



Lamorindan



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

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PLAY BALL

Continuing on last week's theme of where a young man's springtime thoughts lie, Tom Black observed that major league baseball starts this Sunday, then gave a little philosophic bio of a certain player. He was born in Mobile in 1906, was the major leagues' first black pitcher, helped the Cleveland Indians win the World Series in '48, and made the Hall of Fame in '71. His thoughts for Back in the Day included "Cain't avoid being born average, but ain't no man got to be common," and "Don't look back, something [not someone] may be gaining on you." The most obvious clue of all is that he was a neighbor of Charlie Franklin for some time. The answer, of course, is Leroy Satchel Paige. As a bonus, Tom threw in a question: Who was the last major league player who had played in the Negro Leagues? Well, it was the man that Bonds is gaining on.



NO OCCASIONS FOR \$\$\$?

This was a low-revenue day. In fact, we finished in the red because the Pres presented Larry Sly, frequent visitor from the Food Bank, with 500 smackers (presumably made out to Food Bank).

It's not that Occasions, or excuses to fine, were entirely absent.

George Chaffey and Joanne Luscher jointly (why?) announced, with George doing all the talking, that Malte Fischer, of Danish exchange fame, will soon be trying to control a little Malte. No \$\$, or even an indication of future recognition.

Kevin Croak tried to cooperate by arriving late as usual, but he seems to have a free pass for tax season.

John Linneman was here. That's a great occasion.

Instead of trying the usual method, Rich pleaded for contributions to the Cameron Shearer College Fund. A strategy not entirely successful.



STUFF HAPPENIN'

Most immediately, the much-anticipated Yeager TGITLFOTM will be this afternoon at 5:30 at, well, Yeagers'. It may be without Chuck, who was last seen on the airport tarmac in NY. (This, by the way, delayed the induction of Hays Englehart because apparently no one else can do it.) Anyway, it's best to get this publication out beforehand in order to avoid having to report embarrassing details of this wild party.

On April 21, Center for Early Intervention for the Deaf (CEID), which includes on its board one R. Shearer, will be having its Walkathon at the Moraga Commons. You can walk it, but it's even better if you work it. Bodies are needed the evening before, and for the event from about 7:30 to noonish on 4/21. Richard will be happy to answer any and all questions, and hopes there are some.

Paul Fillinger kept it to himself during the meeting, but deep down he'd like to see as many members as possible go to the Leadership Conference in Vacaville on April 28. Free brunch and lunch, and efficient pooled transportation, will be featured. Please let him know.

Steve Ware gently interrupted the proceedings to announce that there will be a Chamber Mixer on May 9 from 5:30 to 7:30 at the Forge in Lafayette, where he and his diamonds hang out. A jazz quartet will be presented along with the usual wine and goodies. This is an excellent fishing hole to land potential members.

And finally, President-Elect Paul is gonna make stuff happen next Rotary year. What stuff? Well, that may be up to you, and he urges that he be pelted with emails setting forth project ideas.

DOUBLE EXPOSURE

Two members were initiated into the rite of passage known as Expose Yourself. Each in his own way made quite an impression.

JIM BRENCIC modestly said he'd entertain us as best he could, then proceeded to give probably the most organized biography we've had. Born 1970 in San Jose of Croatian and Sicilian parents, so don't mess with him. Remembers bike rides through the cherry orchards and on the present 680 site, and stealing nails from construction projects at his father's urging. Biggest point total for a basketball season was 4. Liked to draw cartoons. Illustrator for high school paper. Thought he'd be a graphic designer, but found he preferred making deliveries to construction sites. Eventually attended Cal Poly SLO in architecture.

In his 4th year, Jim went to (allegedly) study in Florence. The group guffawed when he confessed the emphasis was on language and culture. There followed two academic years in course work with Italian architecture students. He managed to sample the cultures of Italy, Switzerland, Germany, South Of France, and Spain while he was on that side of the pond. One point of interest was perhaps the world's biggest reconstruction project at the site of the Berlin Wall.



His girl friend Ceara, who's still around, arrived at Florence just when he was leaving, so proving chivalry is not dead, he reluctantly stayed another year to protect her from the Italian guys. He studied art in Italian with people from all over the world, living in a "foreigner apartment" with quite a few people contributing to a kitchen that was something less than sparkling. And of course visits to his roots in Croatia, and Ceara's in Ireland, were mandatory.

Then it was back to Cal Poly for a thesis in health care design, and following Ceara to LA where she had the best job of the two at a big cathedral. They married in Mill Valley, then decided they hadn't had enough travel before having kids. So it was off on a camping trip across the good ole USA. On 9-11, they were at Yellowstone and sort of missed the whole thing.

Then it was time to actually be employed, especially since a son was born. Senior health care firm in SF for a year. Moved to Berkeley where he met Harley Jensen, as of course everyone in Berkeley does. Now he's the new Harley at Jensen & Ptaszynsky, the other having gone out to pasture.

And then there's AL SEVILLA. He will undoubtedly have a new nickname, "Six-Month Sevilla", as will be shown below.



Al was born in the Philippines in 1946 to a father who was a guerilla and a mother who was a dressmaker with her own shop. An interesting combination, and just look what it produced. They were in a small town with nothing much to do but grow an extended family, starting with Grandpa who had 10 kids. Al was subjected by the nuns at his school to

kissing a wall numerous times to teach him that kissing girls was a bad idea. His idea of sporting competition was to bet on fights between spiders he and his buddies found in trees.

He attended a Christian Brothers college of 1,000 boys, which has since grown into a mega-university. Of the 150 original mechanical engineering students, 27 managed to make it to graduation. Apparently Al was one of them, even though he does remember some "great" times there. Following school, his father asked a friend to give him a job to get him out of the house, and he got the dream occupation of watching paint dry, for SIX MONTHS. Next he sold flour and watched bread rise for SIX MONTHS. Following that, NCR hired him to program cash registers and computers, where he was fired after SIX MONTHS.



Somehow he then got a full scholarship to the Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok, and this lasted longer -- two years, which by coincidence was the waiting period required to get a visa to the US. After graduation he did nothing for SIX MONTHS, as no one was hiring in '71. Finally he landed a job with an environmental consulting firm in Alhambra. After 4 years he went to a start-up office in Arizona, and while he was engaged to someone else for SIX MONTHS, he met Cindy at a disco club. The six months ended, and he married Cindy in 1980.

In 1983 they moved into a charming abode with sloping floors in Lafayette. Then it was to Walnut Creek in 1990 for 10 years. A little misunderstanding with a school principal led to a move back to Lafayette.

Wife Cindy is the "Volunteer Queen", including chairperson of the Lafayette Circulation (formerly Traffic) Commission. She shamed Al into joining Rotary. First-born Ginger was our outbound Youth Exchange student in 1996.

Al didn't discuss this, but he'll be doing a lot more volunteering in his specialty when Rotary International gets hot on its water projects.

Happily, Al saw the light and transferred from Walnut Creek to LSR. He says this has been the best SIX MONTHS of his life.

GUESTS

Larry Sly, Concord Rotary and Food Bank
Hays Englehart (corrected spelling), waiting, waiting
Barbara Miller, Steve Ware's mother-in-law from KY
Jane and Steve Carr, Buddy's guests from Cyprus
Alex Arnold, 3rd time's a charm
Ali Hanna

UPCOMING

4/6: Dr. Peter Corona, educator and consultant
4/13: Mike Muir, grandson of John Muir
4/20: JoEllen Peterson, Raphael House and Sophia Project
4/28: District Leadership Training, Vacaville
5/4: Jill Buck, GoGreen Initiative
5/11: Lois Grandi, Playhouse West (great actress)
5/18: Amy Worth, MTC (formerly Orinda City Council), regional transportation
6/8: Shelley Sandusky, attorney, death Penalty in California
6/17-6/20: International Convention, Salt Lake City



Hey Chuck and Mariam,
What a fabulous party and fabulous home in which to host it! There was a great spirit going on and the good wine helped--the ones everyone brought and the one Michael made. And an extra effort on your part, Chuck, bringing prospective members from work and your neighborhood.
Paul and Glenda



