

Money makes her go round the world
Global scavenger hunt to raise funds for nonprofits
By Christine Morente (Inside Bay Area – ? April 2005)

Inside Bay Area REDWOOD CITY — Deborah Grove will soon traverse the globe in the ultimate scavenger hunt.

The Redwood City resident doesn't know which countries she will be visiting, but she will be raising \$30,000 for international nonprofit agencies.

"When I heard about it, it was an instinctive 'yes,'" Grove said. "I've lived abroad for a good number of years. This is a fun way to zip quickly around and pick my favorite (places) to come back."

Chosen from hundreds of applicants from around the world, Grove and a teammate will solve riddles and fund-raise for the third annual GreatEscape2005, the Global Scavenger Hunt.

Ultimately, Grove's team and the other teams will work to raise a collective \$1 million for worldwide charities such as Doctors Without Borders, UNICEF and Habitat for Humanity International. The winners, however, will collect \$100,000 and will be crowned "The World's Greatest Travelers."

Grove will speak about her upcoming trip at the Burlingame Lions Club luncheon at 12:10 p.m. today at the Lions Club Hall.

The three-week long race begins April 15 in Los Angeles and will end in New York. Teams will visit 10 countries on four continents.

The game is not like CBS's Amazing Race, said William Chalmers, event director. "We believe that the inherent drama in what we are doing is the competition itself," he said Tuesday. "The essence is to get them to trust strangers in strange lands."

Grove is the founder of Introplus, an events-based social-networking and online marketing company in Redwood City, and is a former senior affairs commissioner for Redwood City.

So far, Grove has raised 10 percent of her \$30,000 goal. She is asking for more corporate sponsorships and will raise money before and after her trip, she said. Recently, she received a \$500 donation from Donovan's Pest Control in San Mateo.

Grove, 50, is travel-savvy. She started traveling at 16 and speaks German, French, Swedish and Spanish. "When I travel, I don't expect everything to work," she said. "When there's a hiccup, I don't get disturbed because I realize that there will be delays."

Contributions to help Grove can be sent to GreatEscape Foundation, 513 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 364, Santa Monica, CA 90401.

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