



Lamorindan



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

June 6, 2008

Cal Lee — Reporter
Tom Black — Photographer
Chuck Yeager — Publisher

TWO THOUGHTS

Visitors up to bat first. John Sherry, president-elect of the Lafayette noon club, called his thought The Attitude. He passed by a Little League game and asked the score. Answer: 14-0. Discouraged?, he asked. Why should we be? We haven't been up to bat yet.



John Sherry with a thought

The home team, George Chaffey, gave his thought which, surprise surprise, was a bit longer. At the New Hampshire meeting he attended, George heard a presentation by the husband of the District Governor, a Brit. The presenter called it "An America Gift", referring to the concept of the Community Service Organization. In 1832, de Toqueville visited America to study prisons, and found that Americans of all ages and persuasions were great at forming associations ranging from prisons to hospitals to service organizations. In Europe such matters are handled by governmental entities (France) or titled persons (England). Americans generally are several times more likely than Europeans to volunteer -- Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, etc. They lead by example and simple acts of generosity, which are now copied around the world. Churchill said we make a living by what we get, and we make a life by what we give. To which the presenter added, God Bless America.



George Chaffey counters with a longer thought about Rotary

SHARING CLOTHES

Zuzka presented a banner from her home club in Slovakia, Rotary Club Martin, which depicted a man doffing his clothes. It's OK -- he was demonstrating the concept of sharing.



Zuzka and Friend

Zuzka will share her own clothes with us at a later date -- talking about the dress and shoes she wore to the Senior Ball, which was Totally Awesome. Arabian Nights and chocolate fountain & strawberries at the Regency Center in SF, and a real live date (but then, there are a lot of dates in Arabia). Among the attractions was a belly dancer. Those Raeths must run a tight ship, as she got home at 12:15, much to the bewilderment of some of our members with golden memories.



Prez Paul accepts the banner from Zuzka

FAREWELL PARTY FOR ZUZKA

You are cordially invited to a potluck farewell party for Zuzka on **Saturday, July 12, 2008**, from 5:00pm - 8:00 pm at the home of Thomas and Tamara Raeth, 1024 Walnut Drive, Lafayette (x-Dyer Dr.).

If your last name ends in A-L, bring an appetizer or salad; M-R beverage, S-Z dessert.

Come give Zuzka a wonderful sendoff. RSVP to Tamara now at lafree@comcast.net.



THIS ONE WAS REALLY EARNED

Krysten Laine and the new blue-badge



Krysten Laine did something no one else had been able to pull off — she actually fixed our projector. In lieu of union scale pay, she accepted a Blue Badge and got rid of that awful red thing. As further consideration, she got away with announcing sales of her pictures at the event attended by several members last weekend, without being fined or recognized or impoverished or whatever you want to call it. Ah, well, a new administration will be in shortly.

INVASION OF THE NOONERS



Nooners Larry Duson and Bill Eames

In addition to John Sherry, Lafayette Nooners Mike Heller, Larry Duson and Bill Eames commandeered the center table and made their presence felt. Bill was especially high profile because of his baby blue breakfast jacket. When asked to say something about it, he smiled mysteriously and said, “never complain, never explain”. But it was good to see them turn out in support of incoming President Sherry, and for the clubs to have more interaction with each other. We must acknowledge that Prez Paul was the inspiration for a good thing here.

LOOKING FORWARD TO ...

6/19/08: 3/4 Century event, still presented by John Fazel as he edges ever closer to that number. 11:30 - 1:30 at Orinda Community (Frank's) Church. It should be a more dignified event because Brad Davis won't be there running around with a chicken-chopper this year. That's good because Zuzka WILL be there (the first exchange student to do so), and injury should not be risked.

6/25/08: Surprise Demotion Party. Somehow Rich Shearer was picked to give this announcement. He knew no other details whatever, except that Mark Fillinger will be

there to spill many beans about his old man. So apparently some things will be a surprise to Rich, at least.

10/08: Skip McCowan started cranking us up to help fill the duffle bags with drugs and other necessities for the Guatemala trip. At the word drugs, he cast a meaningful look at Bill Eames, who used to openly peddle them. Bill tried to look inconspicuous in his blue jacket.

Any Time: Looking forward to anyone but Thomas Peeks winning the Raffle.

CHAMBER & CITY



Jay Lifson of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce addresses the group

Jay Lifson, head of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce and former manager of Bing Crosby's and the Park Hotel, took on the subject of the City and its finances.

He started by charming the crowd, showing slides of Elam Brown and the first city council, but soon made himself unpopular by stating that Moraga Road will be closed all summer and Mt. Diablo Blvd. Will be repaved from First Street to Dolores.

Our little town has about 25,000 souls, and 650 Chamber members. The Chamber budget is around 3/4 million \$ per year, with the Art & Wine Festival furnishing a lot of it. It has an Entrepreneurs' Club of about 250, which non-members can join. The Chamber keeps actively involved with the City, including regular communication (breakfast) with

the Mayor. And, of course, hosting Mixers, as we know.

The City has no business tax yet, but there's a survey going on now. Sales, business license, and hotel occupancy taxes are all possible revenue sources in hard times. Redevelopment money is mostly used up, what with the Library construction.

Some miscellaneous facts: 17% of our population is over 65 (as compared with 12% for the County as a whole). About 250 properties are currently in foreclosure. Younger people tend to live closer to downtown, and are more highly educated. A Downtown Strategic Plan, for 30 years out, was started in 2007. Sure would like more retail space to raise taxes. Downtown parking remains an issue/puzzlement/conundrum.

Disaster preparedness is very big with the Chamber, and a bit of literature was passed out to prove it. 100% of us should study it carefully.

Through his slides shown on Krysten's projector, Jay mixed in quite a bit of possibly irrelevant but definitely humorous stuff. Such as how to make downtown better, with tongue firmly in cheek. And somehow the LA Lakers got in there. As someone commented, maybe the City has the Lafayette Lakers in mind.

VISITING ROTARIANS

The Nooner Gang of 4: John Sherry, Larry Duson, Mike Heller, Bill Eames
Don Dierkes, Orinda
Al Sevilla's Dog

GUESTS

First Lady (but lame duck) Glenda Fillinger
Son and heir Mark Fillinger
Debbie Cooper, Mechanic's Bank
Katie Rose

UPCOMING

6/13: Andrew Goldsmith, Habitat for Humanity
6/15 - 6/18: Rotary International Convention, Los Angeles
6/20: Michael Mataraza, psychology of speaking
6/27: Expose Yourself: Kevin Croak and TBD, and first exposure of President P. Flaherty

7/4: NO MEETING! DARK DAY WITH FIREWORKS! SOMEONE TELL POSTINO!
7/18: Frank and Kathleen Mayhew (Sebastopol Rotarians), ending poverty one village at a time in Uganda
7/25: Exposure Yourself, TBD

Briefly Noted

By your Prez
Saturday, June 07, 2008



At this point in time I just have to ask, "Wow, where did the year go? What the heck happened? What's the meaning of all this? What did I learn? Will I get caught? Is there really a plan for the universe?"

These questions, and others I hope you will submit to me by email, will be answered during my surprise demotion ceremony that may be held June 25th...somewhere. The surprise will be if it happens at all. This may turn out to be another one of my non-events for the year like our Christmas Party or the Four-Way Speech Contest or the April TGITLFOTM or any number of several newsletters that were never published.



Pat Flaharty
our incoming
president

But what is wonderful about Rotary is its resilience. It's power to bounce back. To **grow**. Every new president is reassured that he or she can not destroy the club in a single year. Take our club for example: It is a fantastic collection of talented, caring and motivated men and women who have their heads in the clouds and their feet on the ground...marching toward a brighter future of Hope and Change.

It may sound like I'm campaigning for Barak Obama but I'm talking about Patrick J. O'Flaharty, our fantabulous incoming president. He is our hope for the future.

Treat him nice. Offer him your helping hands!

Paul



A meeting after the meeting seems very serious



Krysten's photograph on display