

**THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM**  
**Bob Fitzgerald – Classification Talk**

**NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM**

**Official visit from Alan Pepper, Rotary District Governor**

**Important Dates to Remember**

*Barcelona, Spain – Rotary International Conference*

- June 23-26, 2002

**Proposed for Membership**

Charles Mann, U.S. Postal Service, Postmaster

**Visiting Rotarians**

Kay Weiss, Burlington IA

**Rotary Around the World**

Created by the Rotary Club of Nuevo Medellin, Colombia, and the Colombian Red Cross, the "Let's See" program has helped more than 1,200 underprivileged children receive vision testing and eyeglasses and almost 30 youngsters obtain eye surgeries. A Rotary Foundation Children's Opportunities Grant of US\$14,650 provided significant support for the project. To complement the program, the Rotarians developed a public service educational campaign called "Vision of the Future" that utilizes coloring books for children.

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Like many other Eastern European clubs, the Rotary Club of Sumy, in northeastern Ukraine, makes the needs of poor and unfortunate children its service priority. The club recently bought two cottages – its "homes for hope" – for large, disadvantaged families with adopted children. Since its chartering in 1995, the club has also sought to meet the equipment needs of the local orphanage and the regional children's hospital.

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The Japan Alliance for Humanitarian Demining Support, founded by five members of the Rotary Club of Tokyo and supported by Japanese District 2580, is undertaking its first effort to defuse and destroy land mines in Cambodia, using advanced Japanese technology. The agency is working to rid a rural area of mines so that displaced villagers forced to relocate there can farm safely and schools and houses can be built. The mine removal project is scheduled to be completed later this year.

**Give us a Hand**

**Crossing Fingers**

Ever cross your fingers for good luck? Historians suggest this popular gesture comes from the pre-Christian belief that a cross symbolizes perfect unity. The intersection point of the fingers was said to possess a mystical quality, which would hold the wish until it was fulfilled.

**Thumbs Up or Thumbs Down**

This symbol wasn't always used to rate new movies or hitch rides. According to popular lore, it was a matter of life or death. Roman emperors would use "thumbs up" to spare a defeated gladiator's life, and "thumbs down" to order his death.

**Thumbing Your Nose**

You've done it before – touching your thumb to the tip of your nose and extending your fingers like a fan. It's understood as an insult all over the world, but what does it mean? Some folklorists say it's a mock military salute. Others maintain that it's a graphic suggestion that someone stinks.

**The Ring Finger**

Over two thousand years ago, Greek physicians believed that a special "vein of love" connected this finger to the heart. It logically became the finger to be "bound" by an affair of the heart.