



Lamorindan

The Weekly Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Lamorinda
Sunrise



September 5, 2008

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Kevin Croak — Publisher

STRANGE TRUTH II (CHECK THE DICTIONARY FOR DEFINITION?)

After Rod Ford-Smith allowed as how he didn't quite have a Thought ready, Steve Ware elbowed Ray Welles aside to deliver a quote from Ezra Pound: "It's difficult hanging onto the truth while admitting an error." As usual with Ezra, puzzled looks went around the room. Perhaps Steve was trying to trump the various definitions of Truth that Thomas Peeks gave in his Thought a month ago, which everyone undoubtedly remembers.

TAKING OUR NOSES OUT OF THE DICTIONARIES –

Pres. Pat observed that this meeting is like no other because it is a preparation for Dictionary Delivery to all the 3rd graders in town. Therefore we could dispense with most of the usual nonsense. A few folks, however, did have other worthwhile events to talk about.

Alex Arnold, the Artist & Winemaster, begged and pleaded for a few more bodies from 4:00 to 7:00 on September 20th and 21st (Sat & Sun). Our parking lot activity, guiding everyone where they need to be, plus manning a What Is Rotary booth, should net us a cool \$1,000. Please contact Alex if you would like to be a little useful while having the pleasure of being at the fun Lafayette Art & Wine Festival.

Bob Heinen, in Joanne Luscher's absence, reminded us of Contra Costa County Project Homeless Connect 3. Jackets, gloves, hats and scarves have been appearing for this cause. The day to work for it is Wednesday, September 10th. Please contact Joanne or Bob if you are willing to help the thousands of homeless in our county.

Debbie Cooper passed along the upcoming schedule for our important community project at Las Trampas School.

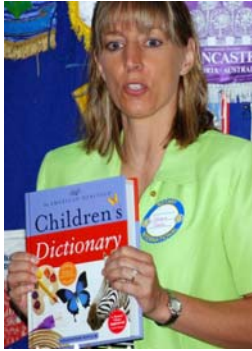
September 13th, around 8:00 until finished: Pulling out the old plants.

October 4th, re-planting (after the Raeths have dug a bunch of trenches), with the InterAct kids.

October 16th, open house.



NOW WE'RE REALLY INTO THE DICTIONARY PROJECT



Thanks first and foremost to the Raeths, especially Tamara (the only one present today), who not only provided the venue for the very appetizing labeling session, but followed through on every aspect, bringing us to today's Rotarian assault on all the 3rd grade classes.

The Dictionary Historian, of course, is George Chaffey, and although he is basically a shy man, he consented to say a few words on the subject.

The beginning of Dictionary History was the District Conference of 1998, coincidentally during the administration of Dist. Gov. Chaffey Esq. George obfuscated the events with a lot of talk about the ideas of luminaries like former member Jeff Adams and ex-world ruler Cliff Dochterman, but the bottom line is that George simply stole the idea from a poor little club in Oregon. In any case, it was a great excuse for a party by 700+ of George's closest friends from all over Northern California.

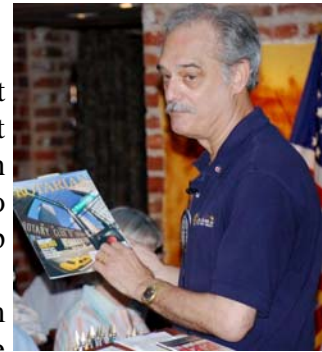
George wanted a hands-on District Conference rather than a bunch of speeches. He didn't mention this, but some of our more venerable members recall that he almost got more than hands on those 30,000 dictionaries. The work of assembling them was done in the big and very uncovered parking lot of a Concord hotel, all day under the most threatening clouds ever seen in the area. A few showers fell during the day, causing considerable scrambling, but somehow the work got done. Immediately thereafter, the monsoon hit during the party. Just think how world history might have been changed if those clouds had been mad at George. (The other memorable aspect of the day was the discipline brilliantly imposed by our own General Bart Fornfeist. Ask George about that.) But we digress.

All the clubs distributed all the dictionaries. George's real motivation for setting all this in motion is that he simply likes to receive mail — like 15,000 responses. Those were a lot of grateful kids, teachers, and parents.

We've kept it going, as have a number of other clubs. In 2006, RI President Bill Boyd made mention of this as a rather effective project, benefitting THREE MILLION 3rd graders.



Like the brilliant attorney he is, George then persuasively laid out why we should do this for prosperous Lamorinda kids. We do a lot of projects for our prosperous community, since part of our function is to improve the history and identity of Lamorinda. We also want to make kids better leaders in the future, hence Camp Royal and Camp Venture. And then there's the sneaky motive of perpetuating Rotary. The dictionaries not only reach the kids, but often remain with them as long as they are kids, and beyond. From the beginning, they are the kids' own. It is obvious from the kids' responses that this is important. One of the responses to the classroom question "What is a Rotarian?" was: "I don't know, but I'll look it up in my dictionary." And the lasting effect was illustrated by a thank-you letter from a 3rd grader saying "This was a nice thing to do. I'd like to do something like that someday."



The proof of this pudding is now starting to appear from 10 years ago when the project first started. George, by a serendipitous coincidence, attended a meeting in Vacaville featuring contestants for \$23,000 scholarships. They all knew about Rotary because they'd gotten a Dictionary.

Then it was time to get out there and experience the contact with kids and teachers. It certainly was time as far as Stefan Raeth was concerned -- he's been bugging his parents for weeks.



VISITING ROTARIANS

Mike Heller, Lafayette Noon Club
Dale Turner, same
Steve Snyder, ditto
Rudy Reich, Orinda
Gail Woznak, also
Larry Sly, Concord Club and Contra Costa Food Bank



Jean Follmer

GUESTS

Teresa Gehringer, Lafayette School District
Jean Follmer, Lamorinda Weekly
Rick Ashford, a Fillinger connection
Tamara Raeth, Ms. Dictionary
Agatha-Sue Lee, Ms. Substitute Distributor
Kara Wheeler, Tay's little University of Oregon Duck
Katie Rose
Chloe



UPCOMING

9/9: Board meeting, Fazel office
9/12: Michael Mendonca, LN-4 prosthetic hand
9/19: Sean Sevilla, volunteering in Rwanda
9/19 - 9/21: Lafayette Art & Wine Festival
9/23: Group Study Exchange (GSE) hosting meeting, 12:45, Vacaville
9/26: Expose Yourself, followed by:
TGITLFOTM at Steve Ware's, "The Bend At Creekwood", 5:30 till who knows when,
RSVP so they can head-count, stephen@waredesign.com.

10/3: Peace Fellow Domingo Gutierrez
10/4: Las Trampas de-planting (work) day
10/10: Ann Gordon, photography and animals
10/17: Julie Gleeson, wisdom coach, The Art of Living
10/24: TGITLFOTM, Tom Black's
10/24 - 10/25: District Conference
10/31: Expose Yourself, whoever you are



Teresa Gehringer