



Lamorindan

The Weekly Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Lamorinda
Sunrise



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STRANGE TRUTH

Thomas Peeks was feeling philosophical today after reliving his incendiary experience last week. His thoughts:

Variations on "Is It The Truth":

Believe those who are seeking the truth. Doubt those who found it. (Andre Gide)

All truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being self-evident. (Arthur Schopenhauer)

Truth is more of a stranger than fiction. (Mark Twain)

Of course, your scribe knew who all these authors were, and never had to look at the script which he stole from Thomas.

SOME PUBLICITY IS MORE EFFECTIVE THAN OTHERS

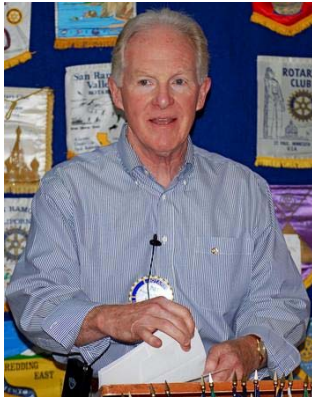
This publicity-starved club got a little more, with plaudits from the Contra Costa Inter-Faith Housing newsletter, and from the Orinda paper for 3/4 Century.

However, a certain Lamorindan proved that it hasn't quite penetrated the public consciousness when no one could answer the simple question, how many faces were on the 1st page last week. The simple answer was 3 including 1 dog.



VERY MISCELLANEOUS

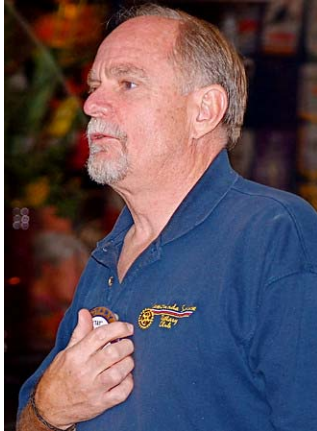
Considering that John Sherry, the president of the Lafayette Noon Club, sent in his Mystery Rotarian information, it's shameful that some LSR folks haven't done so. Venera was so undone by this situation that she ran off to Russia.



Speaking of running off, Prez Pat will not be with us next week. We are kept in suspense as to who will have his/her finger on the nuclear button.



We had a Mystery Rotarian today -- Canadian Rod-Ford Smith, published author of a thrilling paper on semi-conductors who practically built the Hubbell Telescope. Rod also pretended to be Dave Watson who was absent for his birthday observance.



Tay Wheeler has been matrimonified for 37 years.

Debbie Cooper was fined for blatant advertising, joining the Thomas Peeks Publicity Hound Club. Didn't take her long.

Mike Wilson went upscale and visited the Sun River (OR) Sunrise Club. He said, incredibly, that this club was more reverent and organized than ours. As inspiration, their banner will now hang on our wall.

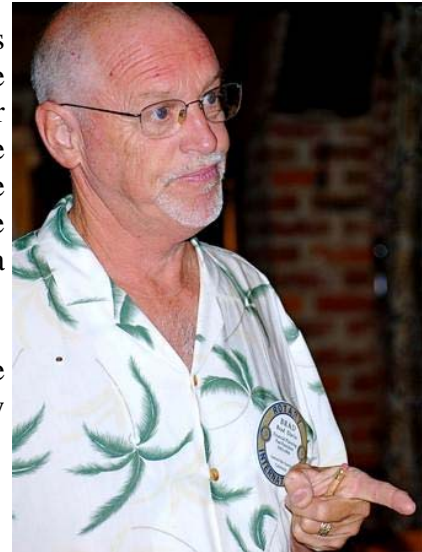


UPCOMING

On August 7-10, Stand Down happens in Pleasanton. Led by Col. Patti Witalis (ret.) and Private 2nd Class Brad Davis, our club will be helping military veterans who are severely challenged, mentally and physically.

Ray Welles announced that this month's TGITLFOTM is violating all tradition by being on the next-to-last Friday, the 22nd. It's also one where you'll have to earn your refreshments. Yes, it's time to assemble dictionaries at the Raeths' once again. For those who are new to this event, we put together very elegant dictionaries, of course with the Rotary label, for 3rd graders in Lamorinda. There's quite a history involved -- ask George Chaffey.

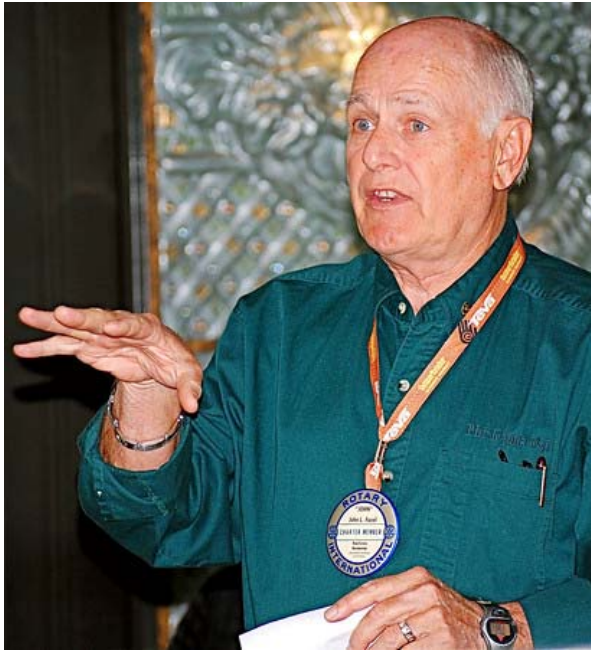
The following day, 8/23, a contingent (hopefully) will be going to Fairfield to learn about the ins and outs of the Rotary International Foundation.



We get to show off our, uh, prowess at the game of softball on September 14th against the Lafayette Club. There is suspicion that they have a bunch of grandkids who are ringers, but hey, bring 'em on. Details to follow.



SHIFTY STUFF



The Fazel Fundraiser for the Cedar Rapids flood was extremely successful, thanks in large part to an angel formerly from the C.C. Food Bank who was so taken by Rich Shearer that she slipped him \$1,000. Final figures TBD, but for sure the Cedar Rapids Rotary will be happy what their LSR friends did. This means the event must have run like a Swiss watch, right? Well, it involved 2-hour shifts.

There was a bit of a break in the chain when it came to who showed up where, and who didn't. The following might have solved the problems:

1. Bring a cell phone -- some of us haven't hit the 21st century yet.
2. Bring a roster, so you have someone to call and track down.
3. Instructions (including the

difference between Lafayette and Orinda Safeways), in writing -- email is a wonderful thing.

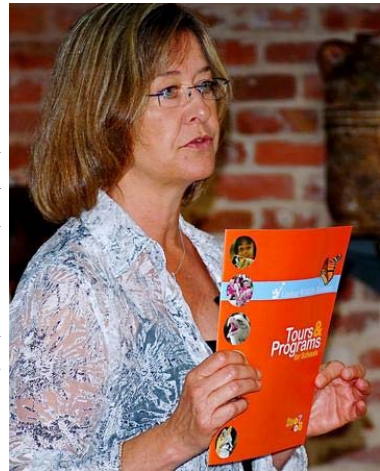
At the Art & Wine Festival on September 20th and 21st, you'll have to get your Rut Beer somewhere else. This year we're being MONITORS, together with the Lafayette Club. Home base will be a "What's Rotary" booth. This will involve 2-hour shifts. Lesson learned?



ANIMAL HOUSE

The program today featured Lindsay Wildlife Museum's Cheryl Cook, Luke Cabot, Live Barn Owl, Stuffed Barn Owl, Stuffed Western Screech Owl, Stuffed Gray Horned Owl, and Live Ron Brown.

Cheryl, who has the intriguing title "external affairs", has been with the Museum since 1998 and with a lot of non-profits before that. The museum was started by Alexander Lindsay in 1955. The purpose was to keep local residents connected with nature, especially kids. They, along with volunteer teachers, work with 50,000 kids per year.



With gentle prodding by the unruly crowd, Cheryl got around to current issues: Turkeys, geese, and gophers. Turkeys are not native to the area, but were introduced for hunting purposes. They are flourishing as predators are thinning out with increased development. Geese find life here so sumptuous that they decide they don't want to migrate any more.

There are about 55 species of birds in back yards around here, including owls. The gray horned owl is the only one that hoots. It is a top-line predator, being armed with fierce talons and chowing down on rats, fish, and other delicacies. Its main enemies are pesticides and flying into cars.

The barn owl likes to roost in palm trees, since there aren't many barns around here any more. The Museum treats about 100 of them a year because the babies fall out of the palm trees when they sway. Farmers actually make nests for barn owls because they are great gopher hunters (loud cheer from the crowd).

Owls can turn their heads 270 degrees, which is good because their eyes are fixed. They have excellent hearing which is helpful for hunting.



Luke presented the live barn owl. It has been 4 years in the Museum. These birds only live 1 to 2 years in the wild; no one knows why. Those in captivity can live 10 to 20 years. This owl was quite feisty, but Luke handled him expertly.

A tough act to follow, but Ron Brown is a tough guy. He's only asking for \$5 million. It's been 22 years since anything's been done at the facility. The plan now is to reconfigure to accommodate such things as an attractive entrance (instead of a door and elevator), and a mountain lion exhibit. There's a new eagle exhibit which is a big drawing card. There's also an animal hospital. The Museum is a treasure, a rarity in the U.S.

Among the big supporters is Mechanic's Bank (there's that Debbie Cooper again). But among those who take some back are the winning foursome of the last fundraiser golf tournament: Charlie Franklin, Thomas Peeks, Carter Wells (Orinda Club), and with all due modesty, Ron "Tiger" Brown.

VISITING ROTARIANS

John Sherry, President, Lafayette Club
Larry Sly, Concord Club and Contra Costa Food Bank

GUESTS

Kara Wheeler, Tay's little girl

UPCOMING

8/8: Mike Grenby, Australian journalist and professor, experiences around the world
8/12: Club Board Meeting, Fazel (Prudential) office, Orinda
8/15: Katy Foulkes, EBMUD Director
8/22: District Governor Jim Campbell, what's shakin' with District 5160
8/29: Expose Yourself

9/5: Michael Mendonca, LN-4 Prosthetic Hand
9/12: Robert (Rick?) Cronk, president, Boy Scouts of America Board
9/23: Group Study Exchange (GSE) hosting meeting, 12:45, Vacaville
9/26: Expose Yourself, whoever you are

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS OF THIS AND OTHER LSR EVENTS ARE POSTED AT TFBLACK.SMUGMUG.COM. THEY ARE ORGANIZED BY DATE. CLICKING ON FEATURED PHOTO CALLS UP ENTIRE GALLERY FOR A GIVEN FUNCTION.

