



Lamorindan



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

May 30, 2008

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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:

Larry Sly - Concord & Exec. Dir, CoCo County Food Bank
Stefan Raeth - Keepin' an eye on papa Thomas
Simone Raeth - Ditto
Katie Rose Ware - Still hawking those raffle tix
Jackie Welles - The ever-welcome Mrs. Ray
Sara Brown - The delightful Mrs. Ron
Katie Rose Ware - mentioned here again because papa Steve said I missed her last week
Debbie Cooper - Mechanics Bank (here for the 3rd time - and you know what that means . . .)
Carol Chaffey - George's wonderful wife
John Sherry - Lafayette Club's President as of July 1 or thereabouts
Ally Hanna - dragging papa Steve to the meeting



Prez Paul "only 3 more weeks" Fillinger lays down the law to an unruly group

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Brad Davis threw a barbecue for the always lovely Carol, which featured at least one grandchild. (In attendance to be fussed over, not as the entree, you sick people.)

Holy Toledo, did we have B's and A's today. Fortunately, we did not have any BA's, which accounts for the lack of scorched retina. In any event, B&A Guy Hays Englehart and Sergeant-With-Arms Gillette Johnson were practically drooling over the prospects of untold riches. So here is an abbreviated, highly selective account of who had, did and paid what.

Chris Lane did the 40-bucks-for-40-years birthday recognition thing, plus chowed down at Benihana.

Skip McCowan spent his birthday on a trip to Middlebury College to watch daughter Amy graduate (has it really been four years already?), basking in her magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, which glow led to a \$100 donation to the Club's Endowment fund.

Walt Nelson spent the better part of a week celebrating Kathe's birthday, which celebrations featured earrings from Ware Designs to match the necklace (I think Kathe picked up at the world-famous Lamorinda Sunrise Annual Dinner and Action That Used to be a Crab Feed.



The Raeth's (Thomas Raeth pictured here) had an anniversary, which included a ball game, sushi and Zuzka.

Chuck Kenney never saw Rosemary Mann on her birthday, which Rosie spent writing thank-you cards for the Berkeley Club's fund raiser (she is the About-To-Be-President of said Club), thereby guaranteeing herself a better time than she would have had with Chuck. Chuck also 'fessed up to his birthday

coming up on June 2, which leads me to guess that he plans on skipping town next week.

In honor of their anniversary, Ray and Jackie Welles will see a Giants game with their daughter, take the ferry back to Oakland and enjoy fine dining somewhere in Jack London Square.



Chuck Yeager and lovely bride Mariam Worsham celebrated her birthday somehow or other,

FOLLOWING FRILICKOVA:

Lots to catch up on for our gal Zuzka. For starters, she's now living with the Raeths. She also seems to be becoming something of a baseball aficionado, as she went to another Giants' game (they lost) followed the next day by attending Stefan Raeth's Little League game (his team won!). Zuzka will be going to the Prom, and she thanked Paul Fillingner (you all remember him, right?) for helping make that possible.



Zuaka details her adventures.

And now, an advisory - Zuzka will not be here that much longer. School ends on June 13th, the annual exchange student Safari starts not long after that, and she heads back to Slovakia soon after that. What that means is that your chances to spend time with Zuzka are dwindling fast, so you'd better act now to reserve a time slot.



Ken Kosich (shown handing over the cash) had a birthday, which he apparently spent in a bass tournament with his son (they qualified for the next round).

ANOTHER GREAT CHANCE TO HELP OUT, HANDS-ON STYLE:



John Fazel (Prez elect 09-10) practices getting in the way of the projector and laying down the

Every year, John Fazel heads up the Three-Quarter Century Club Luncheon, and this year is no exception. What's that, you say? It's a fun gathering honoring any and all Orindans over the tender age of 75. Lunch is served, honorees are recognized (oldest man, oldest woman, longest married couple, greatest number of Fazel's jokes endured), a speaker or two speaks (this year, Orinda's first mayor, Dick Hegge, and Joyce Hawkins, Orinda's Do-Everything Person, will talk about the "Birth of the City: Before the Vote") and a wonderful time is had by all.

So here's the deal. None of this can happen without volunteers helping out in the kitchen, helping serve the lunches, and helping clean up afterwards. This reporter can tell you from personal experience that it is not at all clear who has a better time, the diners or the volunteers. Suffice to say that this is a blast of a way to do a good deed.

June 19 - that's a Thursday. Orinda Community Church. No experience needed - Brad Davis and I are living proof of that. People will be needed from about 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., give or take. Contact John Fazel for more info or, better yet, to sign up. You'll be glad you did.

PINNING IS BACK:

As his days as a scheming despot dwindle down to a precious few, Prez Paul appears to have a surplus of pins that he doesn't want to have to store into the unforeseeable future. So today, he gave a couple of 'em away.

First, Bryn Rowe was awarded one for single-handedly transporting 4,000 or so books that we rescued

from the some horrible fate (Charlie Franklin led that effort - thanks again, Charlie) from the storage locker where they had been to a county jail so that the detainees might have something to read. Unfortunately, Bryn had the good sense to make herself scarce, so Paul Bettelheim (rumor has it that he and she are acquainted in some way or other) stood in for her and accepted the award with all the bubbly good cheer for which he is renowned.

Next, Alex Arnold was recognized pinned for his smile. No, really, he was. It seems that Alex's picture finds its way into the Lamorindan pretty regularly, and he always has a huge smile on his face, thereby conveying the impression that (1) he is having a great time and (2) that we must one heck of a fun group for anyone to be having that great a time that consistently. So, Alex got a pin. (No mention was made of any truth-in-advertising laws, which was probably just as well.)

PROGRAM:

We have been Exposing Ourselves for some years now, dating back to Old Vet's Hall days, and the Lafayette Police Department still hasn't caught on. So, as we do the last meeting of each month, we decided to push our luck once again as Dave Dickson and Ron Brown were the latest to "Expose Yourself."

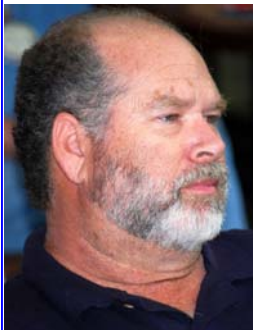


Dave Dickson tells all and says goodbye.

[Dave Dickson](#) came to Lamorinda Sunrise from Half Moon Bay and the HMB Club (he's a Past-President of said Club), and he is now returning to both. He has been working in Half Moon Bay as the Executive Director of the Coastside County Water District since October. He and the family still lived in Lafayette so that daughters Dara and Yvette could finish high school, but the move has now been made, as evidenced by the photo of piles of moving boxes.

Dave was born in Pasadena, California and grew up in Silicon Valley when it was more like Apricot Valley. In fact, apricots played a large part in his and many kids' early lives, as growing, picking and canning them offered various employment opportunities for them. After graduating from Saratoga High, Dave headed off to Stanford, where, as Dave put it, he quit three times and graduated twice. His mother wanted him to go to medical school, so

naturally, found a career in waste water management. (Insert your favorite urologist/proctologist joke here.) As Dave says. His career "is in the sewer." That sewer took him to Half Moon Bay, although he gave it all up for the glamour of Lafayette and selling seismic bearings (big rubber donuts that buildings sit on to isolate them from earthquake shocks). That went so well that he was laid off, which led to a stint with Instrument Controls Company. But fate, in the form of the pipes of Half Moon Bay, intervened, and Dave is now headed back to the sewers he knows and loves so well.



Steve Ware of Ware Designs listens intently to Dave, but really, doesn't he look distinguished?

In 1984, Dave's ex-wife introduced him to Marla Wong. 24 years and 5 kids later, they are still together. Son Dan is at Chico State and is was our outgoing Youth Exchange student in Spain. Daughter Drucia is at Stanford and is preparing for an intensive no-English-spoken-here summer in Russia. She, too, was an outgoing Youth Exchange student, in her case to southern Italy. Daughter Dara is about to graduate from Acalanes High, is a seriously talented rower and soon-to-be Oakland Strokes alumnae, on her way to Yale in the fall. Daughter Yvette is also about to leave the hallowed halls of Acalanes and will follow brother Dan to Chico State. Son Justin is in a residential treatment facility in Utah and is doing very

well.

With that, Dave is off to Half Moon Bay and out of membership in Lamorinda Sunrise. We will certainly miss the wit and charm he, Marla and the entire Dickson clan. And from a personal standpoint, this reporter will miss the great photos Dave has contributed to the Lamorindan. Not only have they been tremendous in their own right, but they have done a great job of distracting attention from the random spewing of verbiage this reporter has inflicted upon you poor readers.



Ron Brown's career has had many wrinkles.

[Ron Brown](#) is one of our recent members, and a welcome addition he is. Ron was born in Huntington, Indiana, hometown of renowned statesman and scholar Dan Quayle, but he spent most of his first 14 years by, on, in or under a lake near Albert Lea, Minnesota. He traded up, lake size-wise, when the family moved to Chicago, where Ron attended high school. A certain other student at that high school by the name of Sara eventually caught Ron's eye. Ron and Sara both headed off to the University of Illinois (Go, Fighting Illini!), where, according to Ron, Sara was active in just about everything and Ron wasn't.

That changed soon enough, as Ron was drafted after graduation. Since he had juuuuust a bit more education than most of his fellow draftees, he was assigned to counter-intelligence duty near Baltimore. About this time, he did two things: got into Officers Candidate School, which led to temporary changes in his life, and proposed to Sara, which has proven to be more permanent.

OCS took him to the Benning School for Boys (Army brass insists on calling it Fort Benning, but Ron used the more accurate term). Young Lt. Brown was then sent to a permanent assignment in Louisville, KY, which meant that new bride Sara, who taught 2 grade to help make ends meet, worked virtually in the shadow of Churchill Downs. Some of Sara's charges were the children of groom, jockeys, trainers, etc., and the brought in inside poop about horses and races. Ron, being the budding young officer, refused to act on any of them.

After the Army was through with Ron, he went back to Chicago (one assumes Sara went, too) and faced a choice of selling toothpaste or computers. Translation: accept a job offer from Proctor & Gamble or one from IBM. Ron chose computers.

In 1970, Ron left IBM for Transamerica's Computer Company which specialized in leasing Computer mainframes and peripheral products. This led to selling a lot of off-lease equipment, especially in Eastern Europe, which meant lots of trips to Poland. After ten years, though, Transamerica went back to being strictly an insurance company. That, in turn, meant Ron had to find a new job. And find it he did with Osborne Computer as their VP of International. Ron showed us the Osborne "Vixen," the first ever language-localized personal computer, which made it very popular overseas. Unfortunately, the Osborne operating method was, as Ron summed it up, "Ready! Fire! Aim!" This led to some less than ideal decisions, such as announcing a new-generation product of which none were on hand, which instantly dried up demand for the current-generation product which was available. Now this reporter does not know much about running a business, but he has it on good authority that bad cash flow will kill a business faster and deader than bad profitability, and Osborne Computer appears to be a good example: It went bankrupt.

At this point, President Paul made a valiant effort to observe the 8:15 meeting ending time, only to be shouted down by the masses demanding to know more about Ron's life. Ron took mercy on Paul and limited the rest of his story to observing that Japan is already using cell phones with infrared technology to store info and put it on screens, with computers, via small converter boxes instead of laptop com-

puters to send messages to and from pagers.. And with that, another installment of "Expose Yourself" came to an end. Thank you, Dave and Ron, for a glimpse into your lives.

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, June 6, 2008, Weekly Meeting, Postino, 7:00-8:15 a.m. Jay Lifson, executive director of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce will fill us in on some important new information. Don't miss it.

Friday, June 13, 2008, Weekly Meeting, Postino, 7:00-8:15 a.m. Andrew Goldsmith, Fund Development Coordinator visits us to share the 20th anniversary of East Bay Habitat. We'll also hear about how one supporter is biking across the country to raise money for Habitat.

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>.

Thursday, June 19, 2008 - Three-Quarter Century Club Luncheon. Once again, Orinda's 75-and-over set are treated to lunch and a fun time. Orinda's first mayor, Dick Hegge, and Joyce Hawkins, Orinda's Do-Everything Person, will be the speakers, talking about "Birth of the City: Before the Vote."

Friday, June 20, 2008, Weekly Meeting, Postino, 7:00-8:15 a.m. Learn the secrets of speaking! Michael Mataraza, Head Trainer for Anthony Robbins, will explore the psychology of speaking and persuasion. Mike has been speaking internationally over 10 years.

Wednesday, June 25, 2008 - Super Top-Secret Demotion of Paul Fillinger Party - Details as they become available, but it will definitely involve dinner and silliness.

Friday, June 27, 2008, Weekly Meeting, Postino, 7:00-8:15 a.m. Pat Flaherty takes over the reigning reins, and Kevin Croak and Rich Shearer Expose Themselves.

(No)t Briefly Noted

By "guess who?"
Sunday, June 01, 2008



Have you noticed the changes? This is the second issue of everyone's favorite newsletter which, in advertising parlance, is "new and improved."

Heeding some excellent pointers offered *gratis* by Jenny Lee, Cal's daughter and a marketing design professional, the font and format are different. The goal is to make it at once more inviting to the eye and to make it easier to read. That said, one of the virtues of having the newsletter in electronic form is that we oldsters (er, seniors) can make the type as large as we want.

Another major newsletter-related change: Thanks to the genius and endless dedication of Chuck Yeager, we now have a one-page link that hesto-presto transports one not only to the newsletter, but also to our website, which, as always, is replete with information every member needs to keep abreast of. I'm thinking here mainly of the weekly calendar listings.

On our website homepage, you will find links to the club's photo archives. They were started by Dave

Dickson – thanks, Dave, for all the wonderful images – and are being perpetuated by Dave’s worthy successor, Tom “Ansel” Black.

The direct link to Tom’s photo galleries, begun March 28, is tfblack.smugmug.com. Here you will find all of the pictures from our weekly meetings. Each is identified by date. You call up the entire collection for a given event by clicking on the picture shown. There are many more gallely images than appear in the newsletter, which because of space constraints, must select only a handful.

Tom is ably continuing Dave’s legacy of taking terrific pictures. There are some (s)mugshots that are truly worthy of framing. Should you find an image you like – be it of yourself or someone or something else – you can download it or order a print from Smugmug.

I’d like to take this opportunity to extend thanks to the entire all-star communications team, headed by Dave Watson, for all the wonderful work. In addition to Tom, other newsletter heroes are Kevin Croak, Patti Witalis, Cal Lee, Rich Shearer, Chuck Yeager, and our newest addition, Ron Brown.

Chuck, of course, continues to work his magic as maestro of our website. If anyone has any suggestions of how the newsletter or website might be further improved, let one of us know. We aim to please. Sometimes we have to squint to see the bull’s eye.



Something really interesting was happening here, but Brad Davis, Pat Flaherty, and Venera Maysuryants were not telling



Krysten Laine (Urban/Suburban) nurses an injured foot that got the worse end of a motorcycle squeeze.