



Lamorindan



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

August 17, 2007

Dave Dickson — Pictures
Kevin Croak & Patti Witalis — Publishers

Briefly Noted

by Paul

"Take the hit as a gift" is a quote by George Leonard, black belt Aikido instructor, author of "The Ultimate Athlete," among other things.

It was quite a week for the Lafayette "BART" Mural Project! BART has "procedural problems" that may preclude our giving them \$100,000 worth of artwork for their Lafayette station. But this "hit" may lead to other venues that give the mural and our club and the Lafayette Rotary club far more exposure and benefit to the city.

I was hit with this news early in the week. It made me pretty depressed. No one likes to be hit. It hurts.

When you are little, the first reaction is to hit back. As you grow older you learn some degree of self-control. When you get really old, maybe you have learned how to accept the lemon and make lemonade out of it. I'm not quite that old yet.

Really what you need when you get hit is a support system, a team. (I'm watching the Raiders-49er game as I write this.)



What's great about our club is some of the terrific team members we have. In my case, Brad Davis and Chuck Yeager grabbed me by the scruff of the neck, banged my head against the wall and got me thinking positive again. They suggested all kinds of alternatives to BART. Possibly better than what we had planned in the first place.

The message here is: we have a great club with many really talented people. Get acquainted with them. Use them. Help them. Let them help you. Together we are unbeatable. We may even go to the Super Bowl--or at least the International Rotary Convention in Los Angeles next June.

See you Friday. Bring a friend.

Paul



at

Oh where, oh where, has Paul F's neck strap gone?
Oh where, oh where can it beeeeeeeee?
(And people wonder why we are a Non-Singing Club . . .)

GUESTS & VISITING ROTARIANS:

Rosemary Mann - Berkeley's President-Elect

JOKE OF THE DAY:

Rich Shearer enlightened us by explaining that there are really only two lawyer jokes; the rest are true stories. George Chaffey then took up the cudgels, noting how it really was just that certain 90% of lawyers who give the rest of them a bad name.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:



Joanne Luscher has not been seen in these parts for a while, as she and Ulrich have been gallivanting all over the world. So she voluntarily offered up her recognitions for her travels: a bill for Norway, a bill for Switzerland, a bill for Finland, a bill for Ulrich's birthday, even a bill for having another picture in The Rotarian, but a single plugged nickel for Hawaii- apparently, the accommodations were a tad substandard in our 50th state. (Significant medical events will do that, Joanne.) In any event, we were delighted to see our one-of-a-kind Ms. Luscher back. As for everyone else, no list + no time = maybe next week.



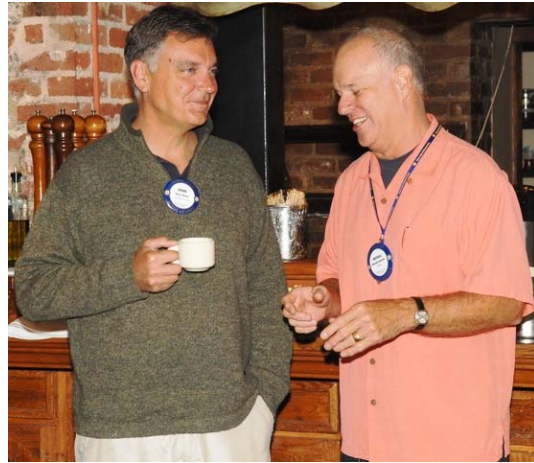
UPCOMING EVENTS:

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

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.

Friday, August 31, 2007: Meeting, 7:00 a.m. Postino. Expose Yourself!!! Cal Lee & Walt Nelson. You have been warned.

Friday, August 31, 2007: TGITLFOTM 5:30pm. This month it looks like the Luschers will give up the coveted honor of hosting this month's TGITLFOTM To Thomas and Tamara Raeth who want the party to be fun and productive: stick labels on dictionaries to be delivered to 3rd graders during the first weeks of the new school year. Praises to these forward thinking people. This is a must attend event unless you have a note from your teacher!



Friday, September 7, 2007: Meeting, 7:00 a.m. It's dictionary time, so come help put in the stickers and the letters, and then @ 8:30am, off we go all four Lafayette elementary schools for distribution to all 3rd graders, near and far. George will give some history of the project and suggest the protocol for handing them out in the classroom. School will already be in session and Rotarians will be there first thing, when the bell rings. All the Rotarians will be assigned their school and classrooms on the 31st.

Saturday, September 15 and Sunday, September 16, 2007: Lafayette Art & Wine Festival, all day, both days. Our annual Root Beer Float stand. We need your help, of course, so contact Alex Arnold to sign up for a shift or three.

Monday, September 24, 2007: Rotary Golf Classic to benefit Rotary charities. Come play on the beautiful Rossmoor Golf Course. Contact Thomas Peeks for details.

SHE'S HEEEEEEERE:

Zuzka is in the building Well, at least in the area. Our Slovak student arrived at SFO last Thursday after a slight misstep (missed connection meant she came in on a slightly later flight than planned) to the warm embrace of the Sevillas, the Chaffeys, Bob Riegg, and probably some others that I didn't hear about. After getting to Lafayette in the wee hours of the morning, so Zuzka apparently wasn't very interested in getting for 7:00 am breakfast, so the rest of us will meet her next week.

MORE ON ZUZKA:

Since Zuzka is now here, it's time for every Lamorinda Rotarian to dust off a phrase that we use whenever we host a Youth Exchange Student, one we learned from George "The Quiet Man" Chaffey. The phrase? "Would you like to come along?" We should all use this phrase early and often on Zuzka whenever we are off to do something. That "something" can be a camping trip, a ball game, joining Tom Black on his next Marie Calendar's run, taking the kids or grandkids to Loard's or Coldstone - pretty much anything you are doing anyway. It doesn't have to something "big" - believe me, there is enough "big" stuff coming down the pike at Zuzka - just things you would be doing anyway that give you a chance to connect with her and give her a chance to see another piece of life in These United States. (Cue the inspirational music.)



LET'S KEEP THE MEMBERSHIP BALL ROLLING:

Brad Davis asked us to remember the folks who introduced us to Rotary. Brad recalled how the guy who was going to take Brad to his first meeting, but who managed to get both of his cars stolen at exactly the wrong time (or at least that's what he claimed). So, up drives a substitute, who drags Brad of to Lamorinda Sunrise. That turned out to be (drum roll, please) Tay Wheeler. Well, Brad got over his shock and is still here. And so are you, because someone brought you in. So how about being the reason someone else is a long-time member 10 years from now?

WE'LL LEAVE THE LIGHT ON FOR YOU:

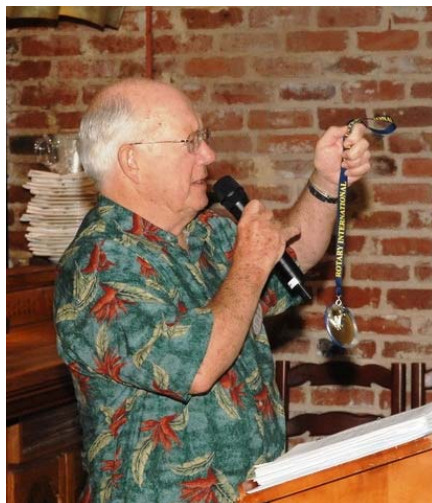
The next Rotary International Convention will be in Los Angeles from June 14-18, 2008. Prez-to-Be Pat Flaherty has reserved 15 rooms for Lamorinda Sunrisers to use during said Convention. Interested? Talk to Pat.

WE'VE GOT GOLF:



The Rotary Golf Classic is coming up. On Monday, September 24, to be precise. Come play at the Rossmoor Golf Course and help raise money for Rotary charities. Contact Thomas Peeks for more info.

WE'VE GOT CARRIAGE RIDES: Last time we saw him, Michael Muir was here telling us about his great program in which serious horses (Percherons, Clydesdales, etc.) hauling serious carriages to provide serious fun for folks who have mobility issues by giving them rides into scenic areas they would otherwise not get to see. On August 26 (that's a Sunday) from 10:00-noon, Mike will have some horses and at least one carriage at the boat ramp area of San Pablo Reservoir (take the entrance closest to Orinda and Bear Creek Road). C'mon along and see first-hand what this great program is all about. Contact John Fazel for more details, and do so ASAP as they need to plan for the right number of people.



GOOD DEEDS, UPDATED:

Charlie Franklin seems to be the Energizer bunny of LSR; he keeps going and going . . . His organizational efforts and his, Gillett Johnson's, and Rich and Cameron Shearer's elbow grease, led to scoring a bunch o' books from the Friends of the Lafayette Library and into the hands of San Francisco's County Jail, thereby providing something more salutary for the, er, guests to do rather than, um, beating the stuffing out of each other. Also, Charlie shared some of the letters we have received from the soldiers, sailors and Marines who received the Fourth of July packages we helped the Blue Star Moms pack and ship off to Iraq. Why did we get these letters? Because we stuffed a letter from LSR into a number of the packages. In said letter, Gone-and-We're -Trying-to-Forget-Him Ex-Prez Rich Shearer promised the men and women that, if they wrote us, we'd write them back. So, asked Charlie, can you take a letter or two and write to the sender? He will be scanning the letters and e-mailing them to us. Please help keep up the morale of our men and women overseas in a place you know they would rather not be.

Oh, we'll be packing more boxes with the Blue Star Moms. December 1, 2007, just in time for the holidays. See you there.

SPEAKING OF GOOD DEEDS:

Joanne Luscher is only freshly back, and taking a short break from her extensive research into the personality defects of practitioners of the medical arts, but that doesn't mean she isn't hard at it lining up good stuff for us to be doing. So mark this on your calendars: October 5, 2007. That will be the next homeless project, where we can have a direct impact on improving the lives of some folks who can really use the help. More details to follow.

PLAY BALL:

Rosie Mann, she of the Berkeley Club and the patience of a saint (hey, *you* try putting up with Chuck Kenney on a regular basis), announced that said Club has about 10 tickets left for the August 27 A's game. Interested? Call Chuck. He'll put you in touch with Rosie. Really.

PROGRAM - :

Today's speaker, Lois Courchaine of the Contra Costa County Solid Waste Authority, told us where to stick our table scraps. Like, in the gray buckets with the built-in lids that have gone out to a number of Lamorinda. It's all part of a pilot program from CCCSWA, and the idea is to keep your food waste out of land fills (which are filling up waaaaay too fast for comfort) and get them into compost instead, where they can be the ultimate in recycling. Danville tried this first, but our neighbors apparently did not like the "yuck" factor. (Kind of makes you wonder what exactly they eat in Danville that is so good on the plate and so yucky immediately thereafter - I guess we'll never know.) The stuff in the bucket goes in the green waste bin that you already put out on your curb. Ms. Courchaine suggested putting green waste directly in top of the food waste; this will help seal in freshness and . . . wait, wrong thought . . . it will help knock down any odors and keep out any vermin or even marauding racoons. (Do NOT put the gray buckets out on the curb. That fact that they are many times smaller than the other bins should be a clue as to why.) Meat and bones are included in the stuff that can go in the gray buckets; since everything in the green bins gets pretty much pulverized, meat and bone work in this composting project where they won't work so well in your home compost heap. Ms. Courchaine also told us about the (increasing) participation of restaurants and other businesses in this program. She also deftly fielded questions from the audience, including what can done and is being done to encourage the public to separate trash and recyclables at large public gatherings and how to address the growing of small plastic bottles of water that tend to end up in the trash. She even mollified a certain Black, Tom, who informed her that he did not receive the mounting screws that were supposed to be included with the gray food recycling buckets. Now that is a public relations superstar!

