



Lamorindan



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

November 16, 2007

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

GUESTS & VISITING ROTARIANS:

Bobbi Landers - Orinda citizen extraordinaire, and Buddy Burke's Mother-in-Law, too.
Holly Landers - Bobbi's lovely daughter, and Buddy's significantly better half.
Ken Dickson - formerly Moraga, now Chico (and welcome back to the old neighborhood, Ken)
Geoff Mettler - He was supposed to be Prez last year instead You-Know-Who, but stuff happens.
Kristin Lane - Urban Suburban, and must have lost a bet to Dave Watson.
Katie Rose Ware - Becky's sister.
And, of course, the one, the only – Queen Glenda



BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & OTHER NOTEWORTHY STUFF:

Hays Englehart is going to be a grandfather, Brad Davis is celebrating his father-in-law's 94th, and Buddy Burke got some serious face time with The Governor. All of this generated funds for the commonweal, but only Ernie "Eyeshades" Furtado knows how much.



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, November 30, 2007: Meeting, Postino, 7:00-8:15 a.m. Once again, it's time to Expose Yourself!! Chuck Kenney & somebody named "TBD" will do the exposing.

Saturday, December 1, 2007: Blue Star Moms package send-off to our troops overseas. Come and help.. Call Charlie Franklin for details.

Friday, December 7, 2007: Meeting, Postino, 7:00-8:15 a.m. Dr. Michael deBoisblanc- "Modern Day MASH, Current combat medical care in the Iraqi Theater"--a reality check.

Wednesday, December 12, 2007: Holiday Party, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Our annual festivities will be at Frank's Church, aka Orinda Community Church. Bring the kids, grandkids, etc., and bring a wrapped present for the kids you bring for Santa to hand out.

Friday, December 14, 2007: Meeting, Postino, 7:00-8:15 a.m. Soprano Linda Watson has gained international recognition as one of the most important Wagnerian artists to have emerged in recent seasons. Her debut at the Bayreuth Festival in 1998 as Kundry in Parsifal under Giuseppe Sinopoli was followed by prestigious invitations for important debuts throughout the world. And since she's Dave Watson's *and* a past Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar, we get her for a morning

Friday, December 21, 2007: Meeting, Postino, 7:00-8:15 a.m. Christmas Musical festivities...more info to come.

Friday, December 28, 2007: Meeting, Postino, 7:00-8:15 a.m. Scott Denison, General Manager of the Dean Lescher Center will fill us in on the exciting happenings at our treasured cultural center!

Saturday, March 15, 2008: The one, the only, THE Lamorinda Sunrise Annual Dinner & Auction. Great times, great auction items, a great chance to share what we do with friends, family . . . and maybe even some future Rotarians. Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church, Moraga.

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>

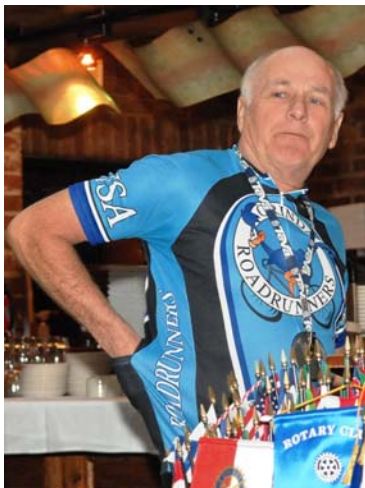
Sunday, June 15 to Wednesday, June 18, 2008: Rotary International Convention, Los Angeles, CA. This is the high point of the Rotary year. Ask Pat Flaherty for info, or check out the Rotary International website. <http://www.rotary.org/events/conventions/2008/index>

OOOH, HE'S GOOD:

Tom Black got another placement of our good deeds in the press, this time in "Lafayette Today

WELL, MAYBE NOT *THAT* GOOD:

The article in "Lafayette Today" had a lovely picture of Al Sevilla at our pumpkin carving soiree for the kids at the Garden Park Apartments (remember that?). Too bad Tom identified the pic as that of Brad Davis. Come to think of it, it's the best Brad has looked in a photo in many a moon.



I THINK HE MEANS IT:



Pat Flaharty, He Who Will Be King, asked us all to wear our Rotary pins. Daily. It's a great way to invite questions from potential members and a great way to be recognized by fellow Rotarians. Remember, come July, Pat will be holding the finest, er, I mean recognition reins, so a word to the wise and all that.

BANNERS ARE COMING IN:

Charlie Franklin brought us a banner from the Canyon Lake, Texas, Club. Mike Edwards brought us a banner from the Brugge-West, Belgium, Club. Very cool, guys.

AND SPEAKING OF CHARLIE FRANKLIN . . . :

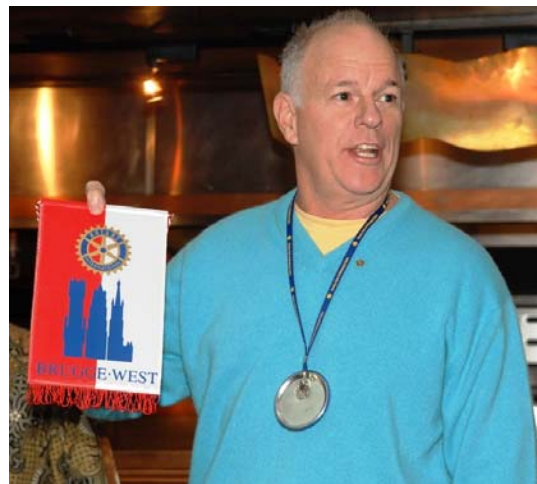
Remember a little before last Fourth of July, when Charlie Franklin arranged for a passel of us to help the Blue Star Moms pack off close to 3,000 packages to be sent off to our soldiers, sailors and Marines in Iraq and elsewhere? Well, the Blue Star Moms are at it again, only more so. Come December 1, they will be packing up 5,000 (!) holiday packages to send off to some folks who could really use the reminder that we at home care about them. Call Charlie for details, but please try to set aside some time for this fun, worthwhile project.

ZUZKA IN AMERICA:

Studying. More studying. She was looking forward to Thanksgiving, though.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION WON'T BE CLOSER OR CHEAPER ANYTIME SOON:

As you may have heard in recent weeks, the Rotary International Convention is coming to Los Angeles this coming June. It's not likely to be closer, more convenient or, when you factor in travel expenses, cheaper in the near future. It's an unequalled chance to learn about the world of Rotary and make friends from literally around the world. Not only that, but a bunch of your fellow Lamorinda Sunrise Rotarians are signed up to go. It's the best time to go, so why not?



PROGRAM:

Transportation. Getting from here to there. Like the weather, everybody talks about it. Fortunately, unlike the weather, there are people doing something about it. Today, Guest Introducer Bobbi Landers presented Amy Worth, Orinda City Council member, former Orinda Mayor, member of the Contra Costa County Transit Authority, representative of the CoCo mayors on the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (the organization that disburses tons of federal transit cash, among other important stuff you don't often hear about) – basically, the area's go-to expert on everything transit-related.



So what's on the horizon? A fourth bore for the Caldecott Tunnel, funded in part by the extra one-half cent sales tax we've been paying. Funds for towns to maintain their streets continue to drop, which we can see (and feel) in our increasingly chewed-up streets. Programs are increasing to promote car-pooling (including at Miramonte and Las Lomas High Schools). Average commutes are getting longer.

Challenges? Not surprisingly, funding is a big one. Maintenance of existing infrastructure requires about 80% of the transportation budget, but CoCo County keeps growing, meaning it's getting increasingly difficult to keep up with the demands placed on an increasingly behind-the-curve transportation system. Need examples? Pick Highway 4, Highway 24, I-80, I-580, I-680 -any one of 'em will make the point at commute time.

It also doesn't help that, now that a pool of funds has become available for "trade corridors" (*e.g.*, freight moving in and out of Oakland, the 4th largest container port in the US), Southern California is working overtime to snag the whole and leave NorCal high and dry (to mix metaphors).

Oh, and BART needs expanding. Nothing new there, but no less urgent for that.

But progress is being made, and the news is certainly not all glum. For example, the aforementioned 4th Caldecott bore is moving forward; it will happen, and traffic will be better, especially in the counter-commute directions. (Anyone who has suffered through the alleged "counter-commute" on 24 should be dancing in the streets. Highway 24 is about done getting the first phase of needed repaving (the rest comes next year), with already-noticeable improvement in the driving experience. Both Orinda and Lafayette have major repaving projects on tap for Moraga Way and Moraga Road, respectively. The new eastern section of the Bay Bridge is moving along, and once it is completed (expected to be in 2014), all the Bay's bridges will be in good shape for years to come. Proposals are being put forward to build a "people mover" system between the Coliseum BARET station and Oakland Airport, which should improve service.



Ms. Worth also talked about some of the new transportation systems on the horizon. There is likely to be an increase in public-private partnerships in building roads and other transit options. And it looks like the long dreamed-of high-speed rail system between the Bay Area and LA is moving forward, although it is still years away from reality. As it now stands, it looks as though the main line will run through Pacheco Pass and the Silicon Valley area, with improvements to the ACE train system supplementing the service.

All in all, Ms. Worth painted a picture that portends important decisions and some tough choices ahead, but one that ultimately is optimistic - she definitely conveyed the impression that it may not be easy and certainly not cheap, but that we can and will meet the transportation challenges of the coming decades.



Buddy makes himself comfortable in Governor Arnold's smoking tent prior to the arm wrestling contest



. Briefly Noted

By Paul

If anyone was keeping score they surely would have to rate last Friday's meeting as one of our best this year: uncontrollable good humor, some serious stuff and a speaker worth coming to hear who had information of interest to all of us.

But there was one thing I forgot—to remind you that next week would be dark and to wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving.

A couple of weeks ago I also forgot to include this little ditty I'd been saving for my "birthday column":

OLD AND WISE

The two go hand in hand,
It's said, but still I worry.
The old arrived as planned,
But I wish the wise would hurry!

Happy Thanksgiving.

Paul

