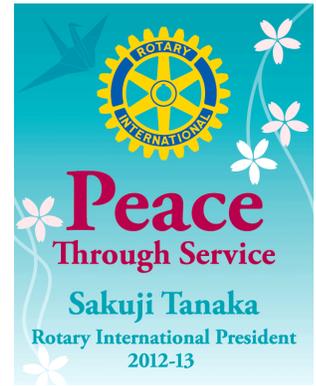


# Rotary Club of Greater Van Nuys

[www.greatervannuysrotary.org](http://www.greatervannuysrotary.org)

**Service Above Self**

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



## February 21, 2013

**Flag Salute:** James Tenner

**Invocation:** PDG Eli Gauna

**Attending Members:** Alice Gauna, Barbara Pampalone, Bill Parks, Bob Reimann, Lawrence Pleet, James Tenner, Carlos Menjivar, Dave Friedman, Don Reinken, Judy Coates, PDG Les Grossman, Marie Valencia, Marina Martinez, Mauricio Aranda, Mike Quiroga, Paul Davis, Pete Satuloff, Raul Castillo, Razi Sheikh, Renée D'Auria, Rich Miller, Robin Kellogg, Ron Wolf, Roz Kogler, Steve Bertolino, Tom Harris, Wynne Ritch; Beth Ullman

**Guests and Visiting Rotarians:** PDG Eli Gauna, Tamara Bluett, Veronica Magna of New Horizons with honoree Felicia Clover, and Mari Satuloff, Pete's wife and our two speakers

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Welcome Home!

We were delighted to see three of our members back from their travels today – Razi Sheikh, Bob Reimann and Lawrence Pleet. Great to have you all back with us.

#### Leadership Awards 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grades

If you know any middle school students (6th-8th grade) who should be honored for leadership in academics, athletics, the arts and community service / leadership, please ask their teacher or counselor to nominate them for the Young Achievers Program, a new project sponsored by the Van Nuys Airport and our Rotary club. The top student in each category will be honored at a special awards ceremony March 21, with their parents and school representatives. Call 818-442-6526 or talk with Jan Goforth for more information.

#### PETS

President-elect Rich Miller noted that our friend from "down under" grew her Rotary club by tossing out a lot of the old practices and bringing in new ideas. Rich hopes to learn a few new concepts at PETS this weekend and joked that we should be ready for a year when he turns the club on its head – hopefully leading to revitalization and lots of new members.

#### Fundraiser

PDG Les reminded us about the June 1 reverse raffle fundraiser, noting that we won't actually be selling the

### Calendar

- 2/27, **Wed.** **Bingo**, 6:30 p.m. at Union Hall, 14800 Devonshire St. (SW corner at Woodman)
- 2/28 **Dan Donlian**, Braille Institute  
**Recognition:** Tierra Del Sol
- 3/5, **Tues.** **Mid Valley Police Council**, Van Nuys LAPD station
- 3/6, **Wed.** **Fundraiser planning meeting**, 7:00 p.m., Les Grossman's office, 18663 Ventura Blvd.
- 3/7 **TBA**
- 3/9, **Sat.** **District Youth Art Awards**
- 314 **TBA**
- 4/13, **Sat.,** **Van Nuys Track Meet**, Birmingham H.S.
- 5/2 – 5/5, **Thurs. – Sun. District Conference**, Fess Parker's Doubletree Resort, Santa Barbara

tickets, but a subscription for them – he'll be getting us a form to use. There will be a planning meeting at his office (18663 Ventura Blvd.) March 6 at 5:30 to discuss all the different aspects of this fundraiser; please come and help!

#### Bingo

There are still lots of tickets available for next week's bingo game. Buy some for yourself, sell to your friends, and come have fun next **Wednesday, February 27**. Tickets are just \$20 each including several games. Contact Rich or Marco at 818-994-8234.

#### Rotary Dues

Treasurer Razi Sheikh announced he is putting together our bills for January and February, which should go out next week. But feel free to send your payment in now! He'll make sure your payment is credited.

#### Track Meet

Don Reinken reported we still have T-shirts with the Van Nuys Rotary Club imprinted on them, and asked for a vote on whether we use those old shirts until they're gone, or only give out new ones with our new club name at the April 13 track meet. Score one for conservation of resources – we voted to first use up what we have. Don also reminded everyone we need lots of help at the event – please sign up for a time slot and a job! Call Don at 818-368-3341 or email him at [dreinken@socal.rr.com](mailto:dreinken@socal.rr.com) to let him know what assignment you can take.

## District Youth Art Awards

Barbara asked who might like to join her at the awards being given out to high school students in the arts (music, dance and acting) by the District on March 9. We did not participate with any nominations this year, but attending may give us a leg up for next year. Renée and Steve volunteered to go with her.

## SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

Mauricio Aranda introduced our program to recognize those working to improve themselves who normally would not be in the public eye. Today we honored Felicia Clover of New Horizons, introduced by Veronica Magna, one of Felicia's instructors.

Felicia was also celebrating her birthday today, so we sang Happy Birthday before the presentation. She has really come out of her shell, according to Veronica, and is both more outgoing and a pleasure to have in class. Besides doing a lot of work at New Horizons she also works elsewhere, earning some spending money on the side. Mauricio presented her with a certificate and \$50 gift certificate to Target.



*L-R Don Reinken, Felicia Clover,  
Veronica Magna and Mauricio Aranda*

## SPEAKER: Mari and Pete Satuloff, Cuba

Mari and Pete Satuloff shared wonderful photos and stories of their recent trip to Cuba with us. They went with a group on a direct charter flight – the only way to legally enter the country from the U.S. – but were given some time on their own, as well.

Pete is evidently a fan of classic cars, because there were a lot of pictures of vehicles from the 1950's. Then again, that was the last time cars from the U.S. could be imported there, so they make up a large percentage of the island's vehicles, and those that are still around are carefully maintained. The U.S. embargo has hurt a lot. (The taxis they photographed, though, were primarily bicycles and horse-drawn carts!) Car parts are available from the government, but can take 3 – 6 months to get, so they're a big piece of the underground black market.

Cars aren't the only things dating mostly to the 1950's; most buildings are from that period or earlier. Some, like the venerable Opera House, are beautifully maintained. Others, like side street dwellings, are in terrible disrepair. There are some new office buildings and hospitals, but not many, at least in the areas near Havana that they visited.

And sometimes those buildings that have survived have their own, special charm. Mari and Pete showed pictures of what could only be called an apothecary shop, complete with beautiful apothecary jars of various medicines. This pharmacy was where the medicine was dispensed for another person in their group who became sick on the trip.

Since the government owns everything, good housing is a challenge. If you owned your home before the revolution, you and your children can stay in it without worrying about being kicked out. But if you leave, the house is then totally under government control for the next tenants.

On the positive side, the government stresses the arts and education, and provides good medical care. And the people themselves are wonderful. Americans aren't "allowed" to enjoy themselves there, being called "the enemy", but the average Cuban certainly doesn't treat them that way.

The embargo has caused a lot of problems for Cuba, from making the only imports very expensive ones from Europe to shutting down the sugar cane industry and the Bacardi rum factory. One can only hope that with the slight thawing of relations between our two countries, this situation will soon change.



*Pete Satuloff, Mari Satuloff and Don Reinken  
with a book for Casa Esperanza*

The underground economy is about the only way most Cubans can earn enough to get by. They get just \$12 per month in salary, like the professor who was one of their guides. He was able to earn \$200 a month in tips from tourists. Others entertain, or produce art. There is no limit on artists or where they can export their work, even to the U.S. Mari and Pete saw beautiful works of art, many quite large (too large to bring home!), and most at very high prices.

Those high prices did not extend to food, which was quite reasonable. They ate at several paladares – one room restaurants in homes, which the government allows. The food was always excellent, and a 5-course lobster dinner cost just about \$20. One such restaurant was highly decorated by its owner, Fusta, a local artist who took his inspiration from Gaudi. Photos of his mosaic

work on walls and a pool showed magnificent designs reminiscent also of Picasso and Matisse.

They shared photos the view from a hotel Hemingway did a lot of writing at when he stayed there and his house and boat; images of Santeria, the local African-based religion that was nominally Christian; the local synagogue for the again-growing Jewish community; a cemetery with very elaborate monuments. Other photos included the lobby of a beautiful Meyer Lansky-designed hotel; Las Terrazas, a 1984 UNESCO biodiversity reserve, and a Cuban children's theater company called Colmenita. Also known as the Bumblebees, these children perform all over the world, even the U.S., and are the first Cuban group to be named Ambassadors of Goodwill by UNICEF (in 2007). Mari and Pete got to see them perform, with members of the audience being literally pulled in to participate in their dance before the children went back on stage.

Thank you both so much for sharing your adventures and photos with us!

### **REMINDERS:**

#### **Membership Subcommittee**

Marc's Membership Retention subcommittee has two openings and he's looking for volunteers to help call absentees. If you'd like one of these coveted spots, send Marc an email to marctap@aol.com or give him a call at 818-425-6667.

### **Happy Bucks**

Thank you to Razi for his generous contribution in honor of his son's birthday today.

### **PolioPlus**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Priscilla Pig for PolioPlus this week, and to Jim for explaining to our visitors what PolioPlus is.

### **Opportunity Drawing**

Congratulations to Bill Parks, who won half the \$105 pot.

### **Notable Quotables**

"We should not write so that it is possible for the reader to understand us, but so that it is impossible for him to misunderstand us." Quintilian (Marcus Fabius Quintilianus), rhetorician (c. 35-100)

"Mere parsimony is not economy. Expense, and great expense, may be an essential part in true economy." Edmund Burke, statesman and writer (1729-1797)

### **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, [www.rotaryclubgreatersfv.org](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 – now closed, new location not yet known**  
Woodland Hills, CA 91367

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

### **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

#### **President-Elect:** Rich Miller

W 818-994-8234

#### **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

#### **Bulletin Editor pro tem:**

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*



Beth Ullman  
17426 Napa St.  
Northridge, CA 91325