



Lamorindan



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

February 1, 2008

Dave Dickson — Pictures
Richard Shearer—Editor
Kevin Croak & Patti Witalis — Publishers

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

Sir Clem Renouf

Past President, Rotary International

GUESTS & VISITING ROTARIANS:

Ken Jacobson - Pleasant Hill
Katie Rose Ware - Rafflin' as usual
Earling Horn
Mike Heller - Lafayette
Larry Duson - Prez, Lafayette
Jay Lifson - Lafayette
Kathy Deavers - Past Prez, SF #2



BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & OTHER NOTEWORTHY STUFF:

Steve Ware had a birthday, which he spent working. Since he shares a birthday with Joanne Luscher, she seems to have had one, too, although she spent hers recuperating from her recent spate of health issues. Brad Davis is going to Hawaii for his 33rd anniversary - the long-suffering Carol is probably going, too. And Don & Gwen Reichert just got back from Hawaii, where they celebrated 57 years of wedded bliss.

AUCTION UPDATE:

Brad Davis reminded us that: (1) the Dinner and Auction is coming March 15; (2) we need auction items; and (3) we can't get those items unless we all get out there and get them. Hays Englehart then passed around the sign-up sheet for guests - yes, you can bring a bunch o' guests, but we need to know who they are so we can prepare the appropriate name tags and auction brochures.

Tom "King of Solicitation" Black updated us on who's been naughty and nice about covering the various territories to hit up local merchants

Mike Heller of the Lafayette Club let us know that one of the things available at the Auction will be the use of a BMW for a weekend (thanks, Mike). Tres cool.

Finally, don't forget the \$20 bottle of wine (or \$20 for Ken to get one) for the barrel o' wine item that history shows will bring in some serious bucks.

MEMBER UPDATE:

A couple of our stalwart members could use your good wishes. John Linneman is in the hospital - something to do with that big ol' heart of his. And Joanne Luscher is two weeks into about six weeks' worth of recuperation from her recent surgery. Get better, Joanne and John. We miss you.

THINGS ARE REALLY GOING DOWNHILL:

Downhill skiing, that is. Jay Lifson was here from the Lafayette Club to announce the annual Rotary ski event on February 29, somewhere near Lake Tahoe. So, you want to be on the Lamorinda Sunrise Ski Team? (Must have your own health insurance.)

A NEW MEMBER - SORT OF:

Larry Duson is one busy dude. He's the President of the Lafayette Club. He's President of the Chamber of Commerce. And now, he's a Lamorinda Sunrise red-badger. It makes sense - his attendance here this year is better than most of ours.

MURAL UPDATE:

Earling Horn, former Lafayette Mayor and all-around good guy, gave us an update on The Mural. (You remember The Mural - the seven-panel celebration of the life of the Marquis de Lafayette and the history of Lafayette the town.) The good Mr. Horn told us about the three options for the final rendering of the panels and the relative costs, from tile mural (expensive) to mosaic mural (also expensive) to fiberglass (much, much less expensive). Stay tuned.

NOBODY HERE BUT US CHICKENS:

The final one of the First Semi-Annual Rubber Chicken Awards - the coveted recognitions for prowess in making up at other Clubs - was given out today. The first award for making up the furthest away from Postino went to none other than Dan Herbert for his foray to England. Or maybe Switzerland. Or maybe Outer Sandusky. In any event, way to go, Dan.



ZUZKA'S DOINGS:

Whatever Zuzka did, it'll have to stay under wraps for now. However, you can help be a part of her reports by inviting Zuzka along when you go somewhere. Steve Ware informed us all via e-mail how to help fill in Zuzka's calendar, so don't forget that key phrase: "You want to come along?"

GRUMBLE, GRUMBLE, GRUMBLE:

Steve Ware complained bitterly about waiting to take Zuzka and Becky to school for the Zuzka report, which was put off to next week (see previous item). Then, thanks to his waiting, he won the raffle for the weekly prize, although he didn't draw the white marble for the Big Money. Steve was properly razzed for his effrontery.



PROGRAM:

The Foundation. We hear about it, and there is always confusion about it. And then we find out that The Foundation isn't a "it," but rather a "them." So, thank goodness for Lamorinda Sunrise's own Cal Lee, Brad Davis and Paul Bettelheim, who explained it all today.

Cal started out by explaining where Foundation money comes from. In short, it comes from you. Rotary International has a goal of \$100 per member each year being donated to the Rotary Foundation. We have long been a 100% participation Club. Each year, we bill \$130 to each member (the extra \$30 started a few years back as part of the push to get rid of the last relative handfuls of polio cases as part of the Polio Plus campaign). That money goes to Rotary International - it usually goes to the general do-good fund, but can be designated for Polio Plus or other specific Rotary projects).

What happens to that money? Half of it goes into Rotary International's myriad projects. The other half comes back to the donor's District - in our case, District 5160 - for such things as District Simplified Grants, Matching Grants and other locally-originated projects. This feature goes a long way to explain why Rotary is so fertile in bottom-up ideas for making the world better.

Your contributions to the Rotary Foundation also count towards your receiving a Paul Harris Fellowship. This is an award that goes to anyone who donates a total of \$1,000 to the Rotary Foundation. You can become a multiple Paul Harris Fellowship member, or you can bestow a Paul Harris Fellowship upon family or friends, too. Becoming a Paul Harris Fellow is a way of showing your commitment to Rotary and its great works.

Brad Davis took the ball from there, telling us about what exactly the Rotary Foundation. It's mission? Quite simply, doing the work of the world. The Foundation now receives well over \$100 million per year. And when you donate \$1 to the Rotary Foundation, \$1 goes back out to Rotary's good works. Really. (Ask Brad how that can be if you want to know how that can be.)

The Rotary Foundation has some of the most successful educational programs ever seen. It sponsors Ambassadorial Scholars (graduate -level studies for students traveling from all over the world to all over the world), Group Study Exchanges (Districts trading teams of young professionals of all kinds for learning from each other), Peace and Conflict Resolution sessions, including the Peace Scholar Program, and tons of others.

RF also is heavily involved in humanitarian initiatives, including funding matching grants. This is a tremendous program that allows local Clubs to leverage a good idea into reality. How does it work? Well, our Club provided a recent example. We have been involved with a village in Tanzania for some years now. They needed a bridge over a stream that turns into a raging torrent every rainy season. We, along with other local Clubs, put up money for the project. District 5160 matched what we put up with money that had come back from the Rotary Foundation. Then, the Rotary Foundation matched that total. The result? Our idea of a bridge became a reality. Matching grants require teaming with a Rotary Club in the area, and there are, of course, reporting requirements. And of course, there's Rotary's signature project, Polio Plus. It started in 1985, intended to be a 20 year project to wipe out polio by mobilizing Rotarians and others around the world (to the tune of 20 million volunteers) to immunize the world's children. We didn't make the 2005 goal, but there are fewer than 1% of the new cases now than there were when Polio Plus was launched. It is the most successful private health initiative in the history of the world.



Last but not least, Paul Bettelheim told us about the Lamorinda Sunrise Endowment Fund. It is roughly 10 years old now. Every year, 25% of the net proceeds of our Annual Dinner and Auction go into the Endowment Fund (in really good years, a little more goes in). In addition, Club members have made donations into the Endowment Fund.

The goal is to create a fund that generates significant interest to help finance our Club projects. We are already generating somewhere in the \$3,000 to \$5,000 range in annual interest to add to the money generated by the Dinner and Auction, and the principle in the Fund is approaching \$100,000. The Fund is in conservative investments overseen by the Endowment Fund Board, the meetings of which are open to any Club member. (They tend to be a Paul B's house and feature wine and friendly animals.)



There is much more to know about the Rotary Foundation and the Lamorinda Sunrise Endowment, but between Cal, Brad and Paul, you now know the basics - the rest is details. The bottom line is both of these funds are funded by us, and they permit us, through the Club, to reach more people and do more good than we possibly good as a bunch of individuals.

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, February 8, 2008: Meeting, Postino, 7:00-8:15 a.m.

Clay Gardner is a Major in the Salvation Army. Many of us only know the Salvation Army from what we learned from the movie, Guys and Dolls. So we should learn a lot from Clay's presentation. He is a member of the Clayton Valley Rotary Club and does their newsletter.

Friday, February 15, 2008: Meeting, Postino, 7:00-8:15 a.m. Budd MacKenzie- Founder, Trust in Education- bringing education, health, and economic development to villages in Afghanistan. Why should anyone care? Check out Budd's program and www.trusteducation.org.

Friday, February 22, 2008: Meeting, Postino, 7:00-8:15 a.m. The one, the only JAY LIFSON, Executive Director of Lafayette's Chamber of Commerce, will reveal his secret to us on this eventful morning: **HOW HE HAS TRANSFORMED SLEEPY LAFAYETTE INTO THE MOST BOOMING, BURGEONING, BUSTLING CENTER OF ACTIVITY IN ALL THE LAMORINDA AREA.** Don't miss this meeting--you may be able to use some of Jay's techniques in your own business.

Friday February 29, 2008 7:00am-8:15am: Meeting, Postino. Expose Yourself!! Dan Herbert & tbd.

Friday, March 7, 2008: Meeting, Postino, 7:00-8:15 a.m. Lisa Vordergrueggen, political writer for the Contra Costa Times, is here to give us the latest on California events, how they're spun, and who's who!!



Friday, March 14, 2008: Meeting, Postino, 7:00-8:15 a.m. Zuzka will tell us in words and pictures where she is from, where she is now with her cross cultural experience and what she plans to do in the future.

Saturday, March 15, 2008: The one, the only, THE Lamorinda Sunrise Annual Dinner & Auction. Great times, great auction items, a great chance to share what we do with friends, family . . . and maybe even some future Rotarians. Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church, Moraga.

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>

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>.

