

# ROTARY CLUB OF NICOSIA NEWSLETTER

January 2016



## YEAR CLOSES WITH MORE SUCCESS AND HOPE FOR 2016!

Our Rotary calendar year closed with more success and hope for the New Year after our highly successful joint Christmas Bazaar with our Rotaractors on Christmas Ave. (Makarios Ave.) in Nicosia on Dec 11-12.

More than €1.700 was collected for the benefit of Vagoni Agapis, a non-profit charitable organisation which primarily supports people with basic needs for food and medical care, through the sales of Xmas handcraft lovingly created by our Rotaractors and by donations of gifts and sweets by several Rotarians.

A very special thanks to our Director of PR, Loria Markides, who worked tirelessly to ensure everything ran smoothly and who was on her feet for so many hours promoting and selling the lovely gifts and sweets. Also many thanks to our partners in the event, our energetic Rotaractors, who handcrafted so many beautiful items and kept on smiling and serving, even in the driving rain of Saturday! Antonis Stylianou and Maria Christopoulou gave up many hours of their time over the weekend to support Loria and our Rotaractors with sales. Many thanks also to Robert Stambouli for generously donating gifts, Nada Panayiotou and Aleen Andreou for baking and donating delicious brownies, Andreas Psaras for offering his award winning Makkas wines and Mike Johnson who helped set up the stall with the necessary promotional Rotary banners.

### In this issue...

- RC Nicosia-Rotaract Xmas Bazaar on Christmas Avenue
- Maria's Rotary scholarship fund Xmas party
- December message from RI President R. Ravindran
- New British High Commissioner visits our Club
- Rotary month – January Vocational Service
- Donation made to ELPIDA charity
- Rotaractors in Xmas service
- Progress of MyRotary member registration
- Ambassador of USA to visit our Club
- President Nominee 2017-2018 to be announced soon
- Register attendance to District Conference by end December
- Your New Board 2015-2016
- Calendar of major RC Nicosia events for next 3 months





**RECORD  
ATTENDANCE  
FOR MARIA'S  
XMAS SCHOLARSHIP  
FUND PARTY!**



**ROTARY CLUB OF NICOSIA**



Maria's Xmas Open House Fundraising Party on  
**FRIDAY, 18 DECEMBER 2015  
FROM 19:30**



It's time for love, sharing, giving, and enjoying the gift of life. Rotarians, Rotaractors and friends - share these special moments in friendship and Christmas spirit, mulled wine, Christmas goodies, and much more!

**XMAS BOX AT  
ENTRANCE FOR  
DONATIONS**



PP Maria Christopoulou arranged an amazing fundraising party on December 18 at her home for the benefit of the Rotary scholarship fund in the name of her late father P Takis Christopoulos.

Everyone present enjoyed plentiful mulled wine, Makkas wines, kindly donated by Director of Administration Andreas Psaras, sushi and many other delicious delights.

There was a wonderful Christmas atmosphere with record attendance by Rotarians, Rotaractors and many friends.

Maria once again delivered! Showing her true kindness and willingness to take action and help our youth during these challenging times!

**“OUR SCHOLARSHIP FUND HAS HELPED MANY  
ECONOMICALLY CHALLENGED STUDENTS  
COMPLETE THEIR STUDIES OVER THE LAST  
10 YEARS”**



# DECEMBER MESSAGE FROM RI PRESIDENT RAVI RAVINDRAN

Christmas and New Year is a time of reflection, giving, compassion and hope for the future. Our RI President sent the following moving message to Rotarians in December...

When the Canadian army liberated the Netherlands in 1945, they found the country on the brink of starvation. Seeing the suffering of so many, and especially moved by the faces of the children, four Canadian privates stationed near Apeldoorn that year decided to make that Christmas special for as many Dutch children as they could.

Together, they made the rounds among their fellow soldiers, collecting chocolate bars and chewing gum, candy and comic books. In their spare moments, they built toy trucks out of wood and wire, sawed scrap lumber for building blocks; one, risking the military police, sold his cigarette ration on the black market, using the money to buy rag dolls. Each thought longingly of his own family at home; each channeled his energies instead toward the children whose Christmas they knew they could brighten. By 1 December, four sacks of gifts lay ready; the soldiers eagerly looked forward to the 25th. But two days later, they learned the date they were to depart for Canada: 6 December, long before Christmas. With mixed emotions, the soldiers decided that the best plan simply would be to take their sacks over to the local orphanage and leave them there to await Christmas.

The night before they were to leave the Netherlands, the four set off for the orphanage, one of them in a makeshift white beard and red cap. On their way, they were surprised to hear church bells ringing and see houses lit brightly, with Christmas still some weeks away. As they approached the orphanage, boots crunching in the snow, they saw through the windows that the children, two dozen girls and boys, were gathered at their evening meal. Only a few months after the war's end, food was still scarce; the meal was small, and the children's faces pale and thin.

"Santa Claus" raised the knocker on the door and knocked three times, hard. As if by magic, the chatter of young voices inside fell silent; a priest opened the door. His polite expression gave way to one of shock, as the children behind him erupted into cheers, rushing forward and swarming the private who had dressed for Christmas three weeks early – but exactly on time. For in the Netherlands, Sinterklaas comes on St. Nicholas Eve: 5 December.

For an hour, joyful chaos reigned as packages were opened and exclaimed over, sweets were tasted, dolls caressed. The last wooden truck, the last bar of chocolate, went into the hands of a little boy who had been waiting patiently all the while. After thanking the men, he turned to the priest and said something to him in Dutch, his face alight with happiness. The priest smiled and nodded. "What did he say?" one of the soldiers asked.

The priest looked at them with eyes full of tears. "He said, 'We told you he would come.'"  
By sending joy out into the world, we do not sacrifice it for ourselves – we only multiply it. As we enter this season of giving, let us multiply the gifts we have been given by sharing them with others. Through acts of caring, kindness, and generosity, in our clubs and through our Foundation, we become and remain a gift to the world.





# BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER TODD VISITS OUR CLUB

The new British High Commissioner Ric Todd visited our Club for a luncheon meeting at the Hilton on 26 November.

H.E. Todd made an intriguing speech on the UK vision for a reformed EU to a full house. He explained in detail how the UK want to see the EU develop in the future, to make it more effective, fair and accountable, but above all, competitive.



He said “as I meet people across Cyprus, I am often reminded how our two countries, looking from opposing sides of the continent, have forged our prosperity on openness to the world and the principles of trade. We share similar aspirations and values. We also want to see the Europe of today relevant to the Europe of tomorrow, delivering growth and prosperity and working together to tackle the global issues we all face”.



## Club Meeting Information

Weekly: Every Thursday, at 13:00

Place: Hilton Cyprus, Nicosia

Arch. Makarios III Ave 98, Nicosia 1077,  
Tel.22377777

Once a month Club meetings will be held at  
19:00 at Vino Cultura Wine & Tapas Bar

## ROTARY MONTH – JANUARY Vocational Service



The concept of vocational service is rooted in the Second Object of Rotary, which calls on Rotarians to “encourage and foster”:

- High ethical standards in business and professions
- The recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations
- The dignifying of each Rotarian’s occupation as an opportunity to serve society.

As a Rotarian, how can you put these ideals into action? Consider these suggestions:

- Talk about your vocation in your club, and take time to learn about fellow members’ vocations.
- Use your professional skills to serve a community.
- Practice your profession with integrity, and inspire others to behave ethically through your own words and actions.
- Help a young person achieve his or her career aspirations.
- Guide and encourage others in their professional development.

**DIRECTOR GARO ZARTARIAN WILL  
TALK ABOUT VOCATIONAL SERVICE AT  
OUR CLUB MEETING ON JANUARY 7**

# Our Club donates €7.000 to the ELPIDA Foundation!



Our Club made our donation of €7.000, raised from the highly successful multi-cultural folk dance & music event of last September, to the ELPIDA Foundation on December 10.

Dr Loizos Loizou, the President of the Foundation, and Dr Maria Michailidis of ELPIDA received the cheque and thanked our Club for the great compassion and support we had shown. During his speech, Dr Loizou explained that ELPIDA was the first Foundation, created in our country back in 1990, dedicated solely to children and adolescents suffering from cancer and leukemia. The purpose of the Foundation was to support and strengthen all scientific, medical and social efforts which at that time were initiated in order to create the modern infrastructures for providing the best possible care and long term support to our children, adolescents and young adults affected by malignant diseases.

A big thank you to all our corporate sponsors and supporters; namely Toyota Cyprus, the Bank of Cyprus, Airtrans Group, Deloitte, Staroil, Royal Crown Insurance and Ernst & Young. Without their support our dream would definitely not have come true!

## Our Rotaractor shine, once again, at Xmas time!



Our dynamic, young Rotaractors, once again, showed their incredible service spirit in organising their annual Xmas bazaar on December 5 in front of the Phaneromeni elementary school in old Nicosia in order to raise funds to support children with disabilities at the Special Needs School of Peristerona.

Special handcraft seasonal gifts and sweets were meticulously prepared by the Rotaract team that proved highly popular with Christmas shoppers and helped the Club to easily surpass their targets to raise more than €1.000. Well done our Rotaractors on a great team effort!

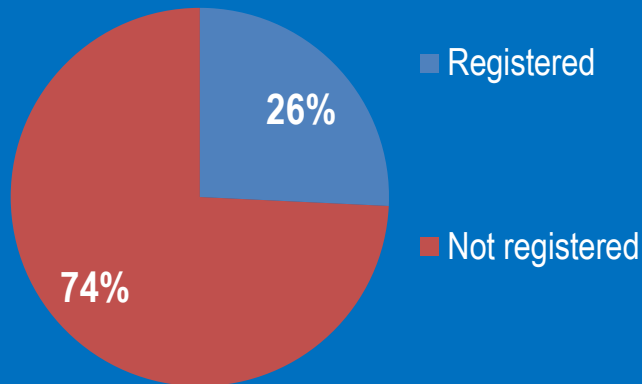
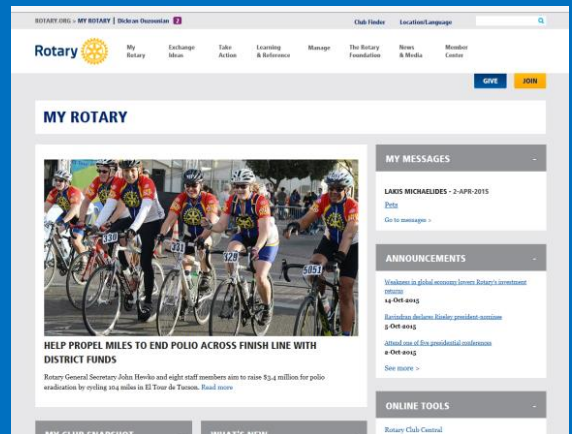


# Slow pace of registrations of members on MyRotary continues...

Our Club members are still very slow to register themselves up to MyRotary on the [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) website.

We remind you that we have committed to the District Governor to register at least 75% of our members by the end of the Rotary year. Our current no. of registered members stands at 26%.

Andreas Psaras, Director Club Administration will be presenting the benefits of registration and how to register on the website at our Club meeting on Jan 28.



**IF ANY OF YOU HAVE DIFFICULTIES REGISTERING,  
CONTACT ANDREAS PSARAS NOW ON 97770772!**

## NEW AMBASSADOR OF USA TO CYPRUS TO VISIT OUR CLUB!

Our Club continues to secure the very best speakers to join our Rotary luncheon meetings.

To this effect, Loria Markides, Director of PR has arranged for Kathleen Ann Doherty, the new Ambassador of the USA to Cyprus to visit our Club on February 4. Save the date in your diaries!



**Look out for more information on the meeting and subject of the Ambassador's speech on our Facebook page in the New Year.**  
[www.facebook.com/RotaryClubOfNicosia](http://www.facebook.com/RotaryClubOfNicosia)



## NEW CLUB PRESIDENT NOMINEE TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON...

The Board and Committee of Past President's has been deliberating about the Clubs succession plan for the years to come and, more specifically, regarding the Presidential nominee for 2017-2018 after the tenure of Incoming President Nick Paraskeva.



Look out for our announcement in early January.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> District 2452 Conference in Amman Jordan May 19-22, 2016

Those of you who will be attending the forthcoming District Conference in Amman should register by the end of December 2015 should you wish to take advantage of the preferential price. President Dickran, as well as several other members are already registered and looking forward to a unique experience!



**Make your reservation online now for the District Conference!**  
[www.rotaryd2452.com](http://www.rotaryd2452.com)

**DG Nasereddin – “I will do everything possible for Rotarians to have a great time and enjoy a meaningful Conference at affordable rates”**

### \*\*REMEMBER\*

**BE PROUD OF BEING A ROTARIAN...IT'S TIME TO CONNECT WITH YOUR CLUB AND SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY!**

**Your Nicosia Rotary Club Board Ready to Serve!**

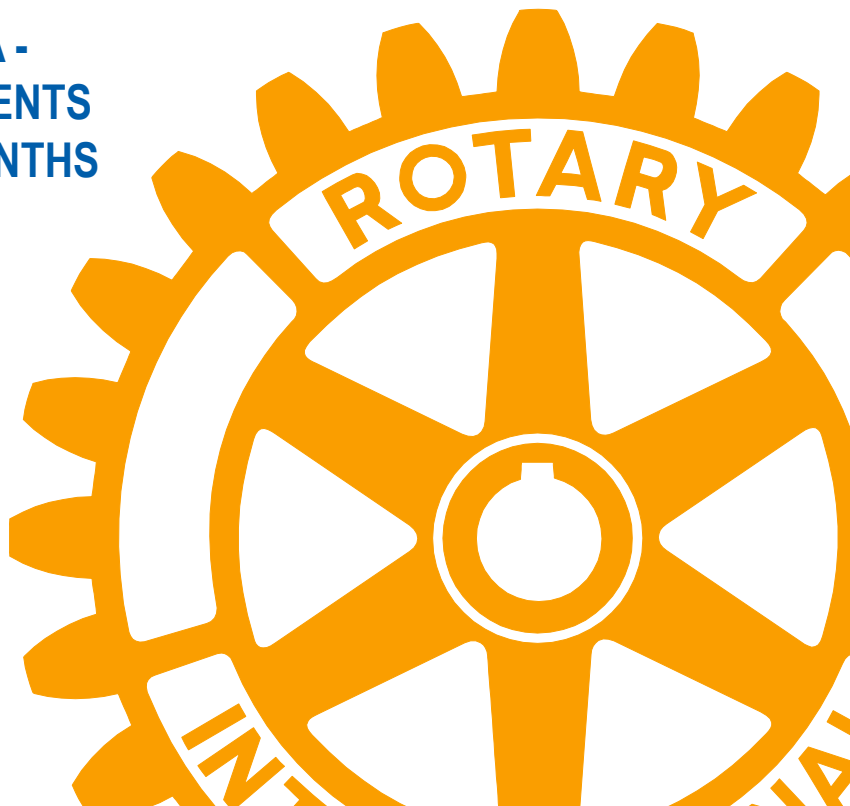
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# ROTARY CLUB OF NICOSIA - CALENDAR OF MAJOR EVENTS FOR THE NEXT THREE MONTHS

We have some very interesting meetings and events lined up for you for the 1<sup>st</sup> QTR of 2016.

For the regular attendants, please keep supporting us. For those Rotarians who have little attendance (or NO attendance!) so far this Rotary Year, you need to re-engage with your Club. With a little effort on your part, we promise you'll have fun, enjoy and be proud of being a Rotarian again.

If luncheon meetings are proving impossible for your business schedule, join us on our evening meetings at Vino Cultura and various events. You have no excuses!



MONTH	MONTH THEME	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5
JAN	Vocational Service		Thu 7- Regular meeting with presentation by Director Vocational Service Garo Zartarian	Thu 14- Regular meeting	Thu 21- Meeting at Vino Cultura Wine & Tapas Bar 19:00-20:30	Thu 28- Regular meeting. Presentation Director Club Administration Andreas Psaras – registering on Rotary.org
FEB	Peace and Conflict Resolution	Thu 4- Regular meeting with guest speaker the Ambassador of the USA, Kathleen Ann Doherty	Thu 11- General Assembly	Thu 18- Regular meeting PRESIDENT AWAY	Thu 25- Meeting at Vino Cultura Wine & Tapas Bar 19:00-20:30	
MAR	Water & Sanitation	Thu 3- Regular meeting	Thu 10 - Regular meeting Speaker – AKTH Michael Loizides	Thu 17 - Regular meeting Fri 18 – Charity Opera concert, Pallas Theatre to raise funds for the Association for the Welfare of Persons with Mental Handicap/ Alkyonides/ Angalazio	Thu 24 - Meeting at Vino Cultura Wine & Tapas Bar 19:00-20:30	Thu 31 - Regular meeting

**Annual RI Theme 2015-2016  
President RI Ravi Ravindran**

“Use your talents, expertise and leadership to be a gift to the world and your community...”

