



# Lamorindan



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

February 9, 2007

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

## NEWSWORTHY

When the fiery Mike Edwards returned to civilization from Hawaii, he obviously was hungry for news. He picked up these timely events happening on this date:

**Fire & Disaster:** First fire extinguisher patented, 1863. Passenger liner Normandie burns in NY Harbor, 1942 (the extinguishment was dramatic). San Fernando Quake, 1971.

**Politics:** Parliament declared that Massachusetts was in rebellion, 1775. First combat troops sent to Vietnam, 1965 (good thing we've learned our lesson).

**Announcements:** John Hooper (ancestor of Ray Welles?) burnt for heresy, 1555. George Custer & Elizabeth Bacon married, 1864. Dean Rusk born 1909 (eventually he may have wished he'd never been). How many of these folks were Rotarians?

**Sports:** Volleyball invented in Massachusetts, 1895. Davis Cup invented, 1900. "The Brickyard" at Indianapolis invented, 1909.

**Thought:** "Love cures people, the ones who receive love and the ones who give it too." Apparently the connection with the foregoing is that all these folks could have used a little more love.



## OCCASIONS

The first occasion, which sort of put the others a little bit in the shade, was cited by Dave Watson. 33 years ago, his sister Linda, who grew up in Orinda, received a gift from Orinda Rotary which enabled her to go and study a little bit about singing. Talk about taking and running with it. Linda Watson is now one of the very top Wagnerian sopranos in the world. She recently received an Oscar at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in LA, and will be opening the Metropolitan Opera, no less, next year. As Dave indicated, these little things Rotary does can have consequences. We should probably give a gift to Dave so he can develop that magnificent tenor voice and do something in this world besides the B&A list.

Other momentous events included: Bob Riegg reaching a certain birthday, showing a politician's skill at evading the question, and causing Bill Bishop to be hit for \$20 for no reason. Bob Heinen's wife also advancing a year, and Bob giving her the ultimate: a Mother's Ring produced by Steve Ware. \$25 was levied; whether it was on Bob or Steve was ambiguous. The Pres did nothing to clear up his fining guidelines when he finally caught up with Steve Ware's own birthday. Steve had dinner (Becky: "boring") with his family, then caught a plane to Albany for a family friend's 80th birthday, but was he fined \$80? No, John Fazel was fined \$20.



Another occasion next week, due to a speaker's cancellation: A CLUB ASSEMBLY. This is where you find out what's really going on around here, plus some information about our organization you might not know.

### ROBUST INTERCLUB

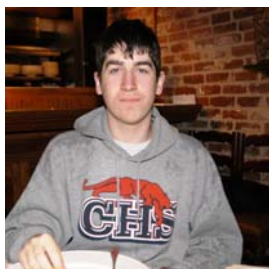
A good turnout was on hand at the InterClub luncheon (LSR, Lafayette, Orinda, Moraga and Rossmoor clubs). Guest speaker was the very forceful Superior Court Juvenile Judge Lois Haight, who recounted some of the disastrous lives of delinquent and dependency kids due to drugs, but also some stories of redemption. She also recognized our Honorable President R. Shearer, Esq., who despite his occasional wanderings from sanity around here, actually does some great good in the form of taking groups of kids to see the Judge and the process.

### THE DANES DESERVE IT

The famous Lamorinda Sunrise hospitality, second only to the Danish hospitality. Thanks to all the hosts who have volunteered for duty from July 1 until their departure on July 7. Great way to start out Fillinger's new regime even though he is Norwegian.

### IF WE AREN'T CAREFUL, THE 3RD OF MARCH WILL BE AS DEADLY AS THE IDES OF MARCH

Ken Kosich held his Auction meeting last night, and turned loose the enforcers. Calls are being made. To avoid them, GET YOUR GUEST LIST IN, and FINALIZE YOUR AUCTION ITEMS. The Donor Letter and the Bid Sheet are on the website for the taking. Everyone agreed that a pre-booklet will be very useful for the troops to show around, but we have to have something to put in the pre-booklet.



## THE PAC-10 IS WHERE IT'S AT



And our speaker, Chris Hoyles, helps run the show as Associate Commissioner, a position she assumed a year ago after having been an Assistant Commissioner since 1988. Her positions and service both inside and outside the Pac-10 are too numerous to mention.

The Pac-10 was chartered in 1915. In the 1950s the conference was restructured as the Pac-8, and the two Arizona schools were added in the 1970s. The teams are now set up to feature pairs of natural rivalries, which you can probably figure out.

The conference is governed by the presidents and chancellors. Each school's faculty representative engages and watches over the athletic departments. The hardest part of their job usually is reporting back to their own faculties, because the English Department doesn't seem to get quite the attention or aid that the Athletic Department does.

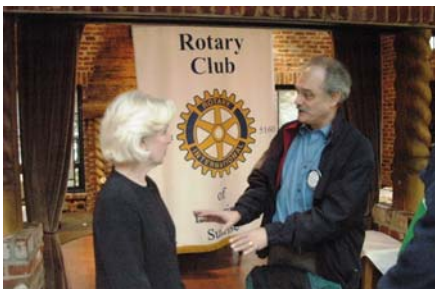
The Pac-10 is referred to as the Conference of Champions because it has pulled in 351 team national championships and 1,591 individual national championships. Put another way, it has led the nation in championships 41 of the past 46 years, and was 2nd in the other 5 years.

It is also big business. The bulk of the money is raised by selling media rights of all kinds. These are huge contracts. Excess money over expenses is distributed to the schools.

The Pac-10 office (which is located in Walnut Creek!) has 23 full time and 6 part time employees. It manages the regular season and conference championship sports; there are 11 men's and 11 women's sports. It also manages TV contracts, trying to strike a balance between fair and fiscally prudent in choosing the telecasts to make. Pac-10 Properties sells naming rights to corporate partners (but not as much as other conferences). The Pac-10 is the only conference with an enforcement arm, which sets penalties which are reviewed by the NCAA.

Current issues include the "arms race" (such as new Alabama coach Nick Saban getting \$32 million for 8 years); stadium expansion; allocation of money between athletics and academics; student-athlete stipends; and an organization of CEO's developed to control the arms race which may raise questions of antitrust and university autonomy.

The hottest question of the day seemed to be whether there should be a national football playoff. Brad Davis apparently mildly disagreed with Chris on this one. They may have resumed their fight in the parking lot after the meeting.



## GUESTS

Waite Stephenson, Moraga Rotary  
Don Carlson  
Hayes Inglehart, L.A. native kidnapped by Walt Nelson  
Patrick Scholz, back from Joisey  
Honorable Riley  
Honorable Cameron, at a separate table  
Katie Rose  
Chloe Gillett (no kidding!) Johnson



## UPCOMING

2/16: Club Assembly  
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 a long time)  
3/9: Four-Way Speech Contest  
3/16: Mark Sherry, SF Air Traffic Controller  
3/23: Jenny Oorbeck, Central C.C. Waste Authority

