



# Lamorindan



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

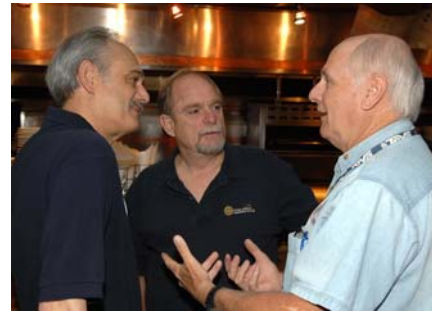
July 27, 2007

Rich Shearer — Reporter  
David Dickson — Pictures  
Chuck Yeager — Publisher

Okay, I'm running crazy late, so this'll be short and sweet. Sort of.

### GUESTS & VISITING ROTARIANS:

Carol Chaffey - here with George, natch  
Jay Lifson - Lafayette  
Larry Duson - Ditto; this year's Prez, even  
Mark Simons  
Carol Simons  
Emily Simons  
Carol Davis - riding herd on Brad (somebody has to)  
Queen Glenda  
David Englehart - Orinda. If Hayes can't be here, at least David can be



### BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Tay Wheeler. Anniversary. Daughter Kara has graduated from Acalanes and is on her way to Duck-land, as in U of O. Son Ryan is now officially a veterinarian. Spouse Mindy is in Hawaii tending to her surgically repaired Mom. Check of unspecified amount handed over in recognition. LaRay Spencer shared the joy of her 10-year old son's birthday as well.



### UPCOMING EVENTS:

Our website Calendar will have even more info, but here is a fair sampling:

Friday, August 3, 2007: Meeting, 7:00 a.m. Postino. Imagine starting an international organization from your dining table!! Jill Buck, founder of the GoGreen Initiative, will tell us about uniquely making money for our schools while helping the environment. Check out [www.gogreeninitiative.org](http://www.gogreeninitiative.org)

Friday, August 10, 2007: Meeting, 7:00 a.m. Postino. Ms. Nirop Srivatas, City Lafayette Building and Planning Manager speaks on the direction of Building and Planning in Lafayette. Hear how the new Library, Mercantile Building, and development plans for the downtown core will be changing the face of Lafayette.



Tuesday, August 14, 2007: LSR Board meeting, 7:00 a.m. Lafayette Park Hotel - All are welcome (especially Red Badgers- hint, hint) to come help shape the decisions that guide the Club.

Friday, August 17, 2007: Meeting, 7:00 a.m. Postino. Here's one for all the environmentalists in the group. In September the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority begins it's new food scrap recycling program. Lois Courchaine, Program Manager joins us to inform us on the program and to maximize participation. Get a glimpse into how and why recycling and waste management programs will be expanding in the future!

Friday, August 24, 2007: Meeting, 7:00 a.m. Postino. Cameron Shearer went to Camp Royal this past June. He had a great time. Today, he shares it with us.

**PICTURE THIS:**



The Marquis de Lafayette was born 250 years ago. His Royal Highness Paul Fillinger has a vision: create a mural on the still-unadorned mural wall at the Lafayette BART station honoring the Marquis, Rotary, and maybe some other stuff, too. Chuck Yeager appears to be our point man on this, but has some help from the Lafayette Noon Club, as attested to by visitors Jay Lifson and Larry Duson (shown at left) of said Club. Stay tuned.

**IMAGINE THAT:**

On June 23, 2007, Emily Simons (pictured at right with microphone) got on a plane to France, ending up in Orleans as part of a three week Rotary Youth Exchange (the short-term version) for which we sponsored her. Today, she reported on her doings in the home town of Jeanne d’Arc. (That’s Joan of Arc to you hoi polloi.) She is now safely back, having survived fun times, good food, and all attempts of her host family to make sure she had a wonderful time.



Meanwhile, two days earlier (that’s June 21 for those of you with short-tern memory issues), Becky Ware to good ship Whateveritwas as it sailed from the West Coast to Hawaii. Now this was not a pleasure cruise, although Becky reports that she had a great time and would gladly have stayed aboard a while longer. No, Becky and four other students were part of the crew of this sailing tall ship, helping the right regular crew members where and when needed. She also learned celestial navigation (a method that slightly predates GPS systems), plotting the ship’s position on a map, Captain Cook, Cap’n Crunch, and other such nautical lore. The ship was a replica of an 1812 privateer. No word on how much Becky’s split was from the prizes captured during her time on board.

**SPEAKING OF WHICH . . . :**



Dave Watson (at left, inexplicably showing us his company ad in the newspaper) is the Grand High Poobah of things related to Communications this year. That means that whether it has to do with internal Club communications (website, the Bulletin, etc.) or communications with the outside world (press releases, public denials and apologies, etc.), it’s in Dave’s bailiwick. So if you have any complaints about the contents of the Bulletin this or any other week, talk to Dave, especially since the folks who write, take photos for, or publish this screed tend to suffer from selective deafness about such things.

**PROGRAM - BRAD DAVIS AND TOM BLACK, EXPOSED:**



So what can you say about Brad Davis that hasn’t already been posted on a post office wall? Today, we found out. First and foremost, Brad loves his life. The rest of the world may have a bone or two to pick with it, but Brad is just peachy with it. Like many a fellow of his age, he had parents. His Dad played baseball with Jackie Robinson at Pasadena City College before Jackie headed off to UCLA, the Montreal Royals and the Brooklyn Dodgers. His Mom is living on the Oregon coast. Brad served on his schools Junior Patrol, helping folks across the street - make that major highway - by his school. His proudest accomplishment of this era: Not ending up as a grease spot on the highway from an 18-wheeler. He was quite the athlete in his day, starring in basketball in high school and junior college. Brad joined the Army National Guard just in time to be sent down to ride shotgun - literally - on LA fire trucks during the worst of the Watts riots of 1965. Of course, with this experience and training under his belt, he also got sent off to Peoples’ Park a few years later to help the Alameda County Sheriff’s Department in their baby-blue helmets (hence the



“Blue Meanies” nickname) restore order. (Actually, the Guard’s main job was to restore the order that the Blue-helmet brigade disrupted, but you didn’t hear that from me.) We also learned about Brad’s sartorial splendor through the years: one photo featured him in a brown tuxedo, a picture that obviously gave rise to the legislation passed soon thereafter making such things subject to capital punishment. Brad also was quite a runner back in the day, meaning 1978-84, before his knees and ankles and legs and body told what a stupid idea running is (not that I’m biased or anything). Now, he is an avid golfer (we saw the pic of the swing that resulted in his hole-in-one on a course in Colorado that Brad left nameless so as to defeat this reporter’s efforts to verify his story. (Yeah, right, as if any reporter for the Lamorindan has ever checked a fact in this paper’s existence.) Brad has also taken up cycling, including that wonderful trip from San Ramon to the Ashland District Conference five years ago. Not only has Brad been married to Carol for more years that she probably want to think about, but his son, Steve, and his daughter, Laurie, are both married and helping to bring the next generation of Rotarians into the world.

**Next came Tom Black**, who, in honor of his days in print journalism, refused to bow to the PowerPoint Gods and instead help up (gasp) actual photographs. Tom was born in Cleveland, Ohio, the Mistake by the Lake (he said it; I only thought it). He grew up in the suburb where lived Sam Shepard (the accused wife-killer, not the accursed playwright) and one ‘burb over from the hometown of one George Steinbrenner. Tom ended up at Kenyon College, where he served as editor of the school paper. He worked off and on for the Cleveland Plain Dealer along with another of Cleveland’s finest products, Dennis “the Menace” Kucinich, former Boy Mayor of Cleveland and current candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination. (The fact that you now know he’s running puts you ahead of about 99.98% of the rest of the country.) It was at the Plain Dealer that Tom had what may be the high point of his journalistic career - as a reporter, he saw the Cuyahoga River burn. No, not stuff floating in the river, but the unbelievably polluted river itself, an event that helped kick-start the modern environmental movement generally and the Environmental Protection Act in particular. Tom next found himself at Emory University in Atlanta doing graduate work. He also took a road trip with a friend in a car with Ohio plates. This was the mid-60’s, and the Freedom Riders were current events, not yesteryear’s news. Ergo, some of the locals did not take kindly to Yankees coming down to get mixed in that civil rights foolishness, the road trip thus lasting just long enough to cross into Alabama, have a good-ol’-boy vehicle pull in behind them. At that point, tom and friend turned around and drove at excessive speeds back to the relative hospitality of Atlanta. Since then, Tom has worked at Sunset Magazine, where in 1981 he met some short guy named Paul Fillinger. Along the way, Tom has served as press officer for several institutions of higher learning, notably at Santa Clara University at the time it dropped its football program. (Typical question from the working press: “Forget the 17 Nobel Prizes your faculty won the past three years, how do you expect anyone to take a college seriously if it doesn’t have a football team and the attendant ‘Underwater Basket Weaving’ courses?”) Tom has also taught UC Extension classes, and he now writes a column on getting your kid into college for the Contra Costa Times, an endeavor for which he has been amply “recognized” by past Lamorinda Sunrise Administrations even as it has failed to generate a single referral to his private consulting business in, you guessed it, getting your kid into college and figuring out how to pay for it.



So there you have it. A member of many years’ standing (Brad) and one of slightly newer vintage, membership-wise (Tom) reminding us that some of the most interesting and entertaining stories are sitting right next to us every Friday morning.

President’s column

## Briefly Noted

By Paul

“No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.” *Aesop*

I mentioned a few weeks ago how much I liked quotations because they often encapsulate a really big idea in a very few words. When I saw the above quote on a calendar I thought of a thank you letter I recently received from Herbert Fischer thanking



us for our club's hospitality to the Danes. Isn't it amazing how one act of kindness (George and Carol reaching out to one crazy, young exchange student years ago) has led to so many diverse experiences and wonderful relationships?

At last Friday's meeting, Larry Duson, president of the Lafayette Rotary Club, gave me a letter and check that started out, "It is with great pleasure that the Lafayette Rotary Club sends you this letter to notify you that our Board of Directors has agreed to partner with the Lamorinda Sunrise Club on the Lafayette Mural Project."

Another act of kindness, of trust, of service above self—experiences and relationships that we can share with our sister/brother club for years to come. I'm really excited about working closer with them and getting to know their members better.

Last Friday's meeting was something else, as you remember or surmise from Rich's reportage. As far as I was concerned, the spirit was at an all-time high, the humor was bouncing off the walls and there was no controlling the meeting. It was like herding frolicking dolphins—all of them bigger than me, and they were, fortunately, friendly and playfully kept nudging me out of the way.

I think those "dolphins" really loved Brad and Tom.

See you Friday. Bring a friend.

**Friday Evening brought another TGITLFOTM at Brad and Carol Davis's home, a modest array of pictures, below, capture the fun:**

