



Lamorindan



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

June 13, 2007

Richard Shearer — Reporter
Tom Black — Photographer
Chuck Yeager — Publisher

*"Rotary gives ordinary people the opportunity to do extraordinary things."
Sir Clem Renouf
Past President, Rotary International*

GUESTS AND VISITING ROTARIANS:

Queen Glenda and Princess Dana, both of the reigning House of Fillinger
Larry Sly - Concord and Contra Costa County Food Bank
John Sherry - the Lafayette Club's incoming Prez
Dave Johnson - John Linneman's cousin and an Illinois Club Past President
Barry McQuain
Simone Raeth - Charming as always
Katie Rose Ware - Ditto
Magda and Wes - The Mechanics Bank cheering section (more on that below)
Gene Voelkel - Concord (and winner of today's Kevin Croak Second Seating Award)



Prez Paul waxes philosophic....

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Nobody was born. Nobody got married. No money was collected . . . Well, not for B's and/or A's, anyway.

... AND THERE WAS GREAT REJOICING ... :

Our President's microphone was MIA today. So was the roving handheld one. Because we're a tough crowd (as His Fillingeress has been saying for almost a year now), we survived. Barely.

FONDLY FOLLOWING FRICKOVA:

Following the one and only Zuzka should be significantly less hectic for the next few days, as she will be recovering from the all-night Grad Night bash at Acalanes High School. Before that, though, she kept up her busy schedule by going along with the Raeth's as they celebrated Simone's birthday. Apparently, Zuzka had never seen a birthday celebration that featured a flying trapeze. Well, she has now, and both birthday girl Simone and Zuzka did the trapeze thing 50 feet up in the air. (Yes, they were in the appropriate safety harnesses, right Thomas? Uh, *right*, Thomas?)



Zuzka updates the group



Debbie is inducted

NEW MEMBER, TAKE ONE:

Debbie Cooper is a banker and a heck of a nice person. As of today, she is also a Rotarian. More specifically, she is a Lamorinda Sunrise Rotarian. Pat Flaharty and Thomas Raeth inducted Debbie into our midst, cheered by rent-a-minions Magda and Wes, who came from the local branch of Mechanics Bank to cheer Debbie on. Congratulations, Debbie., Your circle of friends just grew by 1.2 million people worldwide, and there are now 32,000 or so more places in the world where you are welcome.



NEW MEMBER, TAKE TWO:

We also inducted a new honorary member, that being none other than Katie Rose Ware. Not only does this mean that our weekly raffle is in good shape (at least as soon as somebody gets more tickets to sell), but it also means that proud but shy papa Steve no longer has to introduce her every week,

AND SPEAKING OF EXTRACTING MONEY FROM STEVE WARE:

One of the great things we do every year is send high school juniors to Camp Royal. This year, one of our sponsored campers is Becky Ware. This is a double treat, because it is always great to send one of our own to this great camp, but it also provided yet another opportunity to reach into papa Steve Ware's wallet. Prez Paul (who has one foot out the door, higher office-wise and his other foot on a banana peel) was about to blip right by this chance to cull some stray Jacksons from Steve's wallet, but Sergeant-With-Arms Gillett ("The Collector") Johnson was on top of his game and nailed Steve. Steve made a graceful bow to the inevitable by donating \$100 towards Becky's Paul Harris Fellowship.



Steve Ware pays up.....

YEAH, IT'S REALLY HAPPENING:

The Demotion of a certain President Paul Fillinger is going to happen. Really. At least that what Rich Shearer says, and you all know what an organizational genius *he* is. (Gee, I didn't that people rolling their eyes even made a sound, let alone one that loud.) It'll start somewhere around 6:00, it'll be over by somewhere around 9:00, it'll cost somewhere around \$40 a head, and it will either be at the Round Up or at Hays Englehart's house. Yes, there will be something to eat and something to drink. No, there will not be a repeat of last year's Demotion's goat incident.



Rich Shearer outlines the non-plan plan



LAST CALL FOR THE THREE-QUARTER CENTURY CLUB LUNCHEON:

The Annual Three-Quarter Century Club Luncheon is this Thursday, June 19, 2008, at the Orinda Community Church. Kitchen help, wait staff, and clean-up folks are still needed. If you have any time available between 10-ish and 2-ish, we can use you. Contact John Fazel for more info.

TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITY TO HELP, DEAD AHEAD:

The East Bay Stand Down is coming up on August 7-10 (that's a Thursday through a Sunday). This is a four day encampment at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton for veterans who are, shall we say, down on their luck need a helping hand. What kind of helping hand? Well, for starters, they get three hots and a cot for four days, which is a huge step up for many of them. Next, they get "one stop shopping" to access to almost any kind of social service they might need. Doctors? Got 'em. Dentists? Got 'em. Access to drug and alcohol rehab programs, job training programs, housing programs, mental health programs? Got it. There will even be a retired judge convening a genuine Superior Court to help folks clear up outstanding legal problems.

This is simply a great program, and Lamorinda Sunrise will be there. Patti Witalis and Brad Davis are heading up out involvement: contact them for more info or if you need help figuring out how to sign up. Please come out for this one, for some or all of it.

PINNING IS BACK, REDUX:

Apparently, cleaning out stock of pins and stuff is high on Prez Paul's end-of-term to-do list, as he flung bits o' metal, plastic and ribbon and all manner of seemingly random directions.



Thus Jim Brencic received the coveted "Honorary Governor's Thing" Award (and for about the gazillionth time, I really do not make this stuff up).



Not to be outdone, Mike Edwards snagged a "Prospector's Award" for showing up after having brought back a banner from one Berlin Club and not bringing back a banner from a second one because he couldn't find them. Mike also reports that he had to make due with a non-standard make-up card because they had run out three months ago and had not gotten around to ordering more yet. (*Reporter's note: Ace investigative reporting has uncovered that this is not a Club of Germans, but rather of Lamorinda Sunrise ex-pats.*)



Gillett Johnson received something or other for his great work with the sounds system - yeah, the one that wasn't working today - and for bringing us a banner from the Geneva Club (the one in New York, not the one in Switzerland), where he was first exposed to Rotary via family and friends.

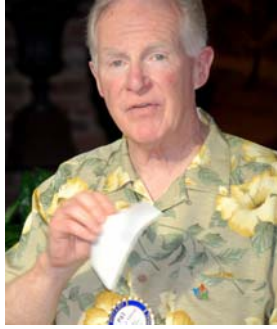


Last but certainly least, George Chaffey was recognized and rewarded for something or other with something or other. This reporter could not ascertain why because he was busy making up . . . er, I mean researching . . . the item about Tamarind Sunrise ex-pat in Germany.

THIS IS THE STUFF THAT REALLY MAKES YOU PROUD OF AMERICAN KNOW-HOW:

Americans have conquered powered flight. Americans have conquered the challenge of getting people to the moon and back. Americans have even conquered self-service gas pumps. (Well, Oregonians haven't, but they'll catch on.) But today, we saw, or rather heard, in action a technology that relegates all of those formerly impressive achievements to the dustbin of irrelevance. That's right, we privileged few of Lamorinda Sunrise were witness to a demonstration of the Artificial Fart Machine. I mean, really, can you think of another society on the face of the planet that would have the vision to imagine, and the techno-prowess to create, a remote-controlled, battery-operated machine that duplicates six different varieties of flatulence? I think not.

There is no doubt in this reporter's mind that it is the USA's unquestioned dominance in the field of digestion system sound reproduction that keeps us at the forefront of civilization, and is the real reason for the fear and jealousy that makes us so threatening to and hated by the forces of repression and not-niceness throughout the world.



PRESIDENT-ABOUT-TO-BE PAT HATH SPOKEN:

Aren't incoming Club Presidents cute? They're just brimming with enthusiasm and great ideas and joy that has yet to be beaten out of them by unforeseen events and Club inertia. And it was in the spirit of a puppy that hasn't yet met the rolled-up newspaper that Pat Flaherty, who will soon don the presidential straightjacket, asked us all to come up with three things about ourselves that nooooooobody knows. Each week, a different set of hitherto-unknown personality defects will be read out, and we will try to identify (1) which Club member is being described and (2) what their DSM-IV-R diagnosis is.

PROGRAM HABITAT FOR HUMANITY:

Habitat for Humanity has been building homes all over the country for folks who otherwise could not afford them for at least 20 years. Today, we heard from Tod Vedock and Bob Frick, two hardworking volunteers for Habitat for Humanity East Bay, one of 1700 regional Habitat affiliates. Mr. Vedock told us that HfH-EB has built 200 homes in the past 20 years and is aiming at building another 200 in the next five. That's quite a ramp-up.



Mr. Vedock explains Habitat for Humanity

A common misconception is that Jimmy Carter started Habitat. He didn't, but two entrepreneurs from Americus, Georgia (which is just down the road from Carter's hometown of Plains) did. One that needs to be made very clear - HfH does not give homes to anyone. Instead, Habitat builds the homes using volunteer labor and (whenever possible) donated materials, plus 500 hours of "sweat equity" from the eventual owners. The homes generally range from 2 to 5 bedrooms and generally cost between \$200,000 and \$400,000 to build, at least around here. Recipients are very carefully screened and buy the home via a zero-percent 30-year mortgage. In addition, the sales contract provides that, if the recipients move within a set time, they must sell the home back to Habitat at a pre-determined price. These requirements have several desirable results: the folks who move in have worked on their home and also have to pay for it, which increases the "pride of ownership" factor, which in turn increases the likelihood that the recipients will keep the place up; and a number of marginal areas are now populated by stable families creating stable neighborhoods.

Habitat also stresses "green" buildings, which, contrary to what you might think, can be cheaper to build with some planning than non-green buildings. And Habitat spends 10% or less of donated funds on overhead - a darn good level of performance.

So what can you do to help Habitat for Humanity? Two things leap to mind: give money and give your time. You can find out how at www.habitat.org.



Bob Frick and fundraising..

We also met Lafayette resident Bob Frick, who is just another Habitat volunteer. Okay, maybe he's a little more than just another volunteer. A cancer survivor, Mr. Frick is marking his 71st birthday this year by bicycling from San Diego, Ca to St. Augustine, FL, raising at least \$71,000 for Habitat. Mr. Frick rode in a 500+ miles fund-raising ride for Habitat for Humanity in Minnesota last year. The ride had 140 riders, 40 volunteers, and raised \$340,000 for Habitat (with only 3% for overhead). Inspired by this great event, Mr. Frick reasons that if he could do 500 miles, he can keep going and make the 3300 miles across the southern tier between August 1 and September 30 of this year. On the plus side, wife Barbara will driving

the support/dag vehicle, and various people will be joining Mr. Frick for portions of the ride. On the minus side, the it will be really, really hot most of the way. Mr. Frick plans to go 60-65 miles per day on average and to speak to civic and cycling groups along the way.

Mr. Frick plans to go after both individual donors (whom he hopes will turn around and sell the idea to more individual donors) and corporate sponsors. With the level of enthusiasm and organization Mr. Frick shows, and with Mr. Vedock's active support, you can't help but think that the amount raised by this ride will blow well past \$71,000.

More info? Easy. Just go to www.habitatcycleofhope.com or www.firstgiving.com/cycleofhope. Or you can call Barbara Frick at 925-408-4702. Or you can e-mail Bob Frick at kesrobfrick@comcast.net or Barabara Frick at kesbarbfrick@concast.net. Still can't ger info? E-mail Tod Vedock at tsvedock@yahoo.com.

Habitat for Humanity is a great program, and Mr. Frick's ride is a great way to raise awareness and funds. Hear's to hoping to get a follow-up report from Mr. Frick this Fall on a successful effort.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Our website Calendar (<http://www.rotarycoco.org/cgi-bin/caldisp.pl?club=53>) will have even more info, but here is a fair sampling:

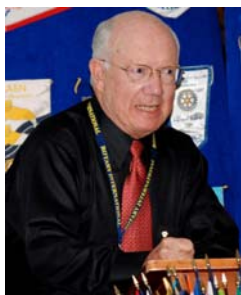
Thursday, June 19, 2008 - Three-Quarter Century Club Luncheon. Once again, Orinda's 75-and-over set are treated to lunch and a fun time. Orinda's first mayor, Dick Hegge, and Joyce Hawkins, Orinda's Do-Everything Person, will be the speakers, talking about "Birth of the City: Before the Vote."

Friday, June 20, 2008, Weekly Meeting, Postino, 7:00-8:15 a.m. Learn the secrets of speaking! Michael Mataraza, Head Trainer for Anthony Robbins, will explore the psychology of speaking and persuasion. Mike has been speaking internationally over 10 years.

Wednesday, June 25, 2008 - Super Top-Secret Demotion of Paul Fillinger Party - Details as they become available, but it will definitely involve dinner and silliness.

Friday, June 27, 2008, Weekly Meeting, Postino, 7:00-8:15 a.m. Pat Flaherty takes over the reigning reins. Instead of Kevin Croak and Rich Shearer Exposing Themselves, President Pat will be exposing his hopes, dreams, and wishful thinking for the coming year.

Thursday, August 7-Sunday, August 10, 2008. East Bay Stand Down, Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton. Help veterans who are having a rough go of it at this four-day one-stop-shopping extravaganza of caring. Contact Patti Witalis or Brad Davis for more info or help signing up.



Briefly Noted--Swan Song

By Paul Fillinger
6/13/2008

This is probably the last "not-so-Briefly Noted" column I will inflict on you. My term as president isn't over until we get back from the National Convention but it seems best that Pat comment on that event.

This has been quite a year. Same ol' stuff for long-time members; maybe quite new and interesting for the newer members. I'm not an old member or a new member so let me take the middle ground (whatever that means.) As a last pass at these weekly communications, I'll try to summarize what the year has been from my perspective.

Starting this year, I had some goals that I felt passionately about: better communication with and between club members; fabulous meetings of interesting people and subjects to inform and enthuse our members; increase our membership by six or eight with special emphasis on women—because we are really lopsided in male/female representation. And to create more hands-on projects to involve more members.

You have to judge how well we did. Obviously we could have done better on all counts. We will keep trying for better results. I purposely have left a little room for improvement for Pat to work on his year!

The big “failure” for me this year was the Marquis de Lafayette mural project that originally had been directed toward the great blank wall in the South entrance to the Bart station. We rushed to have an idea to present at the 250th anniversary of the birth of Lafayette last September 6. The city hosted a really nice celebration, at which we “unveiled” seven panels that could go in the Bart station. (A couple of weeks before, after two favorable meetings with Bart officials, the idea was shot down by Bart top management.)

We have shown the sketches in several local venues since last summer’s birthday celebration, asking the public for their ideas. The new library “passed” on incorporating our proposal into their art plans. We presented the idea to the city council as an addition to the Lafayette Plaza Park . They referred it to the new Lafayette Art Commission (which *will be* set up in July) for their recommendation.

If I have looked downcast at times, it is because of being so jerked around by this project which I believe could be such a positive addition to our city. However, the unexpected benefit that has come from all this is a closer working relationship with the “other club”—Lafayette Rotary Club. I can’t say enough nice things about a whole bunch of those guys...you know many of them because they are frequently at our meetings. In fact Larry Duson has been a guest so many times, we honored him with a Red Badge. There is also Jay Lifson, who had the Chamber of Commerce on our side, Steve Falk, the city manager, Bill Ames, Bob Shusta, Dick Holt, Mike, AJ -- I’m forgetting many. John Sherry, their new president has picked up the ball and is helping me and Erling Horn keep the project alive.

The mural project, with all its failings, has brought our clubs closer together! That may be one of my most important accomplishments of the year.

So, Pat, good luck on your goals and vision for your year. Give me a little breathing space and then I’ll be back ready to go. Go get ‘em tiger!

Paul



Pat Flaherty was named Rotarian of the year, which was appropriate since he has worked so hard to hold it all together in preparation for “his” year



President Paul Fillinger poses with a proud Steve Ware and his two Honorary Member daughters Becky (left) and Katie Rose