



# Lamorindan



The Weekly Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Lamorinda Sunrise  
Meetings Friday 7AM at Postino's Restaurant in Lafayette

February 16, 2007

Cal Lee — Star Reporter  
Dave Dickson & Paul Fillinger — Pictures  
Kevin Croak — Publisher

## HE'S ALL WET

Mark Twain gave the thought for the day, applicable to everything from the upcoming worldwide Rotary water projects to individual Scotch drinkers: Water, taken in moderation, never hurt anyone.

## ALL KINDS OF VALENTINES

Mike Edwards confessed to an anniversary. His and Kathy's very sensible celebration consisted of eating a box of fine chocolates, THEN having lunch. In a transparent attempt to avoid a fine, he said their procedure is to exchange anniversary cards on the even years, and valentines on the odd. Nice try. The Pres remarked that he needed a little lightening after all that chocolate, and the reduction was \$15 worth.

You could have gotten two free tickets to "Design for Living" at the Town Hall Theater tonight from George Chaffey, but Becky Ware was too quick for you. Maybe she couldn't resist a photo-opp, and in fact a sweet Valentine picture was taken of herself and George.

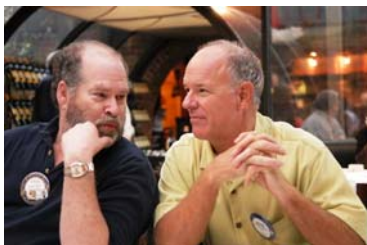
Rather than receiving anything red for Valentine's, Jim Brencic was actually divested of his red badge in favor of a blue one. To show he is just one of the gang now, his attempt to make a responsive speech was immediately squelched by you-know-who.

## ONLY A COUPLE OF PRE-AUCTION FRIDAYS TO GO

First Lady Riley passed out the very helpful Pre-Auction Books, which she is also emailing so you can forward them to your friends. Her sidekick Ken exhorted us (for a change) to get those items and those guests in, or they may not make the final book, which is always awkward. Be sure to give accurate information on the donor cards so that proper thanks can be given to the contributors.



Tom Black has probably been walking too many "territories" and seems to have a bit of a cold. He is heroically undeterred. If you have been assigned a territory and haven't made yourself known to the merchants there, PLEASE let Tom know immediately so that other arrangements can be made. If you're nervous about doing it, you can obtain in-the-field assistance from -- Tom Black, of all people.



## A QUICK CHANGE



A speaker had to cancel, but Pat Flaharty as usual bailed us out. He arranged a club assembly on the international side of things.

Richard Shearer, President and Esq., held forth on Rotary Foundation basics. All money that goes in comes out in the form of projects. The biggest projects are from the top down, such as Polio Plus. But the bottom-feeders such as our club get their shot at projects from the bottom up, aided by matching funds from International and from the District. The funds are from what we call Paul Harris contributions, and the money is managed masterfully by the Foundation.

Cal Lee's topic was Polio Plus, which was pretty much cribbed from the RI website that is available to all. Long story made short, it's providing oral polio vaccine to children the world over, in an attempt to make this planet polio-free. Rotary spearheaded this effort and has kicked in \$600 million and uncountable volunteers in the field. We aren't quite there yet, as four countries remain uncertified. But the disease has been reduced by 99%, which is pretty good in any league. The details, and the adventures, have been incredible.

Skip McCowan, an exchange student himself a year or two ago, talked about kids. We've had about a dozen students from all over the world go through a 9-month rite of passage with us, and have sent out half a dozen or so from our own schools. There's some reluctance among students here to miss their senior year by going abroad for the whole year, and a couple of new programs may be more attractive: summer two-family exchanges; and 3 to 4 week tours with other exchange students, for example through Europe. Skip also explained that an InterAct club is the high school equivalent of our own -- Acalanes, Campolindo and Miramonte each has one --and RotarAct is for college age; UC Berkeley's is quite active. These develop leadership skills and a community service spirit.

Finally, Bob Riegg, a really last-minute substitute, hearkened back to a few of our own bottom-up international projects: the farm for mentally challenged women in the Czech Republic, the bridge in Tanzania, and a rehabilitation project in Mexico in conjunction with the Vallejo club.

Mr. Flaharty then got in his own two cents' worth, or actually a good deal more than that: he explained the educational arm of the RI Foundation. The Ambassadorial Scholar program gives the most funds of anyone for graduate scholars studying in countries away from home. About 800 scholars took advantage in the year '05-'06. Other education-oriented programs are the GSE cultural and business exchange program for professionals age 25-40, the Rotary Peace and Conflict Study program, and Rotary Grants to University Teachers traveling to underdeveloped countries.

So now maybe you know a little more about where our \$\$\$ goes, at least those funds which travel far away. There's also the \$\$\$ that stays home for community projects, but that's for another day.



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

February 16, 2007

Many thanks to Pat Flaharty for putting together a great program on short notice. Thanks also to Cal Lee, Skip McCowan, Joanne Luscher (who was going to talk before being felled by the flu bug) and Bob Riegg (who stepped in for Joanne at literally the last minute) for helping remind us all about some of the things the Rotary Foundation makes possible.



One thing that perhaps I did not stress enough in my intro to TRF: At the end of the day, the Rotary Foundation is us. You. Me. Whoever sat next to you at today's meeting. Us.

We are the ones who contribute the money through our Paul Harris Fellowships, through planned giving, through our Club and our District. And it is we who identify the needs that Rotary can help address through the Rotary Foundation.

It wasn't some suit in Evanston who found out about the Tanzanian village that needed a bridge built or the group of mentally challenged Czech women who needed help setting up a farm where they could live and eat- *we* searched them out and *we* made those things happen. It wasn't some image consultant or focus group that suggested taking on polio, but rather it was dedicated Rotarians in the Philippines whose inspiration and hard work led to Polio Plus, the most successful private health initiative in history (and it is not an exaggeration to thus describe Polio Plus).

So when Cal and Skip and Bob and Pat and I were talking about the Rotary Foundation, we were talking about *you*. From the initial \$26.50 contribution in 1917 with which the forerunner of the Rotary Foundation was started, the total contributions have grown to over \$1,000,000,000 - yes, that is over one *billion* U.S. dollars. (Okay, so I finally did some research . . .)

The Rotary Foundation is us. We are the Rotary Foundation. We have a great deal to be proud of in what we Rotarians have accomplished. And there is so much more that we can - and will - accomplish.

Rich Shearer  
LSR President 2006-07



## GUESTS

Brad Ward, president-elect of San Pablo club  
Riley the Auction Maven  
Wayne Vico, Jayco Medical Supplies  
Billy James, his sidekick



## UPCOMING

- 2/23: Tracy Robinson, City of Lafayette
- 3/2: Victoria Carlisle, early intervention on deafness
- 3/3: Dinner/Auction (this reminder will appear weekly for not such a long time any more)
- 3/9: Four-Way Speech Contest
- 3/16: Mark Sherry, SF Air Traffic Controller
- 3/23: Jenny Oorbeck, Central C.C. Waste Authority
- 3/30: New Member Talks
- 3/30: TGITLFOTM, Yeager's, 5:30
- 4/6: Dr. Peter Corona, educator and consultant
- 4/13: Mike Muir, grandson of John Muir
- 5/4: Jill Buck, GoGreen Initiative
- 6/17-6/20: International Convention, Salt Lake City

