



Lamorindan



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

November 30, 2007

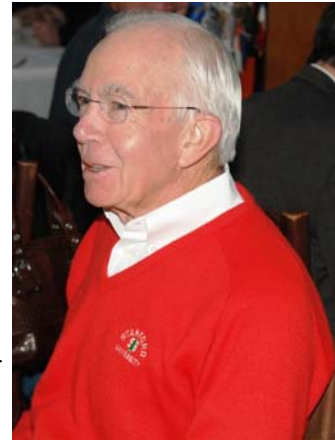
Dave Dickson – Pictures
Rich Shearer—Editor
Kevin Croak & Patti Witalis – Publishers

November 30, 2007

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

GUESTS & VISITING ROTARIANS:

Doug Reichert - Don & Gwen's son, all the way from die Scwheiz
Ron Brown - Lafayette resident, friend of Charlie Franklin's
Gene Vogel - Concord, and our favorite cardiologist
Katie Rose Ware - Steve's daughter. Still.
Rudy Reich - Orinda, and proving he's a brave fellow by wearing a red Stanford sweater in a Bear Lair during "Big" Game week (sorry, as a Bruin, this reporter had to add the quotation marks)
Simone Raeth - Tom & Tamara's eldest, and Stanley Middle School's Wildcat of the Week. Way to go, Simone!!



BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & OTHER NOTEWORTHY STUFF:

Roger Witalis got his MediCare card, saw "Jersey Boys" and had a lovely dinner, all which apparently had something to with a special birthday. And because that's just the way we are, Patti was permitted to "recognized" an Andrew Jackson portrait as it disappeared into Mike Edward's hat, which served today as Gillett Johnson's Sergeant-at-Arms repository.



John Fazel took Mary Lou to the Lark Creek Inn for her birthday. We all thought this was a thoughtful gesture until John let it slip that the real reason he did this was because it was also Thanksgiving, so the nice meal out meant he didn't have to do the dishes.





The Croak's had their 20th anniversary. The usually taciturn Kevin was characteristically reserved about how red he and Lynne painted the town, but police blotters don't lie.

Oh, and Connie Linneman celebrated her 29th birthday. The event was suitably celebrated at a certain local eatery of John's acquaintance (it was Postino, the official home of Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary), where the chef whipped an off-the-feast fit for Queen. For being in the right place at the right time, John genuflected appropriately in the general direction of The Hat.

What says "romantic spot for a birthday/anniversary joint celebration" better than a trip to Tucson? If Al Sevilla is to be believed, not a darn thing, although he had to drop a U.S. Grant portrait into The Hat to get anyone to believe him.



WE THOUGHT SOMETHING SEEMED A LITTLE DIFFERENT:

There was a thought for the day, as usual. It was even from Walt Nelson out of the Golden Book of Incredibly Optimistic Aphorisms, as usual. We did the Pledge of Allegiance, as usual. We chowed down, as usual. We introduced our guests and visiting Rotarians, as usual. We paid very little attention to what was going on at the podium, as usual. But something was . . . well . . . different. It was subtle, like something ephemeral floating ever so lightly on the breeze.. So subtle that, if you blinked or turned your head you'd miss it. But suddenly, it came to us in a blinding flash: King Paul II had taken a hiatus, and the person we weren't paying the slightest attention to was none other than Pat Flaherty, next year's Grand High Poobah. Pat seemed to take it all in stride, although he overheard muttering something about "herding cats"

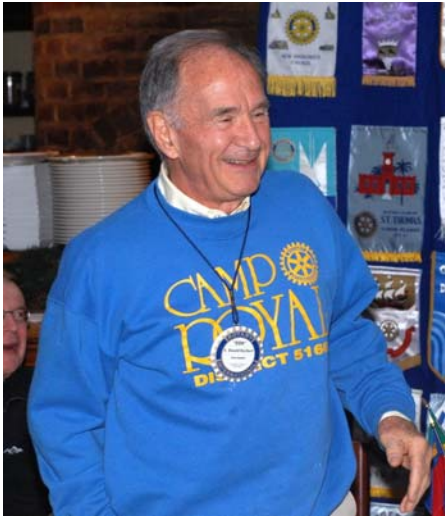


ALMOST LIKE OLD HOME WEEK:

We did some catching up with former Lamorinda Sunrise Youth Exchange students. First, Charlie Franklin updated us on Lena, who stayed with us (including with the Franklins, where Lena and Teri became very close). It turns out that our former High Schooler is now in her junior year at University of Moscow, and Charlie circulated pictures to prove it. This stimulated George Chaffey's memory banks, whereupon he reminded us that Carol and he went to Ro's wedding a few months back in his native Brazil. Er, that's Ro's native Brazil, not George's. It also spurred George to let us know that Malte is now a father. Yes, there is a new Fischer, one Tice Fischer, who, if there is a God, will run Malte as ragged as he ran his parents, both the real ones in Denmark and the Rotary ones here.

how it will change them from yucky teen-agers into the very pillars of future society, but King-For-A-Day Pat got Shearer to shut up (a minor miracle) by the simple expedient of ringing the bell. Like Pavlov's dog, Rich stopped talking and reached for his wallet. Who knew it was that easy?

PAT ACTUALLY RANG THE BELL ON THAT DING DONG:



Don Reichert rose to remind everyone to keep a weather eye out for potential Camp Royal campers. (They need to be a junior in high school this year - for more details, talk to Don.) Rich Shearer then got to give a heart-string-tugging peroration of why Camp Royal is the greatest thing for high school juniors since the drivers license and how it will change them from yucky teen-agers into the very pillars of future society, but King-For-A-Day Pat got Shearer to shut up (a minor miracle) by the simple expedient of ringing the bell. Like Pavlov's dog, Rich stopped talking and reached for his wallet. Who knew it was that easy?



Fines like taxes just keep rolling in with no end in sight — Chuck will address this unhappy state of affairs in his talk today



Thomas starts his day with friends and a good time at Postino



Raffle ticket sales are efficiently carried out by some of our younger guests

YEAH, HE MEANT IT:

Okay, it was two long weeks ago, but remember Prez-to-Be Pat said he was going to have Rotary pins on hand for purchase (\$5 a pop) so you can avoid just getting “recognized” week after week? He meant it. The pins were here this week, and a couple of miscreants actually bought one. There’s a moral in this story somewhere, but darn if I can figure out what it is.

THE BANNERS ARE BACK:

Lamorinda Sunrisers of a certain vintage remember that our members (mainly, but certainly not exclusively, Don Reichert) have collected a whoooooole bunch of banners from other Clubs from literally all over the world. At our old digs, there was a place to display them. Now, there’s a place to display them at Postino, too, as we discovered today. Many thanks to Walt Nelson, Hays Englehart and Gillett Johnson for making this happen. This is all the more special because none of these gents were members when we met back at the now-defunct old Vet’s Hall, when the banners were a weekly part of the festivities. Thanks, guys. It was a very pleasant surprise to see the banners back on display.

AND HE DIDN’T EVEN HAVE TO MARRY A KENNEDY:



Buddy Burke has got to be the All-Time sneaker-into of special events. It turns out that our intrepid Virgin pilot (yes, that is not the same thing as a virgin pilot) managed to get in for some serious face-and-photo time with none other than the Governor himself, Ah-nahld Schwarzenegger. Something to do with trying to prove that the words “Republican environmentalist” really does not have to be oxymoron. Or was it something to do with promoting good works by Virgin American Airlines? I always get those two things mixed up.

ZUZKA IN AMERICA:

She either didn’t do anything since last we met, or she just isn’t telling. Maybe we’ll find out next week . . .



PROGRAM:



Chuck Kenney has had a fascinating life. It has to be fascinating, otherwise why would he go to such great lengths to say nothing about it in this month's installment of "Expose Yourself"? Oh, he exposed a few things about himself. Such as a good reason not to like leafy green vegetables. (He slipped on a piece of same in the local A&P and hurt his leg a little. But just a little. Only a potentially life-threatening blood clot in his leg from groin to calf.)

We also learned that Chuck has definite opinions about tax laws. Such as, we have some. He seems to think that, despite the various machinations of the House and Senate concerning the Alternative Minimum Tax, we will end up this session with pretty much the same tax laws that we have now. Of course, the "lame duck" session is coming up, and anything could happen then.

We also learned that, if you bought your house in the last five years or so, it might be to your financial advantage to apply to have your property revalued for property tax purposes, due to the recent downswing in the housing market in general. (If you've owned your house for quite a while, your assessed valuation is probably already way below the actual market value, so you won't be helped by this.)

Chuck did let slip that he was born in San Francisco and that he holds a Bachelors in Accounting and a Masters in Business Administration. He also let slip that he met Rosie coming out of an assemblage of a number of Clubs who were brought together to hear a District Governor talk. He even let slip that he has very pronounced opinions on getting more women into Rotary.

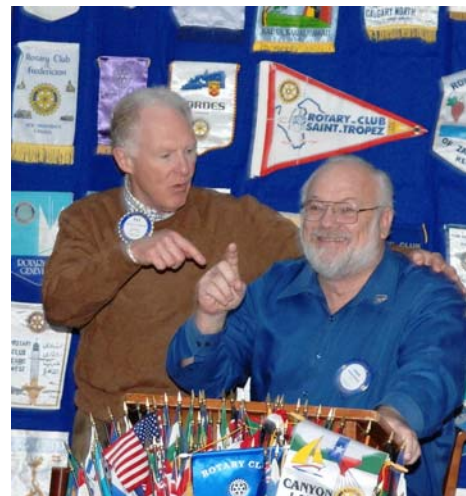
But the most telling morsel from Chuck was his statement that his mother lived to be 87 and his dad lived to be 95, that they have 50 or so descendants, of whom only three have passed.

But this left a mystery, one that this ace reporter had to solve. Since I'm working on a tight deadline and don't have a budget for trivial things like research and fact-checking, I went straight to the Lamorindan's stock in trade - rumor, innuendo and plain making it up. So, here is the straight poop - emphasis on the "poop." Hold on to your hats, folks - the secrets of the Kenney Clan are not pretty.

It turns out that one Kenney is an unnatural being. Living in the small town of South Park, Colorado, this Kenney has been killed over and over and over again - and keeps springing back to life, usually within a week of the most recent demise. This phenomenon has been amply documented in the ongoing cable network documentary entitled, fittingly enough, "South Park."

Another member of the Kenney clan, writing under the thinly-veiled nom-de-plume, apparently took pen in hand and has written extensively about the dangers of the various kinds of acids in powdered sweetened drinks that are out there. Chuck, did you think that the pseudonym "Ken Kesey" would fool us?

Kenny Stabler, Kenny G, Kenny Norton - just a few of the other members of this nefarious Kenney clan, and more reasons why Chuck was so intent on keeping his true underpinnings under wraps.



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:

Saturday, December 1, 2007: Blue Star Moms package send-off to our troops overseas. Come and help.. Cll 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>