



Lamorindan

The Weekly Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Lamorinda Sunrise



September 12, 2008

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Cal Lee — Reporter
Kevin Croak — Publisher

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GUESTS AND VISITING ROTARIANS

Carol Chaffey - still putting up with spousal unit George
Allie Hanna - still putting up with papa Steve
Tamara Raeth - Thomas's better half
Stefan Raeth - Baseball star in the making
Chad Follmer - Guest of George Chaffey's
Jay Lifson - Lafayette
Jack Flanagan - Guest of John Fazel's
Rudy Reich - Orinda



Dan Herbert with guest Chad Follmer. Chad's wife, Jean Follmer, covered our Sept. 5 meeting as a reporter for the Lamorinda Weekly. She was so impressed that she urged her husband to attend and "check us out" as a potential member.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Rod Ford-Smith seems to have had an anniversary. His idea of an appropriate recognition and President Pat's differed by a factor of two. Pat won. Krysten Laine had a birthday. Her idea of a proper recognition and Prez Pat's were spot-on the same. Derive whatever sense or moral you can from that.

THE DOCTRINE OF "BECAUSE I CAN" LIVES ON

According to the ancient scrolls, back in the ancient history of the Club (*i.e.*, two years ago), there was a Club President who was known for two things: (1) a really loud voice; and (2) a propensity to do really whippy stuff. When asked why he did some of the whippy stuff, his reasoning was usually: "Because I can."



As the Club came through those dark times and into the modern era, such reasoning was left to the mists of the past. Or so we thought. President Pat resurrected that ancient doctrine today, although he called it an "Executive Decision" - but hey, if it walks like a duck and it quacks like a duck . . .

What was this "Executive Decision?" To cancel the idea of buying all-new, gleaming white Club Shirts. Why? Had we offended the Gods? Had we angered the President? No, it's just that Pat had found out that we still had some ridiculous quantity of blue Club shirts from the last time we ordered a bunch. So if you were wondering why there will be no new white (read: food stain collection device) shirt, you can now say: I get it.

A quartet of biped Rotarians elect to have a smaller carbon footprint—and save on gas in the process — by riding their two-wheelers to Postino for our meeting. Ok, so one is a three-wheeler, but it still saves gas ... and, besides, is tres cool.



ANOTHER ONE FOR THE "I CAN'T MAKE UP STUFF THIS WEIRD" FILE

I swear, Buddy Burke is Forest Gump with brains. He shows up everywhere and anywhere, meets up with anyone and everyone, and always comes out of it smelling like a rose.



The latest? Buddy was at the Republican Convention. He ends up at some soiree for big-wig media types. It isn't clear which window Buddy sneaked in through, because he wouldn't say.

Anyway, he ends yakking with Donna Brazille, liberal pundit. Next thing anyone knew, pilot and pundit were squaring off, metaphorically speaking, over who could cook the best grits. That titanic Pay-per-View-Only showdown has yet to be scheduled, but Buddy promised to take to the Postino kitchen to whip up grits for y'all. (Insert your favorite grit-related line from "My Cousin Vinnie" here.) When last seen, Buddy and Prez Pat were headed back into the Postino kitchen to make the (in)appropriate arrangements. One suspects we have not heard the last of this.

ANOTHER MILESTONE FOR A GREAT ROTARIAN

He has been Rotarian of the Year, and he has been involved in just about every kind of Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary project imaginable. So what does Steve Ware do for an encore? How about receiving his second Paul Harris Fellowship award from Cal Lee? That means he has donated a total of \$2,000 to the Rotary Foundation during his time as a Rotarian. And since, as we all know, the Rotary Foundation is the financial engine that makes the good works of Rotary International possible, that means that Steve has invested in the future of Rotary in a truly significant way. Congratulations and thanks, Steve.



ANOTHER GREAT PROJECT IN THE BOOKS

Community Service Director and All-Around Good Guy Thomas Peeks (that's his title - really) closed the books on Project Dictionary by reporting that 440 dictionaries were delivered to the third graders of Lafayette, up 50 from last year. The kids and the teachers loved it. One teacher even had a lesson plan in readiness, putting the dictionaries to good use as soon as the kids had them in hand.

The good Mr. Peeks also had a bouquet of flowers ready for the single biggest shaker and mover of the dictionary project: Tamara Raeth. We've said it before, Tamara, but it bears repeating: Thank you, thank you, thank you for everything you have done to make this project such a huge success. And that's not just for this year, but everything you have done in the past, too.

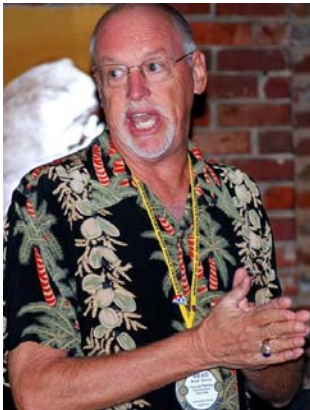


MAYBE DARK GLASSES WERE IN ORDER

If you thought the room was abnormally bright this morning, it may have had something to do with unusual amounts of sunlight being reflected off of the gams of one Tom Black, vast tracts of said appendages being left exposed by the bermudas he was wearing despite the morning chill.

Ed. note: I would not have including such a personal jab if Dave Watson had not insisted that I do so. Okay, Dave, I ran the item. Can I have the negatives now, please?

GIVING THE MORAGA CLUB THE BIRDIE



The Moraga Club hosted a golf tournament a few days back. Brad Davis, Thomas Peeks, Thomas Raeth and Steve Hanna attended, representing the finest in golf prowess that Lamorinda Sunrise has to offer (meaning they are the only four members who know which end of the club to hold). Well, Brad Davis was able to announce, in his best Julius Caesar imitation, *veni, vidi, vici*. That loosely translates to: "We kicked their butts." Way to go to our intrepid foursome.

TIME TO WAKE UP AND SMELL THE PINA COLADAS

It's still a little ways off, but you can never plan too far ahead. TGITLFOTM is coming on Friday, September 26 at Casa de Ware, 999 Creekwood Place. Mark your calendars.

MYSTERY ROTARIAN

Nobody was able to identify this week's Mystery Rotarian. That may be because President Flaharty didn't read any clues. Funny how that works.

ART & WINE FESTIVAL, DEAD AHEAD

The Art & Wine Festival is coming up really soon. Like next weekend. Our Club is helping with parking, meaning making sure visitors to the Festival know where they can and cannot park. Alex Arnold was reminding folks about the time slots for which they volunteered - check with him if your memory has failed you or if you have not yet signed up.

Jay Lifson, he of the Lafayette Club and the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, came by to give us a heads-up about what to do. That includes:

Show up about 15 minutes before your shift starts at the Volunteer Center, which will be located in the Bank of the West parking lot (Mt. Diablo Blvd. At Lafayette Circle) behind the stage.

Don't leave your post until your relief shows up.

Please. This is pretty important.

If you are using the walkie-talkie, announce who you are and where you are.

When using the radio, do not try to sound cool by using expressions such as "10-4," "Roger," "copy that," etc. You'll only sound like a dork (Okay, I added that one and Jay didn't say it. It is true, though.)

Please do not imbibe before or during your shift.



Alex Arnold confirms list of LSR volunteers who signed up to help with the Lafayette Wine and Art Festival. Our root-beer float booth floated into history.

And please don't forget, you will be representing both Rotary (and wearing your Lamorinda Sunrise shirt, right? Right?) and the Chamber of Commerce in your interactions with the public.

At the end of Alex's and Jay's dog-and-pony show, a deep, dark secret was revealed. It turns out that the Grand Hugh Poobah of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce Art & Wine Festival this year is none other than our very own Chris Lane. The appropriate huzzahs and hosannas resounded through the room.

PROGRAM



Two years ago, District 5160 (that's us) and District 5110 (that's southern Oregon, just north of D-5160) become the pilot Districts in an exciting new project - the LN-4 hand. We've been buying one in the name of each week's speaker for some months now, and they have gone to hundreds of people in Vietnam, South America and Africa who have lost their hands and lower arms to land mines, farm accidents and other catastrophes. Today, in the spirit of helping us to "Get It," Jim Yoder of the Walnut Creek Sunrise Club came by to tell us about this project and put us to work helping out with it.

The LN-4 has its roots in tragedy. Ellen Meadows was a bright college student who was killed in a traffic accident. Her father, Ernie Meadows, wanted to memorialize his daughter in some way. He learned about the tremendous human carnage caused by land mines and other unexploded military ordinance that has been left scattered over for too much of the world. Mr. Meadows was inspired and, to make a long story short, he invented the prototype of an artificial hand. Not a do-everything replacement - that would cost far too much to reach the intended population. The idea was to create a "hand" that was cheap, strong, long-lasting, easy to make, easy to learn to use, and able to allow the recipient to return to being able to do the basics for him- or herself

And he succeeded. His prototype looked very little like the final product that we saw today - the necessities of mass production, tooling, etc., will do that. And the design has been tweaked and improved based on field-testing of the first production models.. It isn't a cure-all. For example, it can only be used on people who still have some of their arm below the elbow (the retention system requires the elbow bones be present). And the ratcheted "fingers" have to be manipulated manually. But the result is an appendage that is beautiful in its relative simplicity and its tremendous cost-effectiveness. This was demonstrated by the film Jim showed us. In it, we saw people using the LN-4 hand to allow them to drive, ride a bicycle, use a pencil or pen, type on a keyboard, carry a bucket, and other simple activities we take for granted. There is no doubt: the \$50 LN-4 hand makes a huge difference in the life of an amputee

This project is still in its infancy, but it is growing fast. Districts 5160 and 5110 have contributed over \$200,000. The manufacturer who created the molds found a way to cut the cost in half (!) because management was so moved by this project. Camp Royal campers made "Dream Boxes" in which to place completed hands. Companies such as General Mills, Genentech and AT&T have gotten involved, using the assembly of LN-4 hands as team-building exercises at managerial seminars.



Jim and a team will be heading to Vietnam in October to give out and fit 150 hands. 100 hands are going Cali, Columbia, in December, And District Governor Jim Campbell is committed to bringing a bunch of hands and a bunch of Rotarians to Ethiopia next year. So it's clear that this is project the really has legs (if you'll pardon the pun).

Jim didn't just come to talk about the LN-4, he also came to put us to work. He had us do "quality control" on a batch of hands that had been assembled at a corporate management seminar by testing the "finger" ratchet mechanism. So, somewhere around the world, there will be 37 people who get new LN-4 hands that we made sure worked properly. So just by being there yesterday, we touched lives, thanks to Jim.

If you enjoyed working on the LN-4 hands, there will be a room at the upcoming District Conference where you can assemble and check them.

Many thanks, Jim, for making sure we "get it" about the LN-4 hand project.

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:

Club: Weekly Meeting-Volunteer Opportunities in Rwanda

Friday 09/19/08 7:00am

Sean Sevilla will talk about his volunteering experience and give us an overview of volunteer opportunities in Rwanda

Club: Lafayette Art & Wine Festival Friday 09/19/08 07:30pm - Sunday 09/21/08 05:30pm

The club will provide support for the festival this year during the whole event - Contact Alex Arnold for your time slot.

District 5160 Event: Group Study Exchange ... next meeting! Tuesday 09/23/08 12:45pm

The next hosting meeting will be held on Sept. 23 at 12:45 at the Hampton Inn and Suites on 800 Mason Ave , Vacaville, CA. [Click here](#) for details. Posted by -Zoomie-

Club: Weekly Meeting-Expose Yourself Friday 09/26/08 7:00am

Club: Weekly Meeting-Peace Fellows Program

Friday 10/3/08 7:00am - Friday 10/3/08 8:15am

Skip McCowan hosts Peace Fellow Domingo in residence at Berkeley. Come hear his views on the world.

Club: BIG Las Trampas Involvement/Opportunity Day

Saturday 10/4/08 7:00am

Ok, it's actually a work day, but with everyone helping with an eye on how we're helping out those good folks it'll be a blast!

Club: Ann Gordon- Gordon Photography

Friday 10/10/08 7:00am - Friday 10/10/08 8:15am

Ann Gordon began as a photojournalist with an interest in sports photography. She developed this interest into an art that combined two of her life's passions- photography and animals. Join us to hear about Ann and her unique photo experiences with animals.



Future Rotarian? No, not the old guy — Prez Pat Flaherty. Stefan Raeth, young son of Thomas and Tamara Raeth. Stefan is a third-grader at Lafayette Elementary School and a huge Giants fan. Note how worn the cap is. This kid is a SERIOUS fan. He also can pitch a ball at a velocity in excess of 30 mph.

