



**Giovanni Vaccaro**  
*Governatore 14-15*

Dear Rotarians,

‘La vie en rose’ is the title of a song made famous by French singer Edith Piaf and re-launched by many well-known musicians. I remember my parents waltzing to the notes of this song which encouraged people to take a positive attitude to life and face difficult moments with optimism. More recently, on 26th July Noa performed her new songs from ‘Love Medicine’ apart from the pieces from her classic repertoire. Both singers, at different times, expressed their trust in love and music which encourage us to see life through a pink, hence positive, light.

Experts agree that a positive attitude to life strengthens the immune system, it protects the heart, empowers the mind and lengthens life.

In line with this thinking, Rotarians ‘Light up Rotary’ and ‘Serve with a smile’ to achieve service actions if solidarity. In recent days, in some Clubs I have met Rotarians and their friends who while enjoying happy hours thought also of those who suffer or even lose their lives, as is happening more and more frequently in this our Mediterranean, which we ought to be uniting.

You may have noticed that also the National Rotary magazine has launched the project, common to all Italian districts to be held in mid-October, of uniting so many different individuals tied together by one common ideal. During that meeting we will have the opportunity of listening to so many different voices which will enrich us and will bring us to reflect and react.

We will also nominate two young people from the far South for a scholarship period which will give them the opportunity of coming together to study in Italy at the City of Peace.

In fact, our District has suggested adding a further scholarship opportunity to the one already decided upon by the 13 Districts, in agreement with RI. This was decided in agreement with the Past Governors of our District just after mid August. Immediately a fruitful collaboration began between Districts 2110 and 2071, with Arrigo Rispoli at the helm.

At the same time, another project has taken off, this is entitled ‘A rucksack and a smiling child’. During the meeting, on Saturday morning, we plan to donate a coloured rucksack to each child who lands daily on our coasts.

**Segreteria Distrettuale 2014-2015**

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To this aim, I depend on the generosity of all Rotarians and their partners to contribute to a project that will be sustainable throughout the year .

It is a fact that so many minors reach our shores alone, without parents, in the hope of a better future. Let us, therefore show our consideration for these young migrants by putting a smile of hope on their faces.

During the Mediterranean Week event, we will try to involve the whole Rotarian family. In the meantime, Rotaract, Interact and Inner Wheel will participate to Friendship week which will be held in the Centre of Sicily at the end of September. We will concentrate on Leadership and Membership with the expert advice of Rotarian and non-Rotarian speakers. We will then visit Villa Zagara, where a public body cultivated immortal olive trees coming from various parts of the world to produce a meaningful cocktail – the Oil of the World!

After this first opportunity at cohesion, we will be better motivated for the second event, that in mid-October in Autumn, when for the first time Italian and Mediterranean Rotarians will meet in the name of peace and brotherhood. I therefore call you to meet both in September and in October for a fruitful Autumn so that, as in the Summer we have spent more time with our families in search of the strength needed, we may take off with more conviction to reach higher goals, hence to serve above our personal interests. Every day, thanks to Rotary, I meet so many persons of good will who appreciate Rotary's ideals and rules which bring us to be useful to others and to be an example of hard work and professionalism. Through our good example, it will be easier to co-opt new members into our clubs; young people, women and people belonging to new classifications for membership.

Coming back to taking a positive attitude to life, no. 2518 of Panorama, reports that active persons are 20% happier than the average. Besides, it also states that the sense of community and the occasions for celebrating promote happiness and 2 hours a week and 100 hours per year is the amount of time we should spend to help others. This philosophy leads to well-being.

So let us not lose the chance so as not to have regrets. Let us continue on the road towards reachable and sustainable goals.

With this wish, I encourage you to participate passionately to the forthcoming events. I send you all my kind regards.

*Sciacca, 1 settembre 2014*

*Giovanni*

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