



Lamorindan



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

September 28, 2007

Dave Dickson — Pictures
Rich Shearer—Editor
Kevin Croak & Patti Witalis — Publishers

Da King was back, and he brought Uber-King Stan Smalley, aka District Governor of District 5160 for 2007-08, along for the ride.

GUESTS & VISITING ROTARIANS:

Mike Maysuryants - What a coincidence, we have a member with the same last name . . .
Jessica Pallares - Rotary Youth Exchange Student, visiting her friend Zuzka
Gary Irwin - Moraga President-Elect, here taking notes
Rudy Reich - Orinda
Gene Vogel - Concord (making up here in preparation for a trip to Spain)
Lad Lynch - Moraga (making up here because he is a glutton for punishment)
Eddie Roodveldt - Moraga
Mary-Elena Dochterman - Moraga, Asst. DG, ready to take a bullet for DG Stan.
Carol Chaffey - ready to push George into the line of fire
Mark Calendar - San Francisco #2 (we gave his daughter a dictionary - he came to see just what sort of whackos we really are)
Katie Rose Ware - selling the living heck out of those raffles tix
Queen Glenda Fillingner wasn't at the meeting this morning. I checked. Carefully. But she was at the Petanque TIGITLFOTM. I checked there, too.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Held in abeyance because Hays Engelhart wisely concluded that DG Stan wasn't quite ready for the ensuing mayhem. But just wait 'til next week . . .



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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:

Friday, October 5, 2007: Meeting, 7:00 a.m., Postino - Ann and Hunter Holding will tell us about their ranch, located across the street from Acalanes High School. Deer Hill Ranch is a nonprofit 501c3 Experiential Education Center located on a full-time working ranch in Lafayette. The ranch was saved from development by its founders in 1995. They conduct self esteem, environmental awareness and leadership courses for children and adults.

Saturday, October 6, 2007: District 5160 Rotary Foundation Day, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Six Flags Discovery Kingdom, Vallejo (formerly Marine World). The featured speaker will be RI Past President Rajendara K. Saboo, who's presentation is titled: "Bread Out of Stone." With his vast experience in Rotary and his long commitment as a volunteer on Rotary Medicare missions throughout Africa and in Cambodia, President Saboo's comments promise to be insightful, inspirational and a reminder of how Rotarians make a positive difference in the world. Information and registration forms are available on the District 5160 website. http://www.rotary5160.org/events/foundation_day.php

Friday, October 12, 2007: Meeting, 7:00, Postino - Program TBA (but you know it'll be a good one, darn it).

Tuesday, October 16, 2007: Project Homeless Connect 2, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Willow Pass Center, 2748 East Olivera Road, Concord CA 94519 Similar to the East Bay Stand-Down was for homeless veterans, Project Homeless Connect is a designed to be a one-stop shop for the general homeless population in Contra Costa County, offering a time and place to get as many as possible connected to benefits, medical care, substance abuse and mental health counseling, social services, housing and shelter assistance, and other services these people vitally need. Can you help. Absolutely, you can. Contact Joanne Luscher for more info, or check the website at www.cchealth.org, or call the CoCo County Health Services Homeless Program at 925-313-6124 or 313-6145

Friday, October 19, 2007: Meeting, Postino - Why You Should, at all costs, go to the International Rotary Convention in Los Angeles next June 15 to 18. (One reason is that Salt Lake City's convention was so exciting. Two guys will tell ya! I bet one of 'em is named George.)

Saturday, October 20, 2007: Help the kids of the Garden Park Apartments carve their own pumpkins. Time TBA. Contact Brad Davis to help out.



Friday October 26, 2007: Meeting, Postino - Another installment of the Oscar, Emmy, Tony, Golden Globe and Razzie Award winning series, EXPOSE YOURSELF! This month's victims . . . er, honorees, will feature the best of the newish members and the best of the slightly less newish members: Joe Masciantonio and Don Reichert. We have it on good authority that transmissions and scaffolds will be prominently featured.

Thursday, April 24 to Saturday, April 26, 2008: District 5160 Annual District Conference. Radisson Hotel, 500 Leisure Lane, Sacramento. More info, registration forms, hotel information, and event brochures are available on the District 5160 website. <http://www.rotary5160.org/events/2008Conference.php>

Sunday, June 15 to Wednesday, June 18, 2008: Rotary International Convention, Los Angeles, CA. This is the high point of the Rotary year. Ask Pat Flaherty for info, or check out the Rotary International website. <http://www.rotary.org/events/conventions/2008/index.html>

ROOT BEER STILL FLOATS:

Alex Arnold received a hearty "well done" and the prestigious "Your Name Here" Memorial Rotarian-of-the-Month award from King Paul II for his efforts to herd this crop of cats through Root Beer Float weekend. And well-deserved such honors were. But there was one participant whose efforts have been unforgivably overlooked - until this reporter scoped the dope. Well-placed sources confirm that Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary has found a new "barker" to lure, cudgel and otherwise beat passers-by into surrendering their \$3. That would be (drum roll, please) Stefan Raeth, who packed 'em in. Now he did not make the usual rookie mistake of blowing out his vocal chords in the first 5 minutes. Noooooo, years of training with Dad in Dodger-bashing for a full nine innings made Stefan a full-on pro from the git-go, hawking them root beer floats for his full shift. (And you say the Lamorindan doesn't get an scoops . . .)



I THINK SOMEBODY NOTICED:

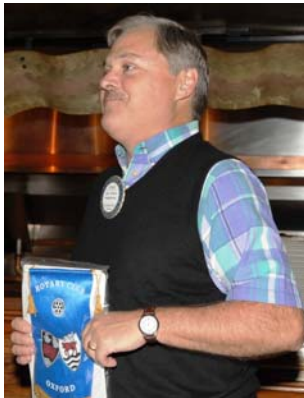
Thomas Raeth brought some mail today. A bunch of mail. Heaps o' mail, even. Why so much? Because we got a ton of responses from our efforts to distribute dictionaries to the third graders of Lafayette. (There is no truth to the rumor that Dan Herbert was deeply upset that we wouldn't let him have one.) We also received a "thank you" response in a different form. Mark Calendar of the San Francisco #2 Club, came to check us out and say thanks. Why? It seems that his daughter is a Lafayette third-grader and came home one day with a dictionary . . . Thanks for sharing the letters, Thomas, and thank you for stopping by, Mark.



HELPING MAKE ROTARY’S GOOD WORKS CONTINUE ON:

You all know about the Paul Harris Awards, right? (If not, talk to Paul Fillinger, or Rich Shearer, or Joanne Luscher, or Cal Lee, or any Past President, and they’ll be glad to explain it to you.) Well, the next step up in becoming a Paul Harris Society member. Receiving a Paul Harris Award means one has contributed a total of \$1,000 to the Rotary Foundation. Becoming a Paul Harris Society member means one contributes \$1,000 a year to the Foundation. Joanne Luscher has a member of this recently-formed group for a while, now. Today, DG Stan Smalley inducted Skip McCowan in the Society. Many thanks, Joanne and Skip, for your contributions to help keep Rotary’s good works alive and flourishing. And thank you, Stan, for flagging this important avenue of service for us.

AND THEY WERE MORE REVERENT THAN WE ARE? PERISH THE THOUGHT.:



Dan Herbert travels. A lot. Usually on business. This time, however, he was able to travel for fun, at least part of the time. As a result, Dan brought back a banner from the Oxford Club (England, not Mississippi), a meeting of which he attended when he was “across the pond” to hear daughter Amanda present a paper at some university or other for which the town is apparently known. Dan reports that the level of decorum was just a liiiiittle higher than at our gatherings, hard as that might be to believe. In an exclusive after-meeting interview, Dan reports that Amanda’s paper was incredibly well received by the Dons and their minions (she gave scholarly attention to the missionary work - often at great personal peril and all over the world - of Quaker women in the 1600’s or thereabouts. Dan also claims he stayed awake for the entire paper presentation, but the Lamorindan has not yet located independent confirmation of that.

FOR THE LAST TIME, IT IS *NOT* BOCCE:

TGITLFOTM came and went once again. This time, we gathered at the Lafayette Petanque Courts (seems to me we did something or other there about a year ago . . .). Party-meister Chuck Kenney put together a grand gathering, featuring wine, cheese, soft drinks, wine, Buddy Burke not showing up until almost 7:00 because someone kept telling him the Courts were on Moraga Road (“you can’t miss it”), instruction in Petanque from people who actually know that the game involves more than just randomly throwing small cannon balls at each other, wine, and a great deal of fun. And no, I am not making any of this up, least of all the wanderings of Buddy Burke, who now claims to know every single bush on Moraga Road (as distinct from the Bushes of Kennebunkport or Crawford).



FOUNDATION DAY, DEAD AHEAD:

A reminder from Cal Lee: Saturday, October 6, 2007: District 5160 Rotary Foundation Day, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Six Flags Discovery Kingdom, Vallejo (formerly Marine World). The featured speaker will be RI Past President Rajendara K. Saboo, who's presentation is titled: "Bread Out of Stone." With his vast experience in Rotary and his long commitment as a volunteer on Rotary Medicare missions throughout Africa and in Cambodia, President Saboo's comments promise to be insightful, inspirational and a reminder of how Rotarians make a positive difference in the world. Information and registration forms are available on the District 5160 website. http://www.rotary5160.org/events/foundation_day.php

SEEING AMERICA, ZUZKA STYLE:



Zuzka's adventures keep on coming. First, Eddie Roodveldt took her and other Youth Exchangers to Lake Shasta for the annual houseboat gathering. (She apparently did not match Gregor's exuberant dive into the super-cold water.) Later, off to Walnut Creek's Fresh Choice, and the Acalanes High Senior Breakfast. And as busy as Zuzka's dance card has been, I'll bet she has some openings. So, remember to say those important words to Zuzka when you are going to be doing something: "Want to come along,"



IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN:

Every year, Brad Davis picks up a bunch of pumpkins at Westival and takes them to the Garden Park Apartments (the transitional housing facility started by the Inter-Faith Council that we have been supporting) so the kids there can have fun carving their own jack-o-lanterns. This year, he'll be doing the honors on Saturday, October 20. You should be there - it's one of the great feel-good projects of the Rotary year. Time is to be determined, but it'll likely be in the afternoon. Stay tuned, Brad will fill in the details.

SHOES TO TANZANIA - FINAL CALL:

Bring your old shoes to Cal Lee or Joanne Luscher immediately, if not sooner, as the train, or boat, or whatever to Tanzania is leaving in the very near future.

A GOOD WALK, SPOILT:

Our intrepid golfers apparently failed in their mission to keep the Paul Harris Trophy at last Monday's golf tournament put on by the Lafayette Club. The reason was obscured by convoluted explanations, but it appears that Paul Fillinger and Thomas Raeth are somehow responsible. Heap the appropriate obloquy as you see fit.



PROGRAM:



District Governor Stan Smalley came to visit today. He claimed that out reputation preceded us. His biggest disappointment? That his fellow Iowa State Cyclone alumnus, John Fazel, couldn't be here to join in a chorus of the Iowa State fight song. Stan seemed to be getting over it. He also shared his "new sheriff in town" hat, courtesy of the 66 Club Presidents of District 5160, including the face drawn in the underside of the bill, staring at Stan every time he dons said chapeau.

DG Stan invited us to the District Conference, coming up April 24 to Saturday, April 26, 2008, at the Radisson Hotel, 500 Leisure Lane, Sacramento. This will be a fine time, including a golf tournament, a Texas Hold 'Em tournament, and a "Prospector Camp"-themed mega-party. You'll also have a chance to meet the incoming GSE team ("Group Study Exchange") from District 9920. Wherzat? Madagascar, Djibouti, Mauritius (home of the dodo bird) and some other island nations in the Indian Ocean, and a team of young professionals from said distant shores will be at the Conference. Mot likely, so will be Madagascar's Ambassador to the U.N., Zina Andrianarivelo. Now, to help DG Stan persuade you to come, we editors of the Lamorindan will now take away any excuse you may have for not knowing how to sign up for this great event (and signing up now will save you some serious bucks) - here is the link to the website where you can download all the needed forms and info: <http://www.rotary5160.org/events/2008Conference.php>

Of course, a DG doesn't visit without issuing some challenges, and far be it from the good Mr. Smalley to be any different. So, what were the challenges?

(1) All Rotarians, try one new Rotary thing this year. It could be as simple as going to the International Convention in LA. Or it could be taking on a project you've never tried before. If every Rotarian in District 5160 did this, think of the thousands of hours of new, fresh Rotary energy - and that's just in our one District.

(2) Increase membership. Every District Governor says this. Every District Governor is right. The sad fact is that Rotary Clubs - all of 'em, including ours - loses members. Even if every single Rotarian is 100% committed and 100% motivated, each Club will lose members to normal attrition: retirements, job changes, moves, and even death. Thus if we are not inviting new guests and recruiting new members, we are losing ground. And losing ground can mean no more Rotary. Think it can't happen? Consider this: in the last five years, membership in North American Clubs has decreased by 16,000. If this trend continue, there will be no more Rotary on the North American continent in a few decades. Not acceptable. So we need to recruit. Always.

(3) Add one new Club in District 5160. We'll get back to you on that one.

(4) Support the Rotary Foundation. This one is a no-brainer, and one with literally a ton of bang for the buck. In fact, for every buck that goes into the Rotary Foundation, 100 cents goes to world-bettering projects, and 50 of those 100 cents comes back to District 5160 in the form of Simplified Grants, the LN-4 hand project, and other great works. So, DG Stan is encouraging 100% participation in giving to the Rotary Foundation. He would like every Club in the District



to have a Foundation project. He would like to see each Club have 10% of its members be members of the Paul Harris Society. And he wants to see us continue to support Polio Plus, Rotary's efforts to wipe out polio once and for all.

On the Polio Plus front, we were sooooo close to meeting Rotary International's goal of eliminating polio from the Earth by 2005, but unforeseen difficulties left us just a hair short. But Polio Plus has continued to march on, and continues to make progress. That last 1% of polio cases has proven to be the most difficult to beat, but we're getting there: in the first six months of 2006, there were 680 new polio cases worldwide; in the first six months of 2007, there were only 245 cases.

Stan left us with a thought from Konrad Adenauer, the Chancellor who helped guide West Germany from WWII pariah to recovering, respectable, responsible nation: "We all live under the same sky, but we do not share the same horizons." Let's continue Rotary's efforts to make everyone's horizons not the same, but equally bright and promising.



Briefly Noted

By Paul

After a week's vacation at a memory clinic, it was embarrassing to have mispronounced TAGITELFOTUM and completely forget Mary Elena Dochterman's name. But other than that it was good to hear what's-his-name tell us about his goals for this Rotary year. Seriously I think our club showed a lot of enthusiasm and respect for what Governor Stan Smalley had to say Friday morning. He was well rehearsed—we were the 50th Rotary club he has spoken to in the last two months.

For those who didn't make it to the TGITLFOTM, I have a set of steel balls and will be happy to teach you how to play Petanque. Mary and Bill Albright along with some of their club's players were there and taught us some of the rules and subtleties of the game.

And Thanks to the Hot Doggers manning booths at both Stanley Middle School and Lafayette Elementary School events on Saturday.

Dr. Frank Tom will speak to us Oct. 6. You remember Frank...he's the Lafayette School District superintendent that helped us distribute dictionaries a couple of weeks ago.

See you Friday. Bring a friend.

Paul

