



# Lamorindan



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

February 15, 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*

## A SPECIAL AND VERY SAD ANNOUNCEMENT

It is with profound sorrow that we learned that Moraga Rotarian Eddie Roodveldt has passed away. Eddie is probably best remembered in Rotary circles as the long-time leader of the District 5160's participation in Rotary's Youth Exchange program, although that does not begin to scratch the surface of this warm-hearted, delightful man. Whether it was dealing with a delicate issue involving a Youth Exchange student, exchanging good cheer at a Rotary function or being twirled around an impromptu dance floor by a certain mad-cap Past President of Lamorinda Sunrise, Eddie always displayed a sense of humor and a willingness to help that never failed to put a smile on the faces of those around him

Godspeed to you, Eddie, and our most sincere condolences to the Roodveldt family and to our friends in the Moraga Club. Your loss is our loss, too.

There will be a memorial service for Eddie at the Chapel at St, Mary's College on February 24 at 2:00 p.m.

## TGITLFOTM

Ok, Friday Feb. 29th 5:30 to 7:30? Last TGITLFOTM on a Leap Day till 2036, 28 years from now!  
Address is 16 La Cintilla, Orinda. Directions: Camino San Pablo north to Miner Road, turn right. (Stop Light) Go one mile to Camino Sobrante, turn right. Take first hard left turn on Dias Dorados. Take next right turn on La Cintilla. Park in upper and lower driveways, or on street.  
BYOB, Bring some finger foods, bring your favorite pool cue, bring good cheer.



## **GUESTS & VISITING ROTARIANS:**

Annette Herbert - keepin' Dan honest (a dirty job, but someone has to do it)

Rob Riebs - apparently, Prez Paul has negatives of him

Katie Rose Ware - once again gracing us with her presence

Simone Raeth - ditto

Queen Glenda Fillinger - the real reason we let Paul keep hanging around

Pam Locati

Gwen Reichert - checking up on Don (see Annette Herbert's parenthetical, above)

Carol Chaffey - new kid, new dogs, same gracious self



## **BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & OTHER NOTEWORTHY STUFF:**

President Paul brought Queen Glenda to the meeting today to celebrate her birthday, which just happened to be today. One only hopes he had more planned that just that, 'cuz that sofa can get pretty darn lonely . . . .

Dan Herbert brought Annette with him for his birthday, which also just happened to be today. It was quickly agreed that putting up with Dan has absolved Annette of any further duties, birthday-wise.

Tay Wheeler celebrated Mindy's b-day by taking her to dinner. He also mentioned something about "the boys" making her dinner and treating her like a goddess - as in giving her burnt offerings. Not clear if these two aspects of the celebration have a direct cause-and-effect relationship.

## **AUCTION UPDATE:**

Don't stop me if you've heard this before.

(1) We need items to auction off. Really.

(2) We need guests to come bid on all the auctions items we are collecting. And we need to know their names so we can have name tags and proper info to put into the computer that allows night-of-event check-out of money collection work. Really.

(3) We need you bottle of wine (\$20 or better, please) or some green (\$20 or better, please) to go get a bottle of wine, all for the Bog Ol' Barrel o' Wine auction item that will bring in a bunches o' bucks, if history is any indication.

(4) We need old shoes for dining table centerpieces, and we need 'em by this coming Friday. (I really do not make this stuff up, folks. Nor do I pass judgment on it - at least not most of the time. Somebody else says it and I just report it. Honestly.) P.S. Do not expect the shoes to come back you in useable condition, or even at all.

So, who do you contact about the above. Talk to Ken Kosich about (1) if you have something. Talk to Tom Black about (1) if you need help closing a deal. Talk to Hats Englehart about (2). Talk to Gillet Johnson about (3). Bring the shoes and/or questions pertinent to (4) to Cal Lee.

There now, that wasn't so bad, was it?

Also, by now, you probably have been contacted about what your set-up/day-of/tear-down assignment. If you are reading this and thinking to yourself "what assignment?", go to the phone *right now* and call Brad Davis to find out what your assignment is.

**THIS PLACE IS TURNING INTO A ZOO, PART DEUX:**

Somehow, a fair number of you managed to avoid the Great Reno Chicken-in-a-Pot Animal Giveaway last week. Well, just to prove that some of us never tire of making fools of ourselves, John Fazel and Rich Shearer tossed more stuffed animals to various of the hoi polloi who, er, missed out last week. With any luck, they will not do this again next week.



**ZUZKA'S DOINGS:**

Zuzka has moved on to a new home, that of George and Carol Chaffey. Unaccustomed as the Chaffeys may with at this Youth Exchange hosting thing (nudge, nudge, wink, wink), all seems to be going great. Along with a new Youth Exchange daughter, the Chaffeys have also taken two new Norwich Terrier pups (Zuzka went along with them to Clear Lake to pick them up), and Zuzka and her new canine buddies have bonded well. (No word about how Zuzka is adjusting to living in close confinement with George.)

And Zuzka has now experienced another uniquely American event - Super Bowl Sunday. She sat herself in front of the TV and . . . fell asleep, except that she woke up in time for the final few exciting minutes. "Yay, Giants!" was her final take on the game.

But wait, as the say, there's more! Zuzka went to Lake Tahoe for the annual District 5160 Youth Exchange ski outing. Zuzka is already an excellent skier, so she opted to give snow boarding a try. It was her first time, and on the first day, Zuzka says she fell. A lot. But by Day 2, it was coming more naturally, and she seems have decided that snow boarding is another fun way to schuss down a snow-covered mountain.

Finally, off to Cirque du Soleil in San Jose with the Chaffeys. Zuzka loved it, especially the part where George got into a day-glo unitard and performed 73 straight somersaults while suspended by a strand of cooked vermicelli. (Okay, I made that last part up - it was *uncooked* vermicelli.) All in all, it sounds like a great past couple of weeks.



**OH, AND BY THE WAY:**

Speaking of Zuzka, her proverbial dance card still has a bunch of open slots. So how about bringing her along on the stuff you are doing anyway? For more info, contact Steve Ware, the Grand High Poobah of Zuzka's Social Calendar.

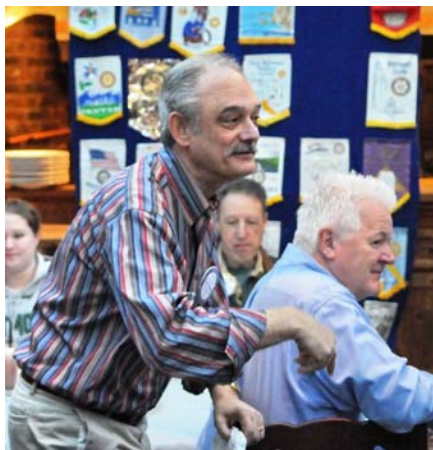
**ENGLISH BUTCHERED WHILE YOU WATCH:**

Prez Paul apparently decided that not enough of us are actually reading The Lamorindan. And so, as a means of encouraging more readership of this fine, award-winning publication, Paul reached into the President's Bag o' Tricks and pulled out one that has been a favorite of Lamorinda Sunrise Presidents since 1987 - public humiliation. The results were: (a) confirmation that insufficient numbers of you are hanging on every word that is set forth in the weekly fish wrap; (b) a clear consensus that public humiliation does not work with a group as jaded as this one; and c) "remindful" is now officially a word in the English language by pronouncement of a certain President of Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary.



**MAYBE SOMEDAY HE'LL ACTUALLY GET TO DRIVE THE THING:**

Rich Shearer was just sitting there at work earlier this week, minding his own business (or at least as much as any lawyer can mind his or her own business) when, out of the blue, he got a call from Moraga Rotary's own Rich Render. It seems that a certain green Volvo was parked on the street of the Miramonte Gardens condo complex, had been there for the past several weeks, was showing no signs of migrating, and was going to be towed the next day. Was it perchance, asked Rich B. to Rich S., a Shearer vehicle. Since Rich has not so much as set backside in said car for some months, it took a while for the question to even register, but in the end, all worked out and said green Volvo wagon was rescued from an unplanned trip behind a tow truck. Well, it didn't end all that well, as the gentle, kind Prez Paul pulled out one of his immediate predecessor's lines ("Because I can!") and reached into Rich S's wallet, metaphorically speaking, for a small contribution to the Club's coffers. Rich has been well-coached by a certain Steve Ware as to the proper response to such things: "Thank you, sir, may I have another?"



**PROGRAM:**



Trust in Education, the labor-of-love of Lafayette citizen Budd MacKenzie, represents America at its absolute best. America at its best does not mean our government addressing problems at a macro level with top-down infusions of money or materiel, as critically important as such projects often are. No, we are at our very best when we connect one-to-one, rolling up our sleeves and working with others in the proverbial - and sometimes literal - trenches to help solve real-world, right-now problems.

For almost five years now, that is what Budd MacKenzie and Trust in Education have been doing. Budd was back to visit us again and to report on what is new in his project to help an Afghan village. Lalander, get its economic legs under it so it no longer needs anyone's help.

Lalander is blessed and cursed by a relative proximity to Kabul, Afghanistan's capital. The proximity means it is comparatively easy to get needed materials from the big city. (The key word here is "relative" - it's still a significant trip from Lalander to Kabul.) The proximity also means that Kabul is in rocket range of Lalander, and the village and its surrounding area as often been used for exactly that purpose ever since the Soviets invaded Afghanistan almost 20 years ago. Not surprisingly, whoever is getting bombarded in Kabul tends not to take kindly to the treatment and seeks to return the favor. As a result, Lalander and the valley in which it is located has seen a great deal of warfare in the intervening years. The valley's irrigation system was destroyed, which in turn devastated the crops that formed the backbone of the area's economy. Worse yet, Lalander and environs has more than its fair share of the estimated 200 million landmines that have been planted throughout Afghanistan that result in 100 incidents per month on the country of civilians detonating mines, a disproportionate number of whom are children killed and maimed while playing.

That's where Trust in Education comes in. Budd believes strongly that TiE's approach - work intensively in one area to get it on its feet rather than applying a patchwork or partial-aid programs - works wonders. Through TiE's efforts, there is now a school in Lalander that is educating over 140 boys and - this is the truly amazing number - 65 girls. This is one area where the recent history of actively, even violently discouraging educating girls is being reversed. Budd is very much a realist: he does not support forcing girls being educated *at* the school if it is dangerous to do so, but does support having those classes conducted at private homes, where the activities are less obvious to the more repressive elements. Most of the people want an education for their daughters. Because of the recent history, however, and the fact that the forces of women's subjugation still exist, it is not always feasible to expect girls to travel to a school for their education. Through TiE, Budd is working to make sure that this important change in educational availability happens in a way that has a real chance of success and in a way that the villagers can support without facing excessive risk of reprisals.



The unifying theme underlying all that TiE does is helping Lalander reach a point where it no longer needs anyone's help. The area is a natural for growing fruit trees. The irrigation system, however, was one of the casualties of the past 20 years of fighting. Thanks to TiE, the irrigation system has been rebuilt, 150 acres are now productive again, and over 22,000 fruit trees (mainly apple and apricot) and 13,000 pomegranate trees have been purchased, distributed and planted. It will take a few years for these trees to bear fruit in commercially viable amounts, and the farmers will require financial assistance until that day comes. But that day is now on the way instead of merely a dream, and a significant area has been committed to economic stability without having to resort to opium farming.

And where do these trees come from. A Kabul nursery. One of TiE's operating philosophies is to make as much use of local or regional supplies, goods and services as possible. Budd was able to arrange for the purchase of the needed fruit trees nearby. He asked the proprietor how many other international groups or agencies had approached him about purchasing fruit trees. The answer: None. Budd is convinced that the success in Lalander can be replicated in other villages, and local and regional resources can in fact be marshaled in a way that provides economic viability and discourages the spread of opium farming. So far, the U.S. State Department and others have failed to take notice.

But the irrigation and the trees are useless without the knowledge to make them work. So TiE is also involved in teaching local farmers techniques to increase and preserve the fertility of their soil and otherwise maximize their sustainable crop yields. In addition, TiE has been a leader in a project in which 10 potato cold storage sheds are being built, which will allow farmers to realize half again their current profits from growing and selling potatoes.

Another aspect of TiE and Budd's commitment to Lalander is to report back to his American supporters - especially the classes of school children here who have raised money to help their peers in Afghanistan. This helps put a human face on what the children - and their parents - are helping to accomplish.

Budd's ultimate goal is to no longer be needed in Lalander. At that point, TiE may be in a position to take the lessons learned there and apply them to other neighboring villages, eventually making a significant part of Afghanistan not only able to take care of itself again, but to spread that knowledge and prosperity further and further out from where Budd MacKenzie and Trust in Education first set up shop. It is a vision well worth supporting.

Over the past few years, Lamorinda Sunrise has supported Trust in Education with donations. Today, President Paul Fillinger presented another check for \$2,500 to Budd for Trust in Education to help continue the good work. This is a project that we can all be proud to support. Thank you Budd, for reporting back and for reminding us what America at its best looks and feels like.

Please check out the Trust in Education website at [www.trusteducation.org](http://www.trusteducation.org).



## **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 22, 2008: Meeting, Postino, 7:00-8:15 a.m. Bringing Lafayette History to Life!!! Mary McCosker, Lafayette historian and author tells the story of the city! (Correction of previous listing.)

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

Friday February 29, 2008, 5:30pm -7:30pm : Last TGITLFOTM on a Leap Day till 2036, 28 years from now. This one will be at Chez Englehart, 16 La Cintilla, Orinda. Directions: Camino San Pablo north to Miner Road, turn right. (Stop Light) Go one mile to Camino Sobrante, turn right. Take first hard left turn on Dias Dorados. Take next right turn on La Cintilla. Park in upper and lower driveways, or on street. BYOB, Bring some finger foods, bring your favorite pool cue, bring good cheer.

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.

Friday, March 21, 2008, 7:00a.m. - 8:15a.m.: Four-Way Test Speech Contest. The purpose of the contest is to encourage youth, Rotarians and the community at large to more completely understand, encourage and foster the principles of Rotary and the object of "Service Above Self". The speech contestants may speak on any subject to which they can apply "The Four Way Test".

Friday, March 28, 2008, 7:00 a.m.-8:15a.m.: Expose Yourself!! Skip McCowan & George Chaffey

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>.

## **Briefly Noted**

Feb. 15, 2008

Friday's meeting incorporated a most amazing range of emotions from the sadness of the loss of Eddie Roodveldt, a truly beloved Rotarian, to Zuzka's adventures on the ski slopes to the fantastic work Budd MacKenzie is doing in Afghanistan to the impromptu humor our club generates every Friday morning. Thank you for being there.

What more is there to say. (You see, I am learning how to be brief and to the point!)

Paul