming system.

Byerley says the club bit the bullet in not installing a regular oven, but that the setback was a learning experience. The club now knows even the best of projects won't be entirely perfect. "We're not able to do our spaghetti dinners there, which is disappointing, but when we look at it from afar, we know the kitchen is still getting a lot of use, oven or no oven. That's what makes you feel good, knowing the whole community can get use from this. The key was staying patient."

Ahoy, Mates

Beloit Noon Lions in Wisconsin saw the fruits of their labor at Turtle Island playground in the cherubic smiles of children playing sailors and pirates for 15 years. The club spent \$50,000 and countless hours in planning and building a life-size replica ship at Turtle Island on which children could play. The ship—christened *The Lion* and featuring several decks built of weather-treated mahogany—was the brainchild of member Tom Sudgen, a club member and former contractor who passed away several years ago.

"For years the city was always look-

"When I go by the playground I see kids on it and I say, 'We built that.' It's a good feeling."

—Joanne Klonikowski

ing for ideas and donations for that park, and I think that just clicked with Tom Sudgen,” says Lion Elroy Wirtz. “It was a great idea, something he got very involved in. He was even sure to have a Lions flag raised up to the top of the mast. It was really beautiful, and the kids were there all the time.”

But the ship grew old and fell out of compliance with city safety codes over the years, Wirtz says. The city took the *The Lion* down this past summer, replacing its weather-worn hull and decks with a state-of-the-art playground that’s more durable and safe.

The club still sees the results of their efforts at Turtle Island in other ways, says fellow club member Dave Peltier. Large drinking fountains in the shape of lions with their mouths stretched in a giant yawn (or perhaps roar) dot the walkways surrounding the exterior of the playground, installed by the club in the early 1990s.

The club also is actively involved in the Lions state cornea transportation system, picking up and driving 23 tissues from Rockford, Illinois, to Madison just last year. Wirtz can attest to the value of this literally hands-on task. “I asked a surgeon one time when I was transporting a tissue, ‘When will this person be able to see?’ He looked at me and said, ‘They’ll be able to see tomorrow morning.’

I’ve been a Lion for 46 years, and to hear that sent shivers down my spine.”

Cooking for Thousands

Two years ago a record drought, high temperatures and ferocious Santa Ana winds combined to create some of the worst wildfires in California history. Football took a back seat to survival as Qualcomm Park, home of the San Diego Chargers, became an evacuation site for many of the thousands who lost their homes to the raging flames.

Past 4-L6 District Governor Scott Leslie points out the obvious—Lions didn’t have a lot of time to plan. “These were people who half an hour ago had everything: a house, car, food, medication. Then, they don’t have anything. They don’t know where their next meal is coming from. It’s just devastating. The only thing we could do was to put ourselves there and help as best we could.”

Lions in the districts went to work cooking and serving more than 1,000 meals to evacuees as part of their relief efforts. These were neighbors and friends who needed help, and though the gesture of a fresh meal seemed small in scale compared to the losses suffered, evacuees wasted no time in showing their appreciation—a fact not lost on Leslie.

“It was a great feeling to be thanked by those people, but a lot of the reward was knowing that you contributed to their next step. The step after that might be finding out about a sister’s house, or when your neighborhood would reopen so you could see for yourself what was left. You’re measuring your life by a completely different set of standards.” ■



Thirsty children are reminded of the contributions of the Beloit Noon Lions to their playground.

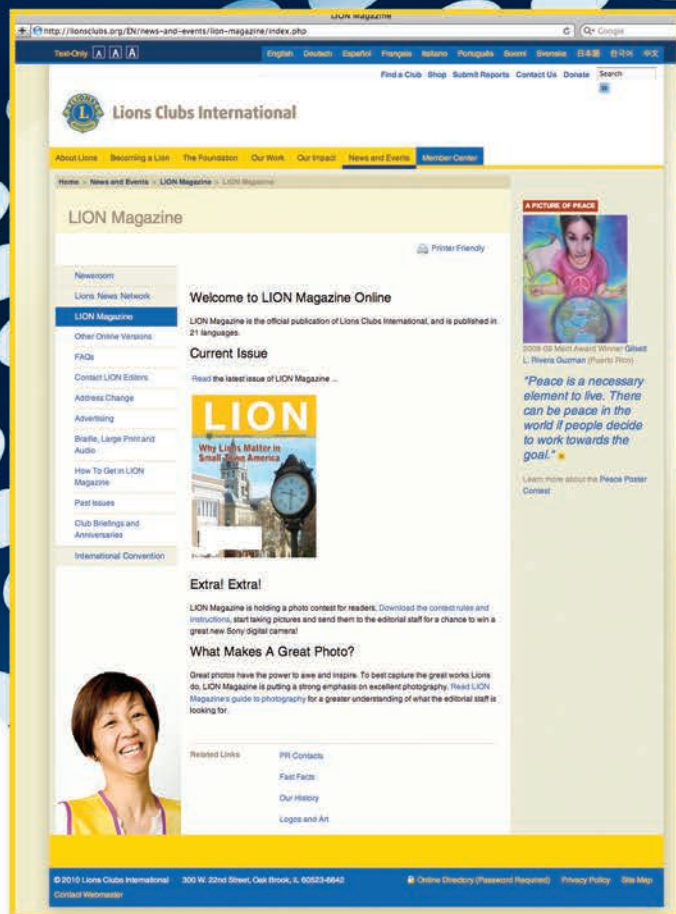
THE DIGITAL LION— A NEW WAY TO READ

Tired of waiting for LION Magazine in the mail each month? There's a whole new way to get your association news, and it's waiting for you—online.

Come the first of each month, the digital edition of LION Magazine is just a mouse-click away, along with all of the features that make it a top-notch digital magazine. Following is a basic introduction to the digital edition of LION Magazine, along with an explanation of some its features.

The Basics: Long gone are the days of getting just a sample of the material from the magazine online. The digital LION is an exact digital replica of the ink-and-paper version—just with more fun and features. It's accessible via the Lions Clubs International Web site under the “News and Events” section. Simply click “LION Magazine,” then click the cover to launch it in a separate window. Click on a story to zoom in and read the text.

The Features: The navigation bar at the top of the page lets users perform a multitude of tasks. Arrows in the middle of the navigation bar turn the pages, which are displayed in the text box. The file-folder icon lets users access archived editions (also available on the “Past Issues” page of the Web site), while the multicolored square icon allows users a look at thumbnail image previews of each page of the magazine to help locate a specific page. The “Table of Contents” and “Advertiser” icons allow users to click through to a specific story, magazine section or advertisement by name.



The Extras:

If you're comfortable with the basics of navigating the digital edition, it's time to explore some of the extras. The right-hand side of the navigation bar is home to the “Print” feature for printing a specific magazine page, while the “Search” icon allows users to search for a specific topic in the issue. Users can also send friends links to specific stories in the digital magazine via e-mail using the “Share” feature, while the “PDF” icon allows users to download the digital edition as an Adobe PDF file. As a last resort, the help button gives simple navigation tips for getting the most out of the digital magazine. ■

When a Lion Dies

Clubs Pay Tribute to Peers by David McKay Wilson

On Charter Night each March, the Taylorsville-Winfield Lions gather to light candles for each Lion who has passed away since the club was formed 55 years ago.

In the solemn ritual, a relative of the deceased lights the wick, and another member reads the names of those whose service to the Maryland community is remembered that evening.

Ed Bennett, 82, the club's sole surviving founding member, welcomes these ceremonies, held at the Winfield Volunteer Fire Department. He knew each Lion. He recalls what each of them contributed to the club and the good they shared with the world.

He remembers Ed Will and David Will, two hard-working brothers who worked to establish the fire department and helped attract a bank to this small town in north-central Maryland. He remembers the Lions with the courage and foresight to buy 3.25 acres of land in 1970 to make Little League fields that continue to serve more than 300 youngsters each spring.

The ceremony also rekindles memories of Edgar Pickett, the club's first Lion to die, just a year after the club was founded. Pickett, who was blind, manufactured brooms in the local shop he owned.

"We will never forget Edgar," says Bennett. "What an inspirational man. For history's sake, it's important to remember who originated the club because they did such a good job getting it going."

Lions' meetings often burst with applause when a personal milestone such as a birth, graduation or new job is acknowledged. Likewise, clubs must also deal with the saddest of news. Death is rarely easily confronted no mat-

ter the context. Among Lions handling the passing of a member can present special challenges.

Some clubs are especially close-knit if members often see one another around town or if members have grown older together. With other clubs certain members may be good friends and socialize outside club activities while other members remain friendly but distant acquaintances. The intensity of relationships varies between clubs and within clubs. When death occurs, members want to be careful to extend to families the proper respect and to acknowledge the grief of club members.

The remembrance one night each year in Taylorsville is one example of how a club honors members who have passed away. In other clubs, it's a memorial statue and plaque in a town park. Some clubs prefer a service that's part of the funeral. Others celebrate a member's life several months later. Clubs sometimes remember a member by linking him or her to a club activity. It could be a golf outing that raises money for the Lions' charity program or contributions to a cancer center that treated the member.

At the Walnut Grove Lions Club in Langley, British Columbia, Canada, members honored former president Sheldon Wood by naming the club's van "Woody" after he passed away.

"He was like a big teddy bear," recalls Valerie Body, Walnut Grove Lions Club president. "He couldn't do enough for anybody. Now we call our van the Woody van, and we remember him while we transport our grills for pancake breakfasts and cookouts."

At annual conventions, Lions also remember those who have passed away in a memorial service, like the one



Linda Brady (right), president of the Taylorsville Winfield Lions Club in Maryland, and Betty Sensabaugh participate in a memorial service for past members.

AP Photo/Gail Burton

that occurs each year in Dover, Delaware, where as many as 800 Lions each year gather from five districts. In Pennsylvania, the Johnstown West Lions Club and the Rev. David Gray, former district governor, developed a remembrance service that members of District 14J make available to all 35 clubs in their region.

The 15-minute service is held at the funeral home, and roses are presented to members of the family. In Johnstown, a \$100 donation is given to the district Shriners in memory of the deceased Lion (some Lions are Shriners and the two groups support each other).

“The service is very moving,” says Cassandra Sojak, past district governor of District 14J. “We tell the family how much the member meant to us, and that it is our loss as well as theirs.”

Rob Zucker, a grief counselor and author of *The Journey Through Grief and Loss: Helping Yourself and Your Children When Grief is Shared*, says these efforts are an important part of the grieving process. It keeps alive memories of those who have died and honors them for their good works. It helps members express their feelings and process their pain. And it helps strengthen bonds among the surviving Lions members, who carry on the work of those who they’ve worked side-by-side with for years.

Ceremonies that take place some time after the funeral help people work through the grieving process, which doesn’t end after the casket is lowered into the ground.

“It’s good to remember those we cared about and loved,” says Zucker. “Having a special acknowledgement within the organization is a further benefit in the grieving process because it provides a formal opportunity to keep the memories alive. It reminds people that death doesn’t stop people from benefiting from those memories.”

Often, the Lions tributes occur several months after the funeral, which the sharp pain of death has dulled, and family and friends can be more reflective about the Lion’s contribution to making their little corner of the world a better place to live.

At the Lexington Lions Club in Lexington, Kentucky, they hold a memorial service annually for those who have died during the year. They recently paid tribute to Frank Glass, who continued to attend Lions meetings as his health deteriorated, showing up with a canister of oxygen to help him breathe.

“He kept coming to the very end,” recalls Jim Tincher, past president of the 150-member Lexington Lions Club. “It never hurts to remember people in a nice frame. And it’s good to sit down and remember someone several months after they have passed away. Funerals can be such a whirlwind.”

The tributes to the deceased Lions differ, depending on his or her stature in the club, the wishes of the Lion’s survivors, and the member’s impact on their fellow Lions. Some tributes get passed down as the years go by, while others fall by the wayside and new traditions emerge.



Eden Prairie Lions in Minnesota inscribe the names of deceased members on a memorial.

At the Hendrick Hudson Lions Club in New York City’s northern suburbs, the club once had a Deceased Member Award, which would be given out in the deceased Lion’s name whenever the club made a substantial donation to charity.

However, that tradition was scrapped because it became too difficult to keep track of which deceased Lion was next in line for the tribute, says Joe Fontana, club president. Now the club memorializes revered members with special tributes, such as the plaque on the eyeglass collection receptacle at the Cortlandt Community Volunteer Ambulance Corps. The plaque remembers James Tamburri, an energetic club leader who led the club’s scholarship program in the 1950s and was active in promoting the club’s eye-screening initiative.

When fellow Lion Gerry Malatino died suddenly from a heart attack 2006, the Hendrick Hudson Lions reeled in shock from the death of someone so vibrant and active in the community. A year later, they dedicated a cabin in his

Club Honors Brothers

There are times when tragedy strikes, and a club is shaken to its very core.

That happened in early June 2009, when brothers Kurt and Eric Harder were overcome by carbon monoxide fumes and died as they tried to repair a cistern that stored water at Eric's home in Kahlotus, Washington.

"It was a huge blow to our town," says Jan Halverson, past president of the 20-member Kahlotus Lions Club, the leading nonprofit group in the town of 250. "It was very, very hard. But we are doing what we can. We need to keep this Lions club going."

Known as the Harder boys, Kurt and Eric Harder were leaders in Kahlotus, a community with cattle farms and dry-land wheat fields about 90 miles south of Spokane. Eric was president of the Kahlotus Lions Club and was about to begin his second term. Kurt, a father of three, had served as the club's membership chairman.

The tragedy unfolded after the brothers climbed inside the 6,500-gallon cistern, which was leaking at the time. They needed to drain the vast steel container so they could patch it. They had a gasoline-powered pump running to get rid of what water was left.

Before the job was complete, however, the carbon monoxide fumes from the pump felled Eric Harder.

Kurt at first climbed out, called for help, and then went back down to carry out his fallen brother up the ladder. But he fell back down.

The incident came a day before the Lions Club's Kahlotus Days festival, an annual celebration with a softball tournament, quilt show, games for kids and a fundraising breakfast that supports some of the Lions' charities activities.

That breakfast, which traditionally kicks off the festival, became a memorial to the Harder boys. The breakfast was free as the Lions and other Kahlotus residents grieved over the deaths of two of its leading citizens. Then, more than 1,000 turned about for the funeral, held in the Kahlotus School and the club began thinking about how to best honor the brothers.

They decided to dedicate any donations to the Lions Club scholarship fund that Eric Harder had established. Grants would be given to students attending college or vocational trade schools.

"It seems like the right thing to do," says Halverson. "Eric and Kurt were already working hard to make the scholarship work. They did a lot for our community and they will be missed."



The Campbellton Lions in New Brunswick, Canada, honored Lion Marc Rioux by naming one of its apartment housing complexes after him.

Photo courtesy of Tim Jaques/Campbellton Tribune

honor at Visions Center on Blindness in Spring Valley, a charity supported by donations from the Hendrick Hudson Lions.

Three years after Malatino's death, Fontana still gets teary when remembering his fellow Lion, a former Penn State football player and longtime member of the Cortlandt Planning Board who had three children die young from a debilitating genetic disease.

"He was the club member who would always have a joke at the meeting, who was always looking on the bright side," says Fontana. "Then one day, out of the clear blue, he had a heart attack, and that was that. No one saw it coming."

When a Lion dies tragically, clubs find solace in their fellow club members as they deal with the shock that comes when death comes unexpectedly.

In Eden Prairie, Minnesota, a Minneapolis suburb, deceased Lions are remembered at a striking memorial and flagstaff at the town's Round Lake Park, where a plaque stands on a pedestal in front of a four-high statue of a Lion. The names of 19 Lions and seven Lionesses are inscribed on the memorial, which was constructed in 1997.

Those remembered include longtime member and former club president Jim Jordan, as well as Bud Shaw, a Lion who was a member for just a few years and helped out the club's Schooner Days event in May and its Corn Feed the first week of each August.

"Bud joined after moving here from Arizona," says Jerry Biese, president of the Eden Prairie Lions Club, which has close to 100 members. "He was a member for a couple of years, while Jim was active for many years."



(Top) Lou Barton was a member of Greene Lions Club in New York for 48 years. His club honored him by building a picnic pavilion last fall.

(Right) Karen Gholsen (with Lion Chris Halsey) donated a bingo machine to honor her late husband.



Traditions vary with Lions around the world. In New Zealand, the Lions Club of Palmerston North Papaioea has kept alive a tradition begun decades ago by the Manawatu Pakeke Lions Club. When a Lion dies, the club attends the funeral, and hands out an emblem patch with a Lions insignia to each Lion in attendance. The patch is then placed on the casket and is usually buried with the Lion.

It's part of the Lions funeral tribute, in which Lions who knew the deceased member stand on either side of the pathway in what's called a Guard of Honor as the casket is borne to the hearse.

"I count it a real honor to be asked by the family to assist them in their time of grief," says Jean Thompson-Church of Palmerston North, a funeral celebrant and past district governor.

Lions often link their tributes to ongoing projects, so the deceased member's contributions are remembered by those participating in the charitable work.

After Karen Gholsen's husband, Lou, died, she had the task of carrying out his wishes, to use some of the money

from his estate to benefit the Elburn Lions Club in Illinois where he served as president. The club's Friday night bingo event is quite popular in the community located about 40 miles southwest of Chicago. When the bingo machine malfunctioned one night, Karen Gholsen decided to purchase a new machine to honor her husband.

"It looked like the old one had been around since the 1960s," she says. "Giving the new machine is my way to have Louis continue on, and help the club and the Lions charities do what they need to do. He may have passed away, but he is still giving to the Lions club." ■



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Melvin Jones Fellow Luncheon	June 30/ 13:00-15:00	US \$60	_____	\$ _____
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Across Borders, Across Time

Family's Friendship with Japanese Students Endures for 40 Years



After his trip to Tokyo in 1969, Pontius (third from left) and his family developed lifelong and life-changing friendships with Japanese exchange students.

by Anne Ford

When a sudden illness struck Lion Keith Pontius a few years ago, it arrived with all the timing of a Hollywood melodrama.

Pontius, then the 12-0 district governor in Tennessee, fell seriously ill with a virus while attending the 2002 international convention in Osaka, Japan, with his wife and two granddaughters. He was still weak from the

heart bypass surgery he'd had six weeks prior; he didn't speak Japanese, and—worst of all—a typhoon was due to hit the country at any moment.

"All of a sudden my teeth started chattering," he says. "For two hours, I couldn't stop. I didn't know what we were going to do."

An employee of Pontius' hotel managed to get him to a nearby hospital. The real cavalry arrived soon thereafter—in the form of one of the family's many former Japanese exchange students, Tomoko Oikawa, whom the Pontiuses had hosted in 1974 through the Lions Clubs of Ohio.

Oikawa, who lives in Tokyo, grabbed the last flight to Osaka before the typhoon hit, having heard about Pontius's medical crisis through another of the family's former exchange students. In addition to bringing him a shopping bag full of soap, towels, toothpaste and other amenities, which Japanese hospitals don't provide to patients, she cleared her schedule and stayed in Osaka the rest of the week to help the family navigate the Japanese health care system.

"I'll never forget when she walked in that hospital room," says Pontius, now president of the Fairfield Glade Lions Club in Tennessee. "We just can't believe what she did for us."

Oikawa's gesture was a natural response to the care the Pontiuses have shown the many Japanese exchange students they've hosted through the Lions. Oikawa's reassuring presence also brought the Pontiuses full circle. The Pontiuses first visited Japan in 1969 when they attended the international convention in Tokyo. Over the last four decades, Pontius and his family have built longstanding relationships with their Japanese students, many of whom they've come to think of as family.

Those enduring bonds have formed because, as Pontius' granddaughter Emma Fitzpatrick says, both the family's Japanese friends and Lions such as her grandfather "show their affection in hospitality and service." Those ties have spanned times of joy and discovery and days of sickness and death. Lionism crosses borders and unites people; the Pontiuses have learned that being involved in Lions and its exchange programs can bring families together to the extent that the definition of family expands.

Pontius first experienced Japanese hospitality on that initial trip to Tokyo in 1969. For the popcorn-carton manufacturer from Ohio, who at the time had never so much as stepped foot outside the United States, it might as well have been a journey to another galaxy.

As then-chair of the Ohio Council of Governors, he attended the convention in Tokyo with his family because an Ohio Lion, Dick Bryan of Doylestown, was being sworn in as international president.

In the days before the era of easy-breezy international plane travel, going to Tokyo with his wife, Joan, and their three children (10-year-old Laurie, 12-year-old Brenda, and 14-year-old Jeff), was, to put it mildly, "all a new adventure," Pontius says.

They found a city where Westerners were then so rare that they were stared at on the street; where, to Laurie's dismay, fish were sometimes served head and all; and where cars and buses were cleaned with giant feather dusters.

Besides being charmed by these and other cultural differences, Pontius was impressed by the generosity of the Japanese he met: "They were very hospitable," he remembers. "We got on a bullet train, and they got us on the wrong train. They were so embarrassed. It wasn't really a problem, but they apologized over and over about that."

Perhaps it was that experience of extreme hospitality that sparked Pontius and the other Lions of the state of Ohio to set up a Japanese student exchange program a few years later.



During the program's first year, in 1972, the Pontiuses hosted two students, Kenji Watanabe and Kazunori Miyazaki, for six weeks. The family bent over backwards to welcome them, taking the two to many national parks and on trips to New York and other big cities.

The visit wasn't without its challenges. The students' limited English, as well as the Pontiuses' all but nonexistent Japanese, made communication difficult sometimes. "One time we made reference to the 'birds and the bees,' and we had to figure out how to get them to understand what we were talking about," Pontius adds with a smile in his voice.

"Most of the time it was like playing charades, but it was quite fun," says youngest daughter Laurie Fitzpatrick (Emma's mother).

Language difficulties or not, a long-standing friendship was forged, helped along by the Pontiuses' gift for expressing affection through action instead of relying solely on words. That's a particularly Japanese trait, says Emma, who decades later lived in Japan herself. As she puts it: "Americans say 'I love you'; Japanese show 'I love you.'"

Perhaps that's why Miyazaki was so touched when the family threw him an enormous birthday picnic on their 13-acre farm—and all 225 local Lion host family members and students came to help celebrate. And perhaps that's why to this day Watanabe, now an orthopedic surgeon in Japan, says, "I think of Keith and Joan as my American parents."

Two years later, the Pontiuses hosted Oikawa. In the years afterward, they went on to welcome several more students, including, eventually, Watanabe's son and nephews. In turn, the Pontius children made visits to Japan to stay with the families of Watanabe, Oikawa, and other former exchange students.

"I've lost track of how many times we've seen each other," says Dean, the Pontiuses' youngest son, who, with Watanabe's help, obtained an accounting internship in Japan during his senior year of college. "I bet we haven't gone five years without seeing each other."

Oikawa's 2002 visit to the Tokyo hospital where Pontius lay ill was not the last time one of the former exchange students would go to great lengths to visit the family. Pontius's wife, Joan, was diagnosed with liver cancer in January 2008. "When Tomoko found out my



The Pontius family (daughter Laurie top row on right, granddaughter Emma middle on left and Keith middle on right) poses with former exchange students and family.

wife was sick and dying, why, she came over specifically to spend a few days with her at the hospital," he says. "It was quite a tribute for all of us."

His wife passed away in April, just 10 days after Oikawa arrived. Oikawa says simply: "Joan is alive in my heart."

Meanwhile, the family's Lion-inspired connection to Japan is alive and flourishing in the third generation. In 2002, Emma went with her grandparents to Osaka to sing at the Lions International Convention there. "When I came back, I said, 'I have got to live in Japan someday,'" she says. That's why, last year, she got a job as a performer with Tokyo Disney Resort. Oikawa once again leapt into action, taking Emma sightseeing on her days off and frequently coming to hear her sing.

"She became my Japanese mom, basically," says Emma. "She would always tell me, 'The time that I spent with your grandparents 35 years ago was the best time of my life.' I know that she feels about my family the way that I feel about hers. The way she treated me was in response to the way she had been treated by my grandparents. They were always, in that same Japanese way, so eager to share whatever they had." ■

Flood Can't Dampen Small Town's Spirit



The Walk 'n Knock food drive is an annual way to replenish the community's food pantry for those in need.

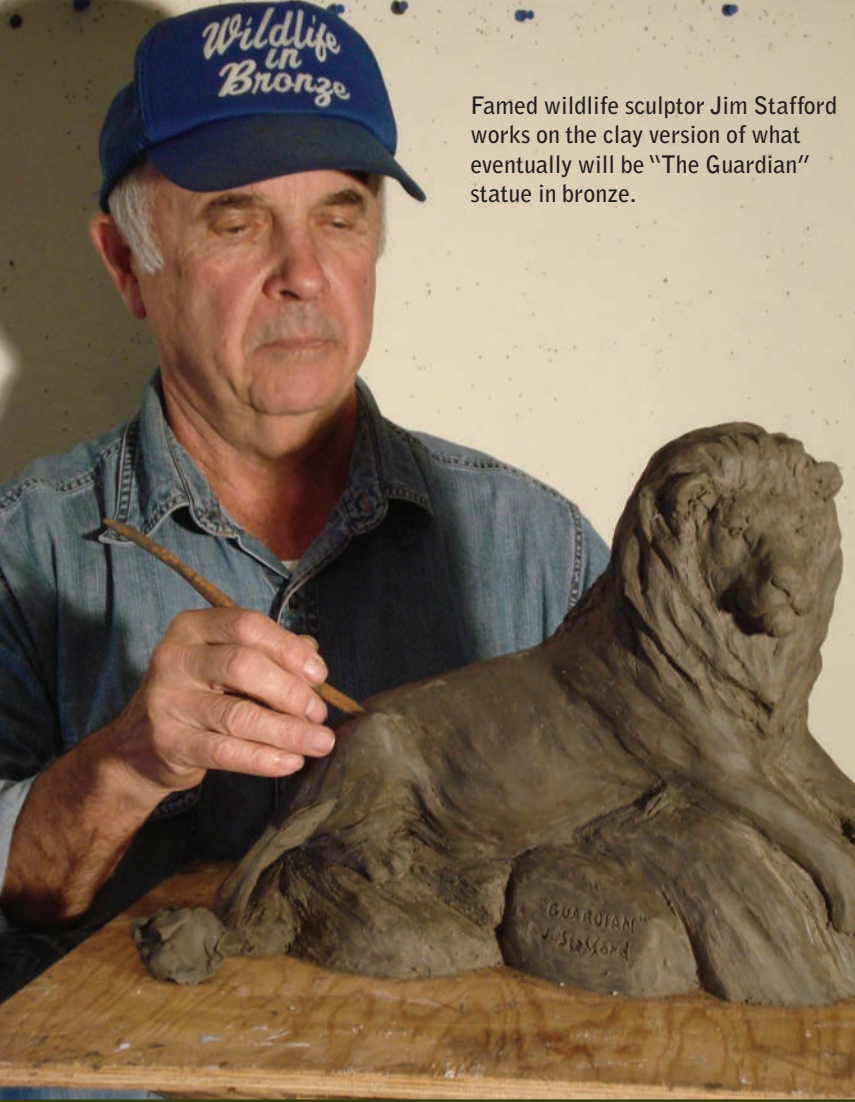
When southwest Washington state was hit by dangerous flooding that devastated whole communities in December 2007, the small town of Adna found its homes, businesses and parks suddenly under several feet of water.

The 35 members of the Adna Lions Club not only had to worry about their own personal property and possessions, but also about the five-acre park they maintain and run, points out president Steven Barnette. The park was established by Lewis County in 1978, but officials soon asked Lions to take over its operation because of budget shortfalls. Lions decided they were ready to be put to the test even though the club had been organized only four years previously. "Our fledgling club took on the challenge," Barnette says proudly. Lions used their own personal construction equipment and supplied countless hours of hard labor to get the park into working shape. The task was completed in two years.

The county and Lions club worked together successfully to



Homes were ripped away from their foundations by the force of floodwaters.



Famed wildlife sculptor Jim Stafford works on the clay version of what eventually will be "The Guardian" statue in bronze.

club is still working to fund these projects as well as keep current with their usual service activities.

Before the flood, Lions not only operated the concessions but also handled event scheduling and support for the numerous sporting teams that used the park. Afterward there was nothing left of the once vibrant and busy park site. The cleanup was labor intensive, and even included the removal of a large roof that was torn away from a nearby building and floated into the park, knocking down the entrance sign. Efforts still continue. Barnette says, "Since the flood, much improvement has been accomplished. Due to the help of numerous volunteers, both local and regional, and many hours of work by Adna Lions and donations from local merchants, the park has reopened." A FEMA crew raked rocks off the ball field grass to help get it back in shape and community members are again using many of the facilities as the park revives from the ruins. Little League ball is being played, many structures have been repaired and the concession stand will reopen soon, good news for park visitors who crave the club's signature "Lions burger" and fries, a money-making hit with hungry Little League players and their families after the games.

make the park a community magnet, bringing together sports teams and picnickers, joggers and nature lovers. Barnette explains how this unique partnership works: "The county has maintained the paved parking areas, established chain link fencing and provided picnic tables, etc. Our club has led in getting a steel building for concessions, toilets and equipment and supply storage donated by a major corporation."

Thirty years after they took over the park, Lions were forced to stand by and watch all their hard work wash away in a river of muddy water and debris. When the flood waters receded, the shocking extent of the damage was revealed. "Tacoma Steam Power Plant donated coal cinders for our quarter-mile athletic track, hauled and laid by our members and their equipment—this has all been washed away," Barnette points out.

What wasn't washed away was damaged, but not all of it was beyond repair. The Washington State Park Board had previously donated surplus mowing equipment to keep the landscaping in optimal shape. Finally repaired, the mowers are being used again by Lions but they're finding that other areas of need aren't so easily fixed. The

Lions aren't resting just yet, however. "Much still needs to be accomplished to get the park back to its original condition. For example, we lost 50 merchant signs that hung on the ball field fences, a substantial source of income for us—and they need replacing at \$200 each." Lions continue fundraising efforts as well as their usual community service activities around Adna, such as an annual canned goods collection for people in need.

Lions received a happy surprise when one of the world's foremost bronze wildlife sculptors, James Stafford, the grandson of Adna homesteaders, stepped forward to help. He may be world renowned, but he calls Adna home.

Stafford generously created a limited series of 250 bronze lion statues to be sold for \$1,889 each, with all profits donated to Adna Lions to help rebuild the park. Individually signed by Stafford and titled "The Guardian," each piece is mounted on a walnut base and measures 16 inches in length, nine inches in width and stands a foot tall. Retail value is approximately between \$3,000 and \$4,000 (visit www.adnalionsclub.org for further information). ■



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Lions Clubs International Convention – 2010 Sydney, Australia

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Signature of Club Officer (Club President, Secretary or Treasurer)

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Print Name: _____ Signature: _____

The undersigned hereby authorizes that the above named person is an active member and a duly selected Delegate/Alternate Delegate of said Lions Club to the stated Convention of The International Association of Lions Clubs.



Signature of Club Officer (Club President, Secretary or Treasurer)

LCIF Rebuilds Communities

by Nicole Brown and Alecia Dimar

When disasters occur, Lions are often among the first people on the scene, accessing the damage and responding to immediate needs. Setting Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) apart from other organizations are the long-term reconstruction efforts to rebuild homes, schools, hospitals and community centers, long after other groups leave the disaster site. In addition to nearly \$2 million awarded yearly for emergency grants, LCIF provides millions for major catastrophe long-term reconstruction efforts. The China earthquake in May 2008, the Gujarat earthquake nine years ago in India and Hurricane Katrina are three examples that demonstrate Lions' commitment to rebuilding communities and lives through LCIF.

Lions Village

Nang Chong Chen's family of three lost everything in the May 2008 earthquake that devastated her small village in Sichuan Province in central China. They lived in tents provided by Lions until the government set up temporary prefabricated homes. In October, Chen and her family moved into their newly built home in Peng Hua Lions Village.

Her house is part of a two-phase project to construct more than 150 homes in the Lions village. A plaque above each door includes the Lions logo and reads: "Hand in hand, heart in heart, to rebuild our home."

A total of 80 homes were handed over to families in October during a dedication ceremony attended by LCIF Chairperson Al Brandel and his wife, Dr. Maureen Murphy, Vice President Wing-Kun Tam, nearly 50 Lions clubs members from throughout China and Hong Kong & Macau, the local vice mayor and other local dignitaries. The dedication marked a year and a half since the earthquake.

"This is a good day for the local people and fellow Lions. I can see with my own eyes the changes that have made here by Lions," said Tam, who led the organizing committee for reconstruction projects and visited the area more than four times.

Lions worked hand in hand with the villages on the



LCIF Chairperson Al Brandel and his wife, Dr. Maureen Murphy, meet residents of the Peng Hua Lions Village in China.

construction. Many Lions have visited the village, helping with reconstruction, driving supplies, overseeing the building process and ensuring funds were well-spent. Some Lions made the difficult trip more than 10 times.

Lions worked with the Chinese government and relief organizations to provide immediate emergency relief. They set up tents in villages, established makeshift schools, and provided other needed relief items such as blankets, food and medicine. With a \$200,000 grant from LCIF, Lions in MD 101 in Sweden provided additional tents for relief workers and victims.

Lions around the world also contributed generously, enabling LCIF to award more than \$3 million for long-term reconstruction projects. Three primary schools in Gansu Province were completed in July 2009 in time for the 2009-2010 school year. In Shinzi Village, near Yangjin, Lions purchased land to relocate graves, build a road, and construct a school, hospital and homes.

In gratitude, Chen wants all Lions to know: "I am enjoying my new life in my new home."

Rebuilding in India

The Gujarat earthquake was the worst India had seen in 180 years, measuring 7.9 on the Richter scale and equal to releasing 4.5 million tons of dynamite on the region. On that deadly day in January 2001, more than 13,800 people died and 167,000 more were injured. In total, the disaster affected 7,633 villages in India, damaging more than one million homes.

Within 30 minutes of the earthquake, local Lions launched emergency relief operations to bring immediate aid to those affected. Lions clubs around the region supported relief efforts by providing water, food, clothing, tents and other essential supplies. Additionally, Lions provided necessary medical facilities including temporary hospitals and health centers to provide all types of medical aid and surgeries.

LCIF also responded quickly to the devastation, awarding three emergency grants for \$10,000 each within 48 hours of the disaster.

“Through LCIF, Lions were at the scene providing relief within days of the disaster,” said Rohit Mehta, past international president of Lions Clubs International. “Nearly 10 years later, Lions and LCIF have fulfilled their promise of seeing through long-term reconstruction projects to rebuild the affected communities.”

Lions’ commitment stretched far beyond providing immediate relief and sought to rebuild the villages destroyed by the earthquake. A total of \$2.5 million, including a \$500,000 major catastrophe grant and \$1.7 million in

restricted donations, was allocated for long-term reconstruction projects. LCIF awarded an additional major catastrophe grant for \$300,000 in 2004 to construct vital infrastructure for Lions housing colonies.

More than 750 homes now provide housing for families in Kutch and Bet Dwarka, many of whom lost everything during the earthquake. Primary schools have been built in 20 villages throughout the Rajkot District, where students previously had no place to learn because of the damaged infrastructure. In addition, the LNM Group Lions Hospital was constructed at Bhuj.

LSU-Lions Eye Clinic

The Lions Clubs International-LSU Eye Clinic, funded through a LCIF grant of \$500,000, was dedicated and opened in December 2008. The clinic provides vision care for the medically impoverished and for patients sponsored by Lions clubs in Louisiana. LCIF’s Hurricane Katrina Disaster Relief Program, which provides support for essential public facilities and programs that help damaged regions recover, made funding for the clinic possible.

“For the first time since Hurricane Katrina, there is a facility devoted specifically to the provision of eye care for people in the greater New Orleans area who do not have health insurance, thanks to this generous gift from LCIF,” said Dr. Bruce A. Barron, a clinical professor in the Department of Ophthalmology at LSU.

The eye clinic is just one example of a project that is rebuilding communities impacted by Hurricane Katrina. LCIF and Lions mobilized more than \$5 million through designated donations and a major catastrophe grant to fund the reconstruction of schools, community centers and medical facilities in four Gulf Coast states.

LCIF is committed to rebuilding areas devastated by disasters. Through LCIF, Lions are able to conduct large-scale humanitarian service projects that rebuild lives and communities after disasters strike.



Lions built this home in India after an earthquake.



Corn Fest a Community Winner in California

Two years after being organized in 1947, members of the La Habra Host Lions Club were still searching for a major fundraiser. They found it after one member pointed out that since Southern California was home to so many transplanted Midwesterners fleeing frigid winters, a corn festival was the place to start. Sixty-one years and \$2.5 million in funds raised and donated later, it's one of the biggest Lions club activities in the state. In 2009, Lions made a profit of \$60,000.

"Initially it was a one-day community gathering that included square dancing, bingo and all the buttered ears of corn that one could eat," James Schweitzer says. "It's the highlight of the social calendar in La Habra, and has been expanded to cover an entire weekend." Money raised helps support local sports teams, school groups, charities and pay for vision needs for people in need.

More than 30,000 people attended the opening parade and stayed for the carnival rides, entertainment, raffles, merchandise vendors and contests. "We literally sold out of everything," says President Vanna Sharp. La Habra resident and corn fancier Art Martinez chomped the fastest, beating all competition, including a pastor, Pop Warner football coaches and two high school cheerleaders whose eyes were definitely bigger than their stomachs, to polish off 11 ears of buttered corn (and nearly 1,800 calories) in eight minutes.



Assembly-line precision is needed to nibble all those ears of corn in order to be declared a winner.



Wielding axes and chainsaws, Lions cut trees for firewood.

Little Island, Big Club

Saturna Island, a little piece of land at the southern end of the Gulf Island chain in British Columbia, Canada, is a remote, beautifully unspoiled refuge for wildlife and home to 325 inhabitants. Located between Vancouver Island and the mainland of British Columbia, the island had been home to native First Nations peoples for thousands of years before Spanish sailors landed in 1791, naming it after their ship, the Santa Saturnina. Almost one-seventh of its population belongs to the Saturna Lions Club—it's no wonder they like to call their community "the little island that could."

Nearly 20 years after a club was first established, Lions play an integral part of island life. The biggest fundraiser Saturna Lions

sponsor is an annual wood chopping project. A coed team chops and delivers wood to islanders for an average donation of \$200. Those who can't afford to pay receive free firewood. The project's success enabled Lions to make a sizeable donation toward the purchase of a new ambulance for the community.

Lions started chopping and delivering wood in 1975 when they were offered some trees from local contractors who were clearing land, says Kathy Stonehouse. "Being community minded, Lions would check that all seniors on the island had wood for the winter. It has grown from there and orders come in all the time now."

Club members enjoy the physical activity and camaraderie of the wood chopping project. As Lions take care of islanders, they also take care of each other, reports Stonehouse. "It's become a tradition that if a Lion is seen passing by the wood lot while other Lions are working, that person has to go to the store and buy cold drinks for everyone."

A club project takes place almost every month: a dog show, Oktoberfest, Remembrance Day Service, Santa's Christmas Ship, Robbie Burns Dinner and celebrations of Mother's and Father's Day. Lions have also contributed to a salmon enhancement project and award scholarships to high school graduates. Tourism is the island's big draw, but Lions are there year-round to help provide for the community. "It is well-known on the island that any resident experiencing a time of need will be supported by our club," emphasizes Stonehouse.

The Family that Cooks Together ... Cooks Up Some Fun

Lions in Middletown, Kentucky, think the secret to their success as a club is that projects often involve the whole family. Parents and their children enjoy spending time together, so they figure why not put that familial friendship to work?

One activity that involves the family is the monthly Concert in the Park series sponsored by the city of Middletown. Lions (and eager young family members) don their caps and fire up the grill. They cook hundreds of bratwursts, hamburgers and hot dogs and serve them along with chips and soft drinks—all at no cost to concertgoers. Lions make money by being paid by the city for their services after being reimbursed for the cost of the food they purchase for the day. Last year, the Middletown Lions Club made \$12,000 and this is the club's largest fundraising effort. They've made as much as \$3,000 per concert and have been sponsoring the cookouts for three years from April to October.

The concerts feature a variety of performers and have included a Beatles cover band, rock and rollers, bluegrass, an "Oldies" band and area church choirs who sing gospel and worship songs. Because of the project's success, president Kay Mills says, "We've been able to give back to the community and others. Family is key! The club is finding that family units are very attractive, especially if we do things geared for family participation."

Mills says that other "family" fundraisers are Bowling for Sight and a Golf Scramble, with proceeds going to the Alzheimer's Association, Relay for Life, Salvation Army, scholarships and other charitable activities.



Jordan Stamper, 13, (right), son of Lions Alyson and Marty Stamper, volunteers with his father and Lion Tim Beard at a Concert in the Park barbecue.

23rd Annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest



Encourage the youth in your community to express their feelings of peace, while gaining exposure for your club. Participate in this year's Lions International Peace Poster Contest.

Start now. Purchase a 2010-11 Peace Poster Contest Kit (PPK-1), which contains all the materials needed to sponsor one contest.

Kits are sold through the Club Supplies Sales Department, January 15 - October 1, 2010, at International Headquarters. A kit must be purchased for each contest sponsored. Allow 2-3 weeks for delivery; outside the U.S. may take longer.



CALL 1-800-710-7822

To order online visit the Lions Store (Item Search: Peace Poster Kit)
at www.lionsclubs.org or download the order form (PR-785).

Give Your Club a Facelift

Change happens. Clubs need to adapt to that change. Your club may need a “makeover” in which it needs to freshen up its ways. Or it may need “plastic surgery” to reinvent itself.

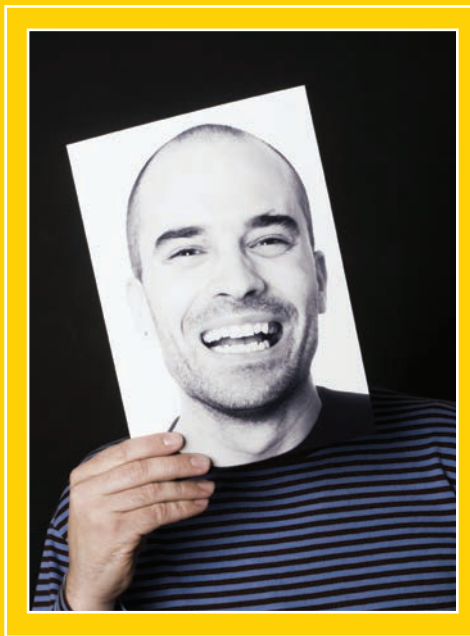
A makeover is a quick fix to put a better face on your club. Try to imagine what your club looks like to a first-time visitor. Consider having a greeter to make sure everyone feels welcome. Use name tags. Even if you know everyone’s name, get ready for the day when there are new faces. Have an agenda and then stick to it. Keep meetings short and efficient. Know the basics of parliamentary procedure and follow them.

Eliminate the “membership fatigue” that creeps up on even the best Lions and clubs. Try a “spark plug” such as a competition for recruiting new members. Divide the club into teams with winners getting steak and losers eating hot dogs.

Nothing gives a new lease on life like recognition. Maybe a member deserves a Melvin Jones Fellowship. There are dozens of other awards detailed on the LCI Web site. Recommend members for district and multiple district-level awards. Start a “member of the year” award and throw a big party.

Make sure the club is firing on all cylinders. Are your officers competent? Do they know what they are expected to do? Has the club lowered its standards just to fill slots? Try raising the standards with a written contract listing duties. Clear guidelines make for improved performance. Perhaps your district offers training. If not, then provide mentors or find online resources to fill in the gaps. Again, LCI is often a great resource.

Improved public relations not only makes your club more visible but also lifts morale. Appoint a public relations chair, develop a club brochure, issue press releases, take action pictures and offer them to your newspaper, place meeting notices in newspapers, rent or negotiate for free billboard and download LCI’s free art, and use LCI PR grants.



What if your club needs more than a nudge or two and needs plastic surgery? Start with LCI’s Community Needs Assessment Form, found on the LCI Web site. To also determine how to best serve your community informally meet with community leaders or even survey citizens. A successful, dynamic club is one in touch with its community.

Also consider compiling a report on the success of your service projects

to build club pride and to measure your club’s strengths and weaknesses in terms of meeting community needs. How many people were served? What was the cost/time spent per person? What needs were unmet? We want to make sure we’re not putting our resources where they’re not needed and failing to recognize needs.

Is your club unified? Bonding comes from working together and enduring hardships together. Be alert to a division between generations or genders. Discourage cliques. The tailtwister can help break up groups with switched seating. The president or committee chairs can also encourage mingling by changes in task assignments. Find new activities that require members to regroup.

Find ways to keep members involved and engaged. Are members part of the decision-making process? Is important business transacted at meetings? Give members minutes, agendas and budgets to review. Examine the club’s goals; this requires members to “buy in” to changes. The key is understanding your club belongs to its members and can be improved, so grab the reins of change and remake your club.

Adapted from a talk by Past District Governor Rachel Nicola of Washington, Iowa, at the 33rd Annual USA/Canada Forum in Memphis in September 2009.

Attention **to** Retention



Congratulations: you've recruited a batch of new members. Or, even better, your club has never had more members. But don't rest on your membership laurels. Your club needs to retain those members. Retention should be a primary concern of every club.

Ask yourself a few questions. Would you join your club today if you were asked for the first time? If you were 30 to 40 years old, would you join your club? Five or 10 years from now, what will your club look like? The point is don't simply assume your club will retain its members. It needs to work at it.

We know the reason Lions leave. Lack of leadership. Expectations are not met. Same old projects with the same people. Lack of meaningful engagement. Induction ceremony poorly conducted. No orientation program.

Here are solutions. Attend leadership training. Hold a pre-induction meeting. Make meetings fun and productive. Improve communications. Accept new ideas. Start new projects. Keep Lions involved.

This is common sense advice. But too many clubs shut the barn door after the Lions have left. These concepts are applied only after members become missing in action. So strongly consider a club development program to make retention a continuous concern. Atten-

tion to retention should begin the moment an individual is asked to be join the Lions. Or even sooner. Arrange a pre-induction meeting between a potential new member, the sponsor and an additional club member. Hold the meeting at the prospective member's home to get the family involved and even ask them to join.

Knowing why Lions stay is as important, perhaps more important, than knowing why they leave. Why are you a Lion today? Think about what makes you stay. Some reasons include friendship, working with other community-minded Lions, networking and fun.

Successful organizations survey their customer needs and evaluate current operations to position themselves to be relevant. They make changes and evaluate programs to determine what is still viable and what needs to be dropped or changed. Successful organizations pair senior staff with junior staff to share knowledge and prepare others to take leadership roles. Successful organizations encourage their members to participate in developing the organization's goals and plans, which creates a "sense of ownership."

Lions clubs are very much the same. Relevancy to our members and to our community is perhaps the single most important aspect of attracting and keep-

ing members. We need to ask if our club is meeting the needs of our community and if our programs and projects are relevant. Members need to participate in the decision-making process at all levels and feel confident their ideas will receive a fair and open discussion. A community-needs survey and a club evaluation should be part of every club's plan. These are available from LCI and can be adapted to fit individual club requirements. If we are not relevant to our members and communities, we risk going out of business.

Lions will decide the future of Lions. Let's use our passionate belief in Lionism, our passionate belief in ourselves and what we do and our passion for making a difference and ask others to come onboard. Let's live up to our responsibilities to leave our clubs better off than we found them. Yes, we can, and yes, we must.

Adapted from a talk by Past District Governor Dick Silveira of St. John, Indiana, at the 33rd Annual USA/Canada Forum in Memphis in September 2009.

CLUB BRIEFINGS

ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ELGIN AND AREA LIONS IN MANITOBA, CANADA, raised funds to help pay travel expenses for a 13-year-old girl with Hodgkin's disease. She and her family must travel approximately four hours to and from Winnipeg where she receives cancer treatments.

The **IDAHO-EAST OREGON LIONS SIGHT AND HEARING FOUNDATION, INC.** was honored for its work to eliminate a waiting list and restoring sight to more than 5,000 individuals through corneal transplantation. M. E. Grace and Associates presented a Philanthropy Honor Role Award to the foundation, which serves more than 20,000 people annually.

EAST DUBUQUE LIONS IN ILLINOIS "adopted" members of the Combat Logistics Battalion One unit serving in Afghanistan. A member's son is serving in the unit and Lions are providing non-perishable and personal items requested by troops such as socks and beef jerky.

Several Lions Clubs in **BULGARIA** observed World Diabetes Day. Among the most publicized was a Lions Balloon Walk for diabetes awareness, during which Lions, children, their families and other participants released blue balloons into the sky stamped with the Lions logo and images of walking Lions.

GREENPOINT LIONS IN NEW YORK sponsored their first bathtub races, but vow it won't be their last. Tub teams consisted of three people, two in the tub to steer with plungers and one person to push it. There were 26 participating sponsors at a cost of \$200 apiece to enter the race, which was held in a local park.

THE PORT OF SPAIN LIONS CLUB IN TRINIDAD & TOBAGO hosted its first "Dining with the Stars" to raise money for students at the Cascade School for the Deaf to pursue job skills training. Hundreds of people attended the event to sample different foods from local restaurants.

SEMINOLE, OKLAHOMA, Lions know that public awareness is essential to a Lions club's community support so they sponsored a project to erect entry signs into their community. With funding from the city and chamber of commerce, signs have now been located at entry points to the city announcing it as home to a Lions club and other community and civic organizations.

SUMMERSIDE, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, CANADA, Lions celebrated their club's 55th anniversary by donating \$5,500 (\$100 for each year of service) to the Prince County Hospital. The contribution will purchase two bassinets and a blood pressure machine.

A Fourth of July celebration is the way **UNION COUNTY LIONS IN BLAIRSVILLE, GEORGIA**, pay back the community for its support throughout the year. The event's "hole-in-one" golf winner donated his cash prize to the Georgia Lions Camp for the Blind.

A women's golf scramble sponsored by the **HUBBARD, OHIO**, Lions Club raised \$2,000 for the Silver Lining Cancer Fund, used for treatment and medicine for breast cancer patients in need. Lions have donated nearly \$13,000 to the fund in four years.

Lions in **KENYA** officially opened the new \$1 million Kanubhai Babla Lions Eye Bank in Loresho, Nairobi. Named after a prominent Lion, the facility houses several specialty clinics as well as the Lions Medical Training Institute and is the only one in East and Central Africa. As of November, the bank had supplied tissue for more than 118 cornea transplants.

A 13-year-old girl with spinal injuries received a \$2,000 donation from **BENSALEM, PENNSYLVANIA**, Lions to help purchase a WalkAide®. The device uses electronic impulses to help a user walk without crutches or braces.

Members of the **DALLAS WOMEN'S LIONS CLUB IN TEXAS** sponsored a low vision clinic. Lions processed 70 students from low-income families and those who needed glasses received subsidized pairs.

MOMBASA BAHARI, KENYA, Lions sponsored a free general surgery, ear, nose and throat and eye clinic during which more than 80 patients received necessary operations. Additionally, Lions sponsored two breast cancer awareness camps that attracted hundreds of participants.

The **EGG HARBOR, WISCONSIN**, Lions Club partnered with the United Special Sportsman Alliance to sponsor a salmon fishing event. Lions sponsored two young men, one visually impaired and the other with muscular dystrophy, as participants. The event is expected to be much larger in 2010 with the participation of other Lions clubs.

HURRICANE DECK LIONS IN MISSOURI

sponsored a fashion show and luncheon with an international flavor. Tables were decorated to reflect the home countries of various foods served during the event, and donations were given to several community and Lions-supported charitable groups.

The India Post issued a special postal cover and cancellation that featured the Lions Clubs International logo in **BANGALORE** to mark World Diabetes Day on Nov. 14. District 324-D1 Governor K. Devagowda received the first cover at a special event.

ANNIVERSARIES FEBRUARY 2010

85 Years: St. Petersburg, FL; Corvallis, OR; Webster Groves, MO; Waxahachie, TX; Ephrata and Kennett Square, PA.

80 Years: Gosport, IN; Fort Atkinson and Tomah, WI; Orange City, IA; Clyde, KS; Lewiston, ID.

75 Years: Van Buren and New Castle, IN; Skowhegan, ME; Wayne, PA; Talbotton, GA; Schumacher, ONT, CAN.

50 Years: South Potomac, MD; Centre Township, IN; Holmen, WI; West Lexington, NC; Washington, KY; Godfrey, IL; Cotton Center, El Paso Skyline and Texas City Noon, TX; Porterville Breakfast, CA; Bourg, LA; Elkton, MI; Lakeland, OH; Nine Partners, NY; Humberstone, ONT; and Preeceville District, SK, CAN.

25 Years: Sneads Ferry, NC; San Francisco The Castro, Santa Maria Sunrises, Orange County Central and Hemet Ramona Valley, CA; Staten Island Royal, NY; Dun Lakes, AZ; Gilbert Plains & District, Oakville and Warren & District, MB, CAN.

Join Other Lions Departing July 22, 2010

Waikiki & Maui

8 Days from **\$879***

Join other Lions this summer in paradise! Start on the island of Oahu; stay on the beach in Honolulu on the most famous beach in the world, Waikiki! Spend 4 nights, and from walking distance of your deluxe hotel enjoy the fabulous beaches, exciting nightlife, great cuisine, exceptional shopping, and captivating cultural sites. Included is a guided tour including the Iolani Palace, Punchbowl Crater and Pearl Harbor. Your escort will transfer you to the airport for your short flight to Maui. Stay three nights in a Kaanapali Beach condominium resort; close-by is the whaling village of Lahaina. Included is a guided tour of Maui, including the Iao Valley. Includes escort, deluxe hotels, interisland flights, escorted sightseeing and baggage handling. *Add \$149 tax, service, gov't. fees. Airfare is extra.

Join Other Lions in the Cooler Mountains Departing July 14, 2010!

U.S. + Canadian Rockies

14 Days from **\$1299***

New and improved for 2010! YMT's revised tour of the US and Canadian Rockies begins in Denver, Colorado! Drive through Denver, then head north on US 25 through northern Colorado to Cheyenne, Wyoming. Travel through the Black Hills of South Dakota to Rapid City. Visit Mt. Rushmore and Crazy Horse National Memorials and more of the Black Hills on this full day of sightseeing. Next, Billings, MT via Wild Bill Hickock and Calamity Jane's Deadwood, and Custer's Battlefield at the Little Big Horn. The next two days finds you in Yellowstone National Park where you'll see geysers, hot springs "Mud Volcano" and famous "Old Faithful." From West Yellowstone, you'll take a scenic drive through the US Rockies and Montana into Canada. In Alberta en route to Calgary, you'll visit Lethbridge, Ft. Macleod, "Heads-Smashed-in-Buffalo-Jump," and Waterton Lakes National Park. Calgary is in the heart of the Canadian Rockies where you'll see it all! You'll visit Banff National Park, Banff town site (one night), Lake Louise, Bow Falls, Jasper National Park, Jasper town site (one night), The Columbia Ice Fields, and take a sno-coach ride over a glacier. Cross over the Continental Divide, to British Columbia, travel through Yoho National Park to Golden, BC. Visit the Radium Hot Springs at Kootenay National Park and travel down the western slope of the Canadian Rockies into Washington for a night in Spokane. Your last night will be in Seattle, and on the way, you'll visit The Grand Coulee Dam and Dry Falls before the scenic drive through the Wenatchee Mountains to Seattle. Wow! *Price per pers., dbl. occ.; plus \$149 tax, service, gov't fees. Airfare is extra. Extend your flights by one or two days in Denver or Seattle free!

Join Other Lions Departing October 3, 2010

Ancient Egypt

10 Days from **\$1399***

Tour Cairo (city tour); visit the Egyptian Museum; explore Giza; the Pyramids of Giza, Sphinx, the Great Pyramid and Memphis, Sakkara, and more. Take a first class sleeper train to Aswan, plus a 4-day Nile Cruise aboard the *ms Crown Jewel*. Visit temples at Kom Ombo, Isis, Osiris, cross the locks on the Nile in Esna, and sail to Luxor. Visit the West Bank, Thebes, Karnak area, and stay at a Hurgada beach front resort on the Red Sea. Spend your final night in Cairo for a last day of shopping or sightseeing before your flight home from Cairo. 18 meals included. *Price per pers., dbl. occ., plus \$317 tax, service, visa & gov't fees. Airfare is extra.

Lions Clubs Int'l. not responsible for any losses incurred. Friends and family welcome.

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HIGHER KEYS MARCH 2009

Key Of Nations (100 Members)

- Lion Ravinder Sagger, Fazilka Vishwas, India

Grand Master Key (50 Members)

- Lion Alton Miller, Virginia Beach Central, Virginia

Senior Master Key (25 Members)

- Lion Charles Mudd, Red Bud, Illinois
- Lion Alice Terrill, Long Grove, Illinois
- Past International President Everett Grindstaff, Ballinger, Texas
- Lion William Maxwell, Farmerville, Louisiana
- Lion Keith Anderson, Wheatland, Wyoming
- Lion Joe Brannon, Statesboro Noon, Georgia
- Lion Ron Burnett, Hazard, Kentucky
- Lion Nathan Kotch, Kotzebue, Alaska

- Lion Leonora Rodil, Taytay Kabalikat, Philippines
- Lion Anjuma Rahman, Dhaka Angels, Rep. of Bangladesh
- Lion Rajeev Saxena, Agra Royal, India
- Lion Girdharilal Goenka, Calcutta, India
- Lion M. Imayavaramban, Perambalur, India
- Lion G. Vadivelan, Madras Red Hills, India
- Lion Prem Lama, Kathmandu Royal, Nepal

Because of early publication deadlines, LION Magazine does not include the most current list of Higher Keys. To view the most current list, search for Membership Key Award Program at www.lionsclubs.org.

CALENDAR

2010 UPCOMING EVENTS



FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 1

International Peace Poster Contest winners will be notified on or before this date

FEBRUARY 10

Standard, Core 4 and IAG grant application deadline for review at the April 2010 board meeting

FEBRUARY 12-15

Faculty Development Institute/Europe
BERN, SWITZERLAND

FEBRUARY 19-22

Faculty Development Institute/USA, Affiliates, Bermuda, the Bahamas and Canada
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

INFORMATION

GOWAY TRAVEL SELECTED

Goway Travel is proud to be an official agent for the 93rd Lions Clubs International Convention in Sydney, Australia. In 2010 Goway Travel is celebrating its 40th anniversary.



The company was created in 1970 by Bruce Hodge, still president of Goway.

Originally Goway specialized in overland adventure tours through Africa, Asia and Latin America. Goway has since evolved into one of North America's largest travel companies for the South Pacific. From modest beginnings, Goway now represents all the leading tour operators in Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Tahiti and the Cook Islands.

Goway has a global presence with its head office in Toronto and branches in Vancouver and Los Angeles. It is also the only North American travel company that has its own office in Australia.

The strength of Goway has always been its staff, their knowledge and their commitment to customer satisfaction. Goway offer a wide choice of travel ideas ranging from fully independent travelling to escorted tours and adventure touring for trekkers.

LEOS OF THE YEAR

Twenty-three Leos received the Leo of the Year Award for 2008-2009. Leos honored from the United States and Canada were Rachel Ann Slama, Elmhurst Leo Club, Illinois; Scott Jay Anderson, C-Town LC, Texas; Timothy Huang, Diamond Bar High School LC, California; Gina Burns, SALSA LC, South Dakota; Jennifer Marie Tharp, Charleroi LC, Pennsylvania; Katy Gudeczauskas, Terryville High School LC, Connecticut; Jonathan Gatke, Parkwood LC, Indiana; Jocelyn Lansangan, Aiea High School LC, Hawaii; and



Alicia Summers, North Dundas LC, Multiple District A, Canada. The LCI board of directors names the honorees.

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THANK YOU

THE LIONS CHANGED MY LIFE

Past International Director Mick Barrus (1985-87) of Cody, Wyoming, vividly recalls the first time he met **Kate Loveless**. "Eighteen years ago found me addressing the American Federation for the Blind Conference in Riverton. A co-presenter was Kate Loveless, an 11-year-old blind girl. She was born without sight due to cancerous tumors on both retinas. Loveless'



message of how she deals with her blindness had the audience (including me) enthralled, and at certain junctures, in tears. She literally had the audience in the palm of her hand." The strong bond forged that day continues between Loveless and her family and Barrus. Lions have been central to Loveless' life ever since.

Lions: have you heard from a beneficiary or a recipient of your kindness, service or charity? Tell us about the feedback you receive from those whose lives you've changed for the better. E-mail a brief description of your correspondence to lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org. Please include "Thanks and Appreciation" in the subject line.

Q&A: Kate Loveless

LION Magazine: Are you surprised at how helpful Lions were to you?

Kate Loveless: After meeting Mick Barrus, I began giving presentations to Lions clubs across the city, telling my story about how I lost my sight and have been able to overcome it. I also showed them some of the less fancy things I used, such as a Braille. The Lions helped me buy a computer, which I was able to use as I went through college. I also wouldn't be where I am right now if it weren't for them. [She previously worked as an associate producer for a television station after earning a B.A. in Mass Communications from Brigham Young University, but lost her position when the station was sold.] Early this year I learned of the Lions World School for the Blind in Little Rock, Arkansas. One of the things they do is teach the blind to work for the IRS. After successful completion of training, we're guaranteed a job. Tuition was paid by the state of Wyoming, but I'd have to come up with the living expenses. At over \$6,000 for a five-month program, there was no way I'd be able to come up with the money on my own. I contacted Mick, and as he does, he made the miracle happen and the full amount was provided. [The money was later refunded to Lions because Kate was considered so advanced that she was placed in a position a month after starting classes.] The Lions never stop amazing me. Lions do serve and I could never say "thank you" enough for everything they've done for me. I will just work hard and serve in any way, I can, too.

LM: You attended the Allen H. Stewart Lions Camp on Casper Mountain. How did this affect you?

KL: Holy smokes! What an amazing experience! I love the camp. I started attending in the summer of 1994. I became an intern in 1997 and worked there through the summer of 2000. I made friends there who are still very much a part of my life. The staff was amazing. All they want is to help you so you can be more independent and successful, while making it all fun. I learned things that I use every day of my adult life. They taught me how to cook, clean, do laundry, tell money apart, shop and do banking. I also very much enjoyed the shop class. Not only did I use power tools to build things, but learned how to sheetrock/patch a hole in the wall and do basic plumbing.

LM: How's life now?

KL: Now I love what I'm doing. Because of the Lions World School for the Blind, I'm now enjoying my new job at the IRS headquarters office in Ogden, Utah. For such a small state in population, the Wyoming Lions make big things happen for the visually impaired.

DONOR PROFILE



Name: Milagros Fiorela Sanchez Mogollon

Member of: Chiclayo Los Parques Leo Club, Peru

Are you a student?

Yes, I am currently studying to become a dentist.

Why did you become a Melvin Jones Fellow?

I believe that each one of us can make a contribution if we put our mind to it. I believe that nobody, not just those who can pay for care, should suffer from the effects of reversible blindness like cataract. LCIF SightFirst projects assist people who may not have enough resources to access the care that they need. It is up to each of us who is able to contribute for those who are not.

What message would you like to share with Lions? I would like to challenge all Lions to contribute to LCIF. I saved up the tips I earn at my job until I had \$1,000 for an MJF. If I can gather enough money for a donation, anyone can. We can show our love for others, especially those who are in need, by sharing generously with them.

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LAST ROAR



Photo courtesy of the Coast News

SPLASHY FEAT

Aurora Ortiz (left) of the Blind Community Center of San Diego rides a wave during the Encinitas Lions Club's 14th annual Blind Surfing Event. The La Costa Canyon High School Leo Club also volunteered at the event.

Won't you help us help them?

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