



# Lamorindan



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

March 28 , 2008

Ron Brown / Rich Shearer / Cal Lee — Reporters

Tom Black — Photos

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*"Rotary gives ordinary people the opportunity to do extraordinary things."*

*Sir Clem Renouf*

*Past President, Rotary International*

## GUESTS AND VISITING ROTARIANS:

Queen Glenda

Connie Linneman - John's reason for living

Bradley Ward - San Pablo

Carol Chaffey - George's reason for living

John Sherry - Lafayette Prez-Elect

Chris Lane - he's turned in his paperwork, folks.

Ulrich Luscher - his reason for living is Joanne

Dawn Ceizler - local attorney (we don;t have very many of *those*)

Michael Maysuryants - Venera's son

Katie Rose - I don't remember her being introduced, but I'm pretty sure I bought raffle tickets from her

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Joanne and Ulrich Luscher spent their anniversary attending a piano recital by some local hack or other. A \$20 gratuity was offered up. Don Reichert was feeling beneficent on account of Gwen's

birthday, so he offered up a \$150 contribution to the Club's Foundation. At least, I think that's where he made his contribution.

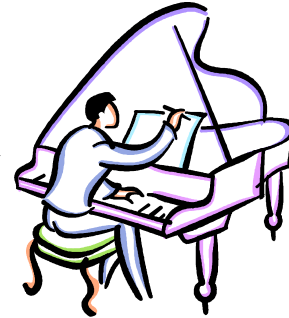


## IT'S OFFICIAL:

Zuzka has been a part of Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary for a good while, now. But now, she's *really* a part of Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary, as Secretary Chuck Yeager presented her with her very own Blue Badge (as opposed to somebody else's Blue Badge with her name taped over it.)

### **A RARE TREAT:**

Wednesday, March 26, 2008, the rafters rang and the soul danced. The cause? Nothing less than the marvelous ivory-tickling of one Charles A. Lee - our own beloved Cal - giving a recital at the Orinda Community Church. It seems that Chuck Yeager was the high bidder for Cal's piano offerings at the 2997 Dinner and Auction and decided (a) it was high time to cash in and (2) to invite all of us. Lam-orinda Sunrise Rotary was well-represented at the recital and the reception afterwards, with Cal attending both despite having a case of the flu that would have done 1919 proud. As a special treat, Cal shared the stage with son Sam for a piece that required two pianos. A truly magical evening, as those who were there already know and those who weren't should be regretting missing.



### **A CLARIFICATION:**

President Paul clarified his administration's policy on recognitions, fining, and when one or the other is appropriate. I'd explain it to you, but I don't feel like it - some things are better left muddled and up to the whim and caprice of our Fearless Leader.



### **WE NEED YOUR STRONG BACK AND WEAK MIND:**

Apartments. This is a property purchased by the Inter-Faith Council and serves as housing for formerly homeless families with children. There is counseling and appropriate social services for the adults and active support and encouragement for the youngsters to succeed at school.



With that as background, Brad Davis announced today that there will be a Work Day at the Garden Park Apartments on April 19 (that's a Saturday) from 1:00-4:00 p.m. There will be some painting projects, some clean-up work - you know, general hands-on sort of stuff. Please plan to spend the afternoon helping some folks who can use the help - especially the kids.

### **CONCERT AT THE RES, DEAD AHEAD:**

In recent years, the Lafayette Club (also known as "Them") has sponsored the Concert at the Res, a lovely outdoor concert at - wait for it - the Lafayette Reservoir. This year's edition will be May 17. Of course, what would a Concert at the Res be without a raffle? (Er, that's a rhetorical question - it really doesn't need an answer.) And so, John Sherry, the 2008-09 President of the Lafayette Club, came by again (current Prex Larry Duson chickened out this time) with raffle tix in hand. Only \$5 per (and I think it gets you into the concert, too, but I could be wrong about that). If you want tickets, you can contact John directly at [925-284-9339](tel:925-284-9339) or be e-mail at [john94549@comcast.net](mailto:john94549@comcast.net).



### **A CHANGING OF THE GUARD:**

For the past few years, nothing has happened involving Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary that wasn't captured digitally by Dave Dickson. The "captured digitally" part will carry on, but the Dave Dickson part is morphing into Tom Black. So if Dave finally actually gets to eat some breakfast, you'll know why. Thanks for all the great photos, Dave, and enjoy those eggs.



### **HE'S FINALLY CRACKED:**

In case any of you thought Prez Paul was the least bit embarrassed to be seen at the Dinner & Auction in a wig that made him look like the love-child of Marilyn Monroe and Harpo Marx, he dashed that misconception by donning bunny ears in honor (slightly belatedly) of Easter. 'Nuff said.

### **THERE'S A NEW CLUB IN TOWN:**

We are one of the area Clubs sponsoring a new Rotary Club in the area. It will be a "cocktail club," meaning it will meet from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays. The first four or so meetings will be at the Hungry Hunter (Mt. Diablo Blvd. At Pleasant Hill Road in Lafayette). George Chaffey will be there to help them kick things off, and any others who can be there would be a big help. 21 years ago, other area Clubs helped get us started, so maybe we can "pay it forward" and help another Club get on its feet.



### **DON'T FORGET ABOUT MADAGASCAR:**

Thus sayeth Bob Riegg, who is our Club's GSE team guy. (And if you don't know what "GSE" means, you can look at recent issues of the Lamorindan or check the Rotary International website.) This group from Madagascar will be here soon, and the only way you can meet and hear them is at one of several area Clubs, Moraga included. Bob sent an e-mail around detailing all of this. If you didn't get it or, like me, you are too lazy to go back through your in-box, contact Bob for more info.

## PROGRAM:

Lawyers. This Club is lousy with lawyers. (But notice that I did *not* say that the lawyers in the Club were lousy. Distinctions like that are important if one is to avoid defamations suits.) In the ongoing series of “Expose Yourself” presentations, and back despite popular demand, were two of our lawyers, George Chaffey and Skip McCowan.

George started off the proceedings, observing that he “hasn’t had much of a life without Carol.” This is literally true, since they met in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. George was born in Healdsburg, California, but only because there wasn’t a hospital in Guerneville or Geyserville or wherever the heck his folks were living at the time. George and his clarinet got through high school in Vallejo and some college or other in Berkeley, and then off to law school. As a law student, he spent a summer in Mississippi - Philadelphia, among other places - working as a “punk law clerk” (his words, not mine) helping civil rights attorneys during some of the most intense times in the Civil Rights movement. Indeed, he came face-to-face with one Cecil Pike, theoretically a lawman but actually involved in the kidnap and murder of three civil rights activists, an incident that was the basis of the film “Mississippi Burning.” Somewhere in all of this, George had the good sense to marry Carol. And how did the young newlyweds spend some of those halcyon early years? In the Peace Corps, of course. In Liberia, George taught Contracts and stuff to law students and Carol taught 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. One of George’s students even named his son “Chaffey” after him.



IN the 1970's George worked for Contra Costa County Legal Services, helping making sure that people who couldn't afford legal representation but needed it got it. He reports that a great deal of how he organized the Pittsburg office was based directly on organizational tenets learned from the Peace Corps.

George also comes from a strong Rotary back-ground. In 1955, at age 12, George went to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary RI convention in Chicago with his then-Club President father. 50 years later, he was at the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary Convention, also in Chicago. George is a Past President of Lamorinda Sunrise, a Past District Governor of District 5160, a teacher at PETS (President-Elect Training Seminar) for over ten years, a teacher at the District Governor equivalent of PETS, and chaired this past year's International Institute. To put it in terms we mere mortals can understand (and George himself would never say it this way), he routinely is operating at least three levels higher in the Rotary hierarchy than you and I are. But as one can tell from his presentation, Lamorinda Sunrise is still the heart and soul of his Rotary experience.

Rotary has had a major impact on Carol, as well, and not just because she and George have hosted just about every Youth Exchange student that has ever come our way. Among Carol's contributions have been trip to Chana to help distribute wheelchairs as part of Rotary's partnership with the Wheelchair Foundation and going out into the field to administer polio vaccine as part of a Polio Plus National Immunization Day. (Sidebar: in India, 82 *million* children were immunized in a single National Immunization Day.)

George is also an enthusiastic pilot. If you hear him waxing poetic about “Lady Burd,” it is not because of a fondness for Lyndon Johnson's wife. No, it is his restored 1949 Luscombe airplane. Even in flying, there is a Rotary connection, as George connects with his IFR (“International Flying Rotarians”) at every International Convention.

George and Carol have made friends around the world - literally - from their Peace Corps and Rotary activities. I doubt if there is a continent on earth where they don't know someone who would only too glad to renew acquaintance.

**Skip** McCowan's life has had a similarly international flavor. He has been to both Brazil and Spain as an exchange student, and has traveled over a great deal of Europe and Latin America since then as well. He, too, has traveled to give out wheelchairs, to Mexico in his case, and he brought daughter Amy along.



Speaking of Amy, this Camp Royal alumnae and founder of the Acalanes Interact Club is currently at Middlebury College in sunny, tropical Vermont. Son Ryan, meanwhile, is studying and playing on the soccer team at U.C. Davis. Meanwhile, wife Linda keeps the home fires burning - that is, when she isn't busting her backside behind the scenes helping make our Dinner & Auction look so good.

Skip is a lawyer, and after a few years at Crosby, Heafy, Roach & May (I think) (in Oakland, he moved over to become lawyer #9 at Gordon & Rees. They now have a *bunch* more lawyers than that. Skip does a lot of products liability defense work. What does that mean? It means that when someone claims that, oh, say, silicon breast implants are making people sick, Skip represents the company (or one of the companies) that makes the product. In fact, silicon breast implant litigation launched Skip into a multitude of medical product liability cases. Among others, he has been involved in cases dealing with claims made against makers of kneew replacement hardware and artificial heart valves. But just so you don't think he deals only with medical products, he has also represented Bosch (lots of tools and tool-related products, including Dremel and Skil products) and Ford (he was part of a case that settled for very little after a recreation of the accident demonstrated that the F-150 pick-up truck would not have failed to stop under the circumstances alleged to have happened).

Skip loves that his job allows him to learn about all manner of different fields of endeavor. He has been fortunate to work with Nobel laureates and some of the best and brightest experts in a wide range of areas.



#### **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, April 4, 2008: Meeting, Postino, 7:00-8:15 a.m. Club Assembly. Learn the latest goings on in Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Land.

Friday, April 11, 2008: Meeting, Postino, 7:00-8:15 a.m. Dr. Gloria Duffy, President of The Commonwealth Club of California. This is a powerhouse lady and a fantastic "local--girl--makes--good." She went to Acalanes in the late sixties and was active in the incorporation movement that led to Lafayette becoming a city. That was just the start of her politically active career.

Friday, April 18, 2008: Meeting, Postino, 7:00-8:15 a.m, Dyan Bender - More info as it becomes available.

Saturday, April 19, 2008: Work party at the Garden Park Apartments, 1:00-4:00 p.m. We need your help to help clean up, paint and generally spruce up the Garden Park Apartments, which provides social services and permanent shelter to formerly homeless families with children. Brad Davis is coordinating this one, so give him a holler if you have any questions.

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>

Friday, April 25, 2008: Meeting, Postino, 7:00-8:15 a.m. Expose Yourself!! Chuck Yeager & TBD (We'll get this TBD person to talk yet!)

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>.

## Briefly Noted

March 28, 2008



Rabbit ears! Oh my gawd what is this club coming to?

Will I go down in the brief history of Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club as “What’s his name, the guy who wore the rabbit ears?”

I should rethink my whole approach to this “leadership” thing. Maybe I’ve taken George’s #1 rule too seriously—“Have Fun.”

It *has* been a fun year and we have accomplished a lot of good projects. We’ll try to review some at this week’s Club Assembly but mostly I hope we can spend some productive time in a Q&A session. This will be a good chance to come up with suggestion for Pat on how to improve what we’ve done and make next year even better.

See you Friday. Bring a friend.

Paul

Fun ?? Fun !!



fun?? Fun !!