



# Lamorindan



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

June 8, 2007

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On the last day of school for Lamorinda students Barry Durlster, soon to be a member of one of the Reno Rotary Clubs, gave the thought for the day dealing with farewell. We will miss Barry but know that we will have chance to see him again in Reno before long.



Absent today was our trustworthy newsletter scribe, Cal Lee, Esquire, so the newsletter duties were taken on by another esquire. You know what they say about esquires-- “dime a dozen” or “interchangeable units.”

### Birthdays and Anniversaries



No birthday or anniversary recognitions were announced today due to the absence of brother Dave Watson who was celebrating his children's last day of school. Fines will roll over until next week. However, Ray Welles volunteered that he and Jackie have recently celebrated a mere 55 years of marriage with a short visit to Yosemite and dinner at the Awanhee. They know how to do it up in style. The padre offered up a donation to the club's

endowment and said he hopes to he have another equal allotment of time with his bride.





### Official Guests and Visitors

The visitors included Simone Raeth and Katie Rose Ware making the most of the last day of school to kick off the summer. Doug Reichert, visiting from Geneva, Switzerland, again was in attendance with his father, Don. Finally, Vinera Maysuryants, a frequent visitor, and guest of Rotary, was front and center.



### Announcements of Varying Sorts

John Fazel reminded those in attendance of the fact that the club's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary went unnoticed last week. The madness all started in June, 1987. John also announced that he will offer \$250 of his hard-earned commission dollars to help members of the club reach their Paul Harris \$1,000 goal. Bob Heinen quickly took John up on his offer. Others interested in a piece of the pie should give John a call.



Brother Fazel also reminded us of the upcoming Eighth Annual Three Quarter Century luncheon at the Orinda Community Church on June 21. If you would like to help serve the lunch get in touch with John.



Charlie Franklin announced again that the Friends of the Lafayette Library are donating 3,000 books to our club for distribution. Charlie ask for volunteers to help load the books into SUV or trucks tomorrow.

Our dictionary project received mention in the Sun due to the efforts of our publicity committee made up of Tom Black, Mr. Black and Thomas Black. A number of letters were received from the principals of the elementary schools that received dictionaries as a result of our club's largesse. We also received letters from thankful third graders including this unedited one from Martha at Springhill School: *Dear Rotary Club thank you for the dictionary you gave me. I will use it by if I need to now how to spell a word or defaninfeion. I Love it. Thank You!!! Sincerely Martha.*



In the category of shameful self-promotion it did not go unnoticed that our own Joe Metcalf's former body builder physique, although tastefully clothed in crisply ironed blue jeans and a Metcalf Construction chambray shirt was prominently displayed on the cover of *Builder Architect*. Joe was not present to receive his just deserts. Be sure to attend next week's meeting Joe.

A card was passed around for members to express their sympathy to former member Jon Sammann for the passing of his mother, Virginia.

Demotion of the current occupant of the throne, Sir Richard, is scheduled for June 13 at Ernie Furtado's castle. Can we wait that long???



### Death Penalty Lawyer

Our speaker this morning was Shelly Sandusky with the Habeas Corpus Resource Center, a state agency that provides legal representation for death row inmates. She obtained her undergraduate degree from Stanford and her law degree from UC Berkeley and then went to work for a large San Francisco law firm that allowed her to do pro bono representation of a death row inmate on what are called penalty phase appeals. Her job is to look for issues or evidence that did not get introduced in the trial that may have resulted in an unfair trial that lead to the jury sentencing the defendant to death. The issues may include a prosecutor who failed to advise the defense attorney of possible exculpatory evidence to a defense lawyer who fell asleep during trial. (Both this week's scribe and the esquire for whom he was substituting can relate to that.)

Shelly informed us that it is often the case that defendants who are sentence to death are ones with mental disabilities who have a more difficult time defending themselves. Even though most of the inmates committed terrible crimes Shelly's philosophy is "no one should be defined by the worst thing he ever did."



Rich Shearer said it well when he opined that the need is great in our democratic society for lawyers like Shelly who are willing to defend some of the most violent criminals to put the government to the test to prove the elements of the crime. These lawyers send a message to the government so that it knows it cannot become so powerful that it can trample the rights of other citizens.



Maybe the new Administration will reinstall the dress

