



Lamorindan



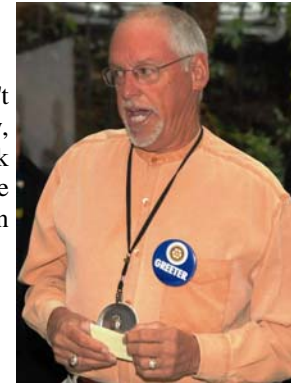
The Weekly Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Lamorinda Sunrise
Meetings Friday 7AM at Postino's Restaurant in Lafayette

June 1, 2007

Cal Lee — Reporter
David Dickson — Pictures
Kevin Croak — Publisher

STREET SMART

Picture Brad Davis as a bright young lad on his paper route. Walking with him (he didn't ride his bike very fast in those days) was Phyllis Diller. She remarked to a passerby, giving us the Thought for the Day: "I'm so cheap I can't buy a newspaper. I just walk along with the paper boy and ask him questions." So Brad taught Phyllis everything she knows. And those of us who were around in ancient times when Brad was president can readily see the similarity in performance.



ROTARY ROYALTY PRESENTS SAPPHIRES

Breakfast was delayed while no less a personage than Mary Elena Dochterman, Asst. Gov.-elect, who is sort of related to someone that has something to do with Rotary, presented Paul Harris pins with sapphires to Dave Dickson and Pat Flaharty. These gentlemen reached the PH+1 status (in RotarySpeak), meaning they've contributed another \$1,000 in addition to their basic PH \$1,000. As our pres so sagely commented, these Paul Harris contributions, whether they're made on the instant or over a 75-year period, are the life blood of the organization, enabling the wiping out of polio and other such modest achievements. Kudos to Dave and Pat for making it to this level.

WELCOME FACES

Today these included some who were guests and some who were not.

As mentioned, Mary Elena Dochterman made it, a few hours earlier and a few miles northward of her normal Moraga meeting. She made her presence felt by winning the Raffle.



Don Reichert was definitely not a guest, but it was good to see him here looking hale and hearty. He brought his son Doug, who undoubtedly made the longest trip just to come to our meeting, from Switzerland.

Venera Maysuryants -- well, she's sort of in limbo, not quite a member but more than a guest. Her former introducer, George Chaffey, was summarily fired, and Skip McCowan stepped up and pronounced her name "perfectly".



And the daughters of Gillett Johnson, Chloe Gillett and Tessa Moon, were welcome attendees. Since "Moon" is Tamra's family name, the parents certainly left their IDs on these kids. When they and the Ware girls get through college and all that nonsense, they will undoubtedly join and raise our female percentage markedly.



UNFORTUNATE DEPARTURE

Easy come, easy go. In his short time here, Barry Durlster certainly made his mark, including a marvelous TGITLFOTM hosted by himself and especially Sheila. They're now moving to Reno. Barry will have a definite Reno-type job, working for the biggest slot machine company in the world. The pres gently encouraged him to check out the Reno Rotary club to which our former auctioneer, Dennis McCormack, belongs. And of course Barry's presence will be required when the Reno Train pulls in each January. Best wishes to Barry and Sheila, and we'll miss you.



WONDERLAND

As an administration staggers to a close, the fining (or non-fining) logic more and more resembles Alice's world.

Steve Ware was asked to stand, responded "No", and was fined \$5 for each letter of his response.

Patti Witalis was asked to stand, was told cryptically "Next week", and was ordered to sit.

For Carol's birthday, suave Brad Davis took her to Armadillo Willie's for ribs. \$10 from him, and \$10 from Kevin Croak for rolling his eyes in horror at all that meat juice dripping down.



For Kathy's birthday, Walt Nelson was also into BBQ'ing, but did it himself -- for 17 relatives. They worked it off by playing baseball at Rheem School. Since more ribs were eaten, this recognition was \$20, plus \$10 from Don Reichert as a welcome back.

Upon which, Don Reichert stood and announced that he hadn't come before because of all the birthdays and anniversaries that would have been recognized. Naturally, this flippant comment cost Joe Masciantonio \$10.



GEORGE IS EVERYWHERE

Mr. Chaffey had a nice surprise -- a picture of Gregor Krahenmann, aka Greg the Gridder, our Swiss exchange student of last year, working hard as usual next to a bucolic Italian lake. Also a reading of Greg's letter which basically said that our club is a wee bit looser than the Rotary club at his home. He has retired from football after a rather short career, and is now into jiu jitsu, probably so he can get some revenge on people like Tay Wheeler when he returns. Exchange students like Gregor are definitely a reason that we're into this program.



But when the pres passed around Harriet Ainsworth's article in today's Sun about our exchange students, which heavily featured George and Carol Chaffey, this was too much. To be exact, a \$5 "limelight" fine, and \$5 also from Alex Arnold who happened to be in the line of fire.

OUR PEOPLE ON THE FRONT LINES

Check out page 45 of your current Rotarian Magazine. There you will find our own troops, Chuck Kenney and Joanne Luscher, rebuilding their favorite school in New Orleans. They in fact are still there -- well, they're there again as we speak. What great devotion to a worthy cause.

CHARLIE GOT HIS ACT TOGETHER

Speaking of worthy causes and front lines, Charlie Franklin got his slide show going, and it was worth the wait. Nothing like shots of Camp Bucca in Iraq to bring home the point that those troops can use some moral and material support. One of the shots was of Betty Renck and the Patriot Sewers (of special pillow cases) -- Betty Renck being the mother of Charlie's secretary. One interesting fact, not universally known, is that the Blue Star Mothers of America goes back to World War II times. The Contra Costa organization will be sending 3,000 packages for arrival on July 4th.

(Dan Herbert verified the care that is taken of these packages. His son-in-law, who did receive our 50 boxes of books, also was given Blue Star boxes, but he left before they arrived. They followed him all the way home. Amanda made him write a whole bunch of thank-you notes.)

The packing will take place June 23rd. A signup sheet went around, and a good turnout appeared likely.



ALSO UPCOMING

Skip McCowan, always busy on the Acalanes front, announced that our short-time student exchange is taking place. Two weeks from now, Emily Simons, a sophomore at Acalanes, is going to Orleans, France for a 3-week visit. Returning with her will be her counterpart, Anne, who will visit Emily and her family.

Another of those signup sheets went around (but maybe not all the way) for 3/4 Century Club, whose guru, John Fazel, announced that the annual event will be taking place on June 21st, and it's one of the few opportunities to see the pres and Brad Davis team up in butchering a chicken.

At 12:15 on Saturday June 9th, at the old Burton School, there will be a paperback book sale (3,000 of them).

READIN' & WRITIN'

Guest speaker John Bernardin may have been intrigued by Buddy Burke's introduction, which not only listed John's many accomplishments but also pointed out that John kicks off this month when the programs are set up to attract female members with speakers such as John Bernardin, Julio Iglesias, etc.



John is with El Sobrante Rotary, and heads the District Literacy Program. The targets are English-challenged students. 25% of California's public school students are illiterate, some 1.6 million, up 300,000 from 10 years ago. 85% of these are born in the U.S. Even Lamorinda is not immune from this problem, although the numbers are much smaller. English learners speak 50+ different languages. Falling behind by the 3rd grade means great difficulty thereafter. 70% of teen English learners drop out in high school, and 49% can't pass the mandatory exit exam. Illiterate means unemployable. School teachers have to add these problems to their normal curriculum.

To the rescue comes Rotary, along with a Canadian company called AutoSkill which has developed a phonics-based program to teach these special students by computer. Included is an Academy of Reading and an Academy of Math. Cost is \$240/student/year. Payment is 1/3 by Rotary International, 1/3 by AutoSkill, and 1/3 by the student or a local Rotary club. Cost to sponsor one student for one year is \$80. A Rotary Tech Center can be set up. The smallest such center is 10 work stations for 200 students, costing \$15,000. Other partners with computer labs, such as Boys' and Girls' Clubs, also participate.

Pilot programs in Canada, Australia and elsewhere have shown that this program gets results. The program is individualized, and can begin at any time. Beginning instructions in Spanish are available. One problem brought up by our troops is how to get parental support, which seems the most key.

John, obviously a good sport, didn't balk when the donated book he was asked to sign was "Aliens are Coming".



GUESTS

Mary Elena Dochterman, Moraga Rotary, Asst. DG-Elect
Larry Sly, Concord Rotary and Food Bank
Doug Reichert, Swiss representative of the family
Venera Maysuryants, M R S Furniture Upholstery
Chloe Gillett Johnson
Tessa Moon Johnson

UPCOMING

6/8: Shelley Sandusky, attorney, death Penalty in California
6/15: Tom Rydell, US Coast Guard Academy
6/17-6/20: International Convention, Salt Lake City
6/21: 3/4 Century Club with Michael Muir, 10:30 - 1:30
6/22: Henry "Bud" Wolf, child abuse
6/29: Mystery meeting, dreamed up by the Pres-Elect
7/6: TGITLFOTM, Fillinger's, with The Danes
7/13: Skip Skivington, terrorism preparedness
7/27: TGITLFOTM -- Davis?
8/31: Our first working TGITLFOTM -- at the Raeths', sticking labels in dictionaries to be distributed at the beginning of the school year

