



Lamorindan



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

April 13, 2007

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DELIGHTFUL THOUGHT

Given by a delightful person, Joanne Luscher. Life is short, break the rules, forgive quickly, kiss slowly, love truly, laugh uncontrollably, and never regret anything that made you smile. An autobiography?

HEY, HAYS, YOU'RE IN

If nothing else, Hays Englehart had to be dazzled by his induction. While the Pres was giving his usual double-talk, Chuck Yeager was whipping together the new-member packet, which was duly presented along with Hays' first bill and a Red Badge of Courage. His sponsor, Walt Nelson, was up front in a supportive manner, but had the good sense to just let it all flow and not speak up. Congratulations to Hays, who clearly will be an asset to Rotary.



JOLLY OLD ENGLAND

Your editor again offered the opportunity for a house-swap with a very gung-ho member of the Rotary Club of Sherwood Sunrises, District 1220, Nottingham, England. Sounds like that club bears quite a resemblance to ours, yet England hasn't thrown them out yet. The Rotarian is Ed Thompson, a past president, and his house can accommodate 8, with 4 bedrooms -- a detached house in a village 7 miles from the center of Nottingham. He and his wife Jan are smoke free, pet free, and have a 4x4 Landrover Discovery or a Citroen C4 to exchange, along with two bikes, golf clubs and tennis racquets. They would like to exchange at some time from now through July. Ideally the stay would be for a few weeks.

No less an authority than Jack Peers termed this an idyllic vacation. Contact Cal Lee for details if you're at all interested.

YOU MEAN THERE ARE WIMMEN OUT THERE?

Buddy Burke has decreed that May will be the Month of the Woman. The first step to achieving this is to have all women speakers that month, which Buddy has achieved. It would seem that May would not be a bad month to bring as many female guests as possible.



WE ENDOW

Among the guests today were Theresa Gehringer, representing the upcoming Lafayette Library Center, and her daughter Madison, representing Stanley School. Showing that once in a while this club actually has its priorities straight, Theresa received a \$1,000 check for the library. The Pres took the opportunity to point out that this money came from Auction proceeds, via the Endowment Board.

Seizing the opportunity, Paul Bettelheim announced there will be an Endowment Board meeting at his pad at 7:00 on Wednesday evening. Come one, come all, and watch Paul as he juggles his, er, the club's, \$60,000. A great indoctrination for newer members.

IT ALL HAPPENS 4/28

A couple of competing events on Saturday, April 28. The Other Paul is leading a pack to Vacaville for the District Leadership Conference. He will race Skip, Brad, and any other vehicles there, and the attendees got to sign up with their favorite vehicle. Another great indoctrination for newer members.

AND.....

Dave Watson will not be going there because he's into another car thing. He's involved with Car Care American in Orinda, which is having a day of servicing cars for low-income folks for little or no fee. Dave wouldn't mind seeing a couple of additional bodies there, so get ahold of him if you want to have fun souping up a few vehicles.



THE MUIR LEGACY

John and Mary Lou Fazel luckily are friends of Mike Muir, who is the great-grandson of John Muir. Mike has had MS since he was 15. But he was lookin' mighty good today as he spun his remarkable tale.

First off, Mike comes from a rather old California family. His father's family arrived in 1849 with Captain Fremont, and his great-grandmother later named the Alhambra Valley. His great-great-great grandfather Sam Erwin and his bride Sally Criss were married by Davy Crockett in Tennessee, then escorted Davy partway to the Alamo but prudently stayed behind. Dr. John Stencil married Louisa Erwin, and in 1849 followed the Butterfield Trail from Texas to California. Their daughter married THE John Muir.



Mike naturally was inspired by his great-grandfather's efforts to protect nature. He grew up entirely in the outdoors. At 13, as a 4-H member, he received three ewes, then two pregnant mare each with a nursing filly. Eventually he had a herd of over 25 horses when he was still in high school in Dixon. He kept them in an old barn on the edge of town, and his love of horses became his life's work.

He was paralyzed below the neck at 15 and often has been in wheelchairs since. Being connected with the natural world helped keep him out of bed. By 40 he could no longer ride, so he focused on what was possible: carriage driving. He got so he would enter 3-day races, the format being dressage, a marathon, and a cone course.

He was named to the official American team. He met other disabled people who changed his life, just as carriage driving changed theirs and let them show some amazing abilities. His team drove across the US, from Mission San Diego to Washington DC, in 10 months, visiting schools and hospitals along the way. This led to his establishing his "Access Adventure" program benefiting disabled folks, with teams of volunteer horse people, changing lives such as the 11-year-old spina bifida victim who ended up saying "I'm gonna have your job". The main location now is Rush Ranch near Fairfield.



There will be a combination Earth Day and John Muir Birthday celebration on April 21, moving from Martinez Ridge Trail to the John Muir House. On April 28 (everything's happening that day), Rush Ranch Day will feature wagon rides, a falconer, sheep dogs, and Native American crafts. And on May 19 will be the Rush Ranch Horse Fair, featuring historic California horses including oxen, and a BBQ and auction.

The web site is www.access-adventure.org. It sounds remarkable. John Muir would have said that his grandson's legacy, in a different way, matched his own.

GUESTS

Rudy Reich, Orinda Club
Dr. Steve Vogel, Concord (22 yrs perfect attendance)
Fred Tabsharani, Berkeley Rotary
Alex Arnold, application in hand
Theresa Gehringer, Lafayette Library Center
Madison Gehringer, Stanley School



UPCOMING

4/20: JoEllen Peterson, Raphael House and Sophia Project
4/27 TGITLFOTM Durlster's home
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
5/31 TGITLFOTM Reiggs home?

6/8: Shelley Sandusky, attorney, death Penalty in California
6/17-6/20: International Convention, Salt Lake City
NOTE: June TGITLFOTM will be on the first Friday of July!

