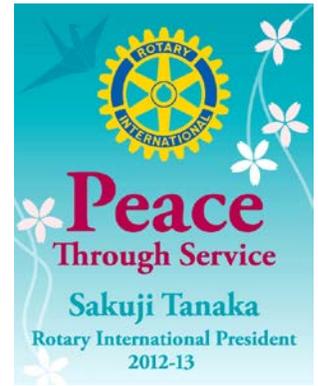


Rotary Club of Greater Van Nuys

www.greatervannuysrotary.org

Service Above Self

Meeting at 94th Aero Squadron
Thursdays, 12:10 p.m.
16320 Raymer St., Van Nuys, CA 91406



December 13, 2012

Flag Salute: James Tenner
Invocation: PDG Eli Gauna

Attending Members: Alice Gauna, Don Fetherolf, Don Reinken, Elaine Bern, PDG Eli Gauna, PDG Emilio Basile, Frank Santucci, Raul Castillo, Guy Mangia, James Tenner, Judy Coates, Ken Worthen, PDG Les Grossman, Marco Padilla, Marc Tapper, Marie Valencia, Mauricio Aranda, Pete Satuloff, Richard Miller, Robin Kellogg, Ron Wolf, Roz Kogler, Tom Harris, Wayne Slappy

Guests and Visiting Rotarians: Wynn Rich (formerly of the Granada Hills club); Lynn Harris; Leilani Downer and Andrea Sandak of New Horizons; Philip Glade, our New Horizons honoree; Carla Glade, Philip's mother; Assistant Principal Chuck Broslawksy of Valley Alternative School; Brenda Schwartz, in charge of the Farm at Valley Alternative School, and our speaker, Susan Smith, a member of the Valley Alternative School Board and a member of the Rio Hondo Vernon Rotary Club

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Club Assembly

On **December 20** we will have our annual election of next year's officers at a club assembly, as well as a discussion of projects and other club issues. Jim asked that we please do not invite or bring any guests to this meeting. PDG Emilio asked that anyone who is interested in taking an office next year to let him know so they can be included in the list of candidates and positions.

Holiday Gifting

We have adopted 30 families this holiday season for our Christmas Lives event, a project Greater Van Nuys has inherited from the former San Fernando Club. Marie has done a superb job organizing the project and finding the families through case workers and local rescue missions. With money donated by the club, as well as funding from Communities in Schools and others, she has purchased jackets and shoes for all the children in these families and gift cards to Vallarta markets for the parents.

A past Rotarian, Javier Martinez, has volunteered to be our Santa this year and we may even get a visit from the San Fernando Police. Santa will present the gifts to the children at our holiday party for them on **December 18, 6:00 p.m.** at the **Valley Wing Pit, 1245 San Fernando**

Calendar

12/18, Tues. Christmas Lives Dinner, 6:00 p.m.,
Valley Wing Pit, 1245 San Fernando Rd.,
San Fernando.
12/20 Club Assembly and election of new officers
12/27 DARK
1/3 DARK
1/10 TBA
1/16, Wed. Bingo, location TBD

Road in San Fernando. The case workers who recommended the families will also be present. Marie needs greeters and some helpers for Santa. Please let her know if you can help. She can be reached at 818-929-7118 or via email: marieyvalencia@gmail.com.

Holiday Party

PDG Les Grossman and Zoraida Suarez held the club's holiday party at their home on Saturday, December 15. Fifty-one Rotarians and their guests attended this festive event. Rotarians from Simi Sunset Morning Edition catered the event. They included Rotarians Joseph Grossman and Cynthia Conway; and Molly Rearick.

As the evening began winding down, we held our "white elephant" gift exchange in which participants had the choice of choosing wrapped gift or "stealing one" from another person. A little stealing went on, but nowhere near what PDG Les has seen in past years. Everyone was on their best behavior.

Global Peace Forum

Rotary International will hold a Global Peace Forum at the Hawaii Convention Center in Honolulu, Hawaii, January 25-27, 2013. The event is geared toward young adults—our future leaders. More established Rotarians are invited to lend their perspective to the younger generation. Jim suggested that if you haven't been to an international event this would be a good one to attend.

What Time is it? It's Bingo Time!

Our club will hold its next Bingo game at Union Hall, located at 14800 Devonshire St. on the SW corner of Woodman on January 16, 2013. Marco, standing in for Rich, our Bingo Chairman, gave members Bingo tickets to

be sold. Please do your best to contact your family, friends and neighbors and let them know that Bingo is back!

Rotary Air Miles

Les announced a program in which Rotarians can help Rotary get United Airlines miles. Here's how it works: As a year-end holiday gift, United Airlines is offering a donation of 10 million miles to benefit its charity miles partners. Rotary is currently at #1. You can help us stay there by voting today and every day until December 25. Just go to <http://10millioncharitymiles.com/charity/39>. You can vote once each day for Rotary on each of your devices (laptops, smartphones, and tablets). RI will receive a portion of the miles based on the percentage of the overall vote received.

RI uses the miles to provide transportation for its Gift of Life surgical teams, to transport Iraqi children with birth defects to U.S. hospitals for treatment, to send volunteers to immunize children during National Immunizations Days and to provide airfare for financially disadvantaged Rotary Youth Exchange Students. So get on your computerized devices today and help Rotary make this happen!

Rotary Magazines Anyone?

Marc has a collection of old Rotarian magazines. If you know of anyone who would want them, please let Marc know. He can be reached at 818-425-6667 or via email: MarcTap@aol.com.

New Horizon's Honoree: Philip Glade

We honored Philip Glade, a New Horizon's client and volunteer, for his great attitude and efficiency in his job at New Horizons inputting data. New Horizons Communications Manager Leilani Downer introduced Philip to us, and said she was most impressed by his integrity and good work ethic. Most of all, she was proud to share him with us. Philip brought his mother, Clara Glade, with him. He was also joined by Andrea Sandak, a job developer at New Horizons.

Philip kept his speech short and thanked everyone for this honor. The club presented him with a certificate and a \$50 gift card to Target.



L to R: Leilani Downer, Philip Glade, Mauricio Aranda and Co-President Jim Tenner.

Speaker: Susan Smith, Valley Alternative School Board Member

Susan Smith, a member of the PTSA at Valley Alternative School, an LAUSD magnet program located at the corner of Balboa Blvd. and Vanowen St., spoke to us about the school and its unique qualities.

Joined by Assistant Principal Chuck Broslawksy and Brenda Schwartz, who runs the school farm (yes, I said farm), Smith gave a parent's perspective of the school.

All three of her children attended the magnet, which includes grades K-12. Although the school has seen some changes over the years, it maintains an open door policy where students can drop in on teachers for advice or direction, and address teachers and administrators by their first names.

Susan explained that one of her sons, who has Asperger's Syndrome, would not have thrived in a regular school environment, but at Valley Alternative he was



L to R: Past President Don Reinken, Susan Smith, Brenda Schwartz, Assistant Principal Chuck Broslawksy and Co-President Jim Tenner.

allowed to learn in his own way. When he first started, he felt safest sitting under a desk and the teacher allowed him to stay there until he felt safe enough to sit at the desk on a chair.

Susan also highlighted the school's annual Peace Day, where elementary school students bring food in for a feast which is actually an international thanksgiving meal. Older children in the 6th grade assist the younger students that day, making it truly an inter-grade experience.

Besides its unconventional teaching methods, the school has something other schools in LAUSD do not—a farm. The farm has chickens, miniature horses, pigs, peacocks, goats, rabbits and ducks. The children help Brenda, who is in charge of the farm and has been at the school for 30 years, sell the chicken eggs. The money earned is reinvested in the farm.

Said Brenda, "The farm makes a big difference to a lot of kids. It's therapeutic and gives them a chance to interact with the animals and learn from A to Z: birth, what they eat, how to care for them, as well as how to garden, compost and harvest." The children celebrate the harvest every year with an end of school Salad Party.

Chuck added that science is also included in the farm lessons. In addition, it allows the children also learn a lot about social skills.

Valley Alternative is also a Title 1 school, which means that a majority (in their case 67%) of their students qualify for free breakfast and lunch at school.

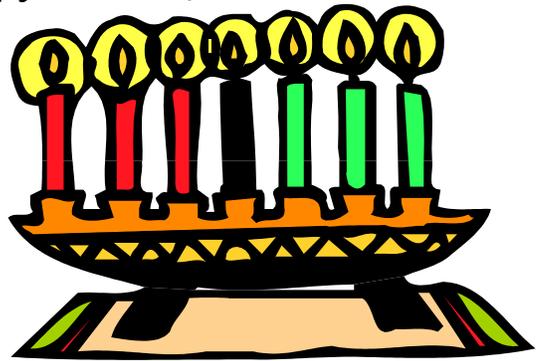
Responding to questions, Chuck explained that the school was started in the 1970s by parents who wanted a different kind of education for their children. The original school was on the CSUN campus. Today the school has 650 students in grades K-12. Chuck began working as a teacher at the school in 1992 and was given the freedom to teach how he wanted to. As an example, when he taught U.S. history he collaborated on teaching lessons with an English teacher. The class was split into two camps: Union and Confederate, to give them a better understanding of the Civil War. They had to create a flag, battle plan, march song, etc. Although teaching methods have changed over the years with changes in LAUSD standards, teachers still work collaboratively with each other.

Because the school is small, it doesn't have the ability to offer many of the advanced classes that other high schools can offer their students. To compensate for this, the school has developed an internship program where students can learn career skills or a program that allows students to attend Los Angeles Valley College. The school district provides buses to transport students to the college and LAVC waives some of the fees.

Due to budget cuts, the school no longer has an afterschool sports program but is capable of having lunchtime clubs. This was in response to Les's suggestion of possibly starting an Interact club at the school. This would fit in well as high school students at Valley Alternative have to get a certain number of volunteer credits before they graduate. Many of the students currently meet this requirement by tutoring at local elementary schools.

The goal, said Chuck, "is to work with every student as an individual and meet their needs."

Happy Kwanza,



And a Happy New Year!



Happy Holidays, Everyone!

Wishing you all

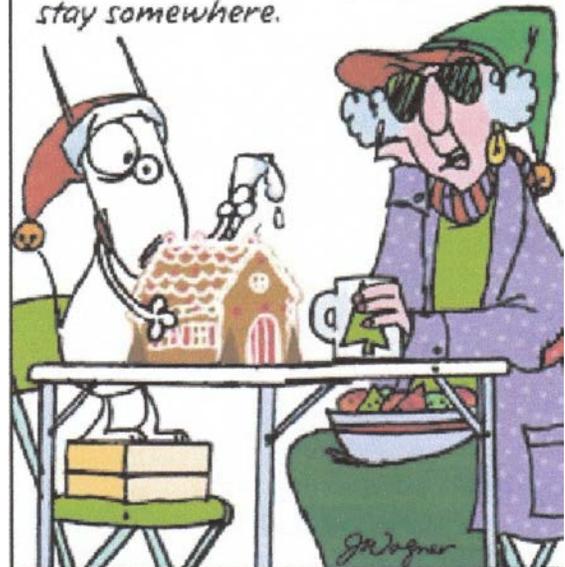
A very Merry Christmas,



Crabby Road
Greatest Hits

12-16-09

*I'm making a gingerbread house.
Hey, out of town company has to
stay somewhere.*



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Maxine.com

Meeting Information for Nearby Clubs

Calabasas, Tuesdays, 12:15 p.m.
Wolf Creek Restaurant
26787 Agoura Rd.
Calabasas, CA 91302

Granada Hills, Thursdays at 12:10 p.m.
Porter Valley Country Club
19216 Singing Hills Dr.
Northridge, CA 91326-1716

Greater San Fernando Valley **E-Club**, Mondays at 12:00 p.m., Online 24/7, <http://www.rotaryclubgreatersfv.org>

Northridge/Chatsworth, Tuesdays at 12:00 p.m.
The Olive Garden
19724 Nordhoff Pl.
Chatsworth, CA 91311

Studio City-Sherman Oaks, Tuesdays at 12:10 p.m.
Sportsmen's Lodge Hotel
12825 Ventura Blvd., Vista Room
Studio City, CA 91604

Tarzana Encino, Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.
John O'Groats
16120 Ventura Blvd.
Encino, CA 91436

West San Fernando Valley, Thursdays at 7:15 a.m.
Coco's
21844 Victory Blvd.
Woodland Hills, CA 91367

Woodland Hills, Wednesdays at noon
Woodland Hills Country Club
21150 Dumetz Rd.
Woodland Hills, CA 91364

Beth Ullman
17426 Napa St.
Northridge, CA 91325

2012-2013 Club Officers:

Co-Presidents:

Martha Stulman H 818-708-8947
Jim Tenner H 818-241-9435

Immediate Past Presidents:

Barbara Pampalone H 818-882-2395
Don Reinken H 818-368-3341
Razi Sheikh C 818-621-4841

Director, Administration:

PDG Emilio Basile H 818-886-4142

Secretary: Robin Kellogg

H 818-993-5378

Treasurer: Razi Sheikh

C 818-621-4841

Director, Membership:

Rich Miller W 818-994-8234

Director, Projects:

Mauricio Aranda W 818-634-4043

Director, Foundation:

PDG Les Grossman H 818-757-0157

Director, Public Relations

Raul Castillo C 818-636-9125

President Van Nuys Rotary Foundation:

Donald Fetherolf H 818-986-1460

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Beth Ullman H 818-701-6889

Community Co-chair:

Marie Valencia H 818-929-7118

Int'l Co-chair:

Zoraida Suarez W 818-788-8838

New Generations Co-chairs:

Rosielee Jones W 818-782-0022

Mauricio Aranda W 818-634-4043

Programs Chair:

Mauricio Aranda W 818-634-4043

Vocational Chair: *Open*

Sgt. at Arms: *Open*