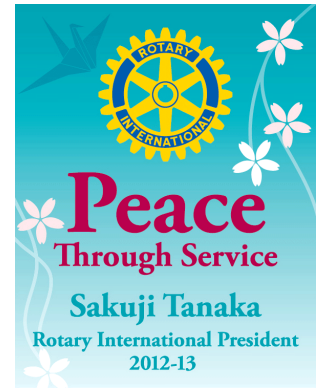


Rotary Club of Greater Van Nuys

www.greatervannuysrotary.org

Service Above Self

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



January 31, 2013

Flag Salute: James Tenner
Invocation: PDG Emilio Basile

Attending Members: Alice Gauna, Barbara Pampalone, Don Fetherolf, Don Reinken, Elaine Bern, PDG Emilio Basile, Frank Santucci, Javier Nunez, James Tenner, Judy Coates, Ken Worthen, PDG Les Grossman, Marc Tapper, Marco Padilla, Marina Martinez, Mauricio Aranda, Pete Satuloff, Raul Castillo, Rich Miller, Robin Kellogg, Ron Wolf, Roz Kogler, Tom Harris, Zoraida Suarez; Beth Ullman

Guests and Visiting Rotarians: Steve Bertolino, David Martinyan; Jewel D'Aloia Price, Ed.D., member of the Glendale Sunrise club; Jim Miceli of the Universal City-Sunrise club, and Alen Andriassian, Glendale Community College Assessment, Outreach and Program Manager

New Members Proposed

Kirk Harney, a former Rotarian, has been proposed for Active membership in our club. His potential classification is Commercial Printing. David Martinyan has also been proposed, with his potential classification being Electronic Recycling. If no objections are presented to the board within seven days of the publication of this newsletter, Kirk and David will be accepted for membership.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We'll Miss You!

President Jim Tenner announced that PDG Eli Gauna has resigned from our club. PDG Eli is "98% retired", as he put it, and so is transferring to a club closer to home. Alice will stay a member of our club for a little while longer, for which we are delighted.

Disaster Kits

Rich Miller brought in three disaster preparedness kits, all of which sold, and promised to bring more next week. Each of the \$20 kits has a compact thermal blanket, 10 hour light stick, 6 water pouches, high-energy food bar, dust mask, first aid items, vinyl gloves and wipes. All proceeds go to the club treasury.

District Simplified Grant

Jim Miceli presented a District Simplified Grant for \$2250 to PDG Les Grossman, who was our chair for last

Calendar

- 2/7: **Wynn Ritch**, Boy Scouts of America
Recognition: Birmingham H.S.
- 2/8, Fri., **MAPS Charities Community Service Awards**
luncheon honoring Paul Davis and Alberta Bellasario, Courtyard by Marriott in Sherman Oaks, tickets: \$75/person, 15433 Ventura Blvd. Info: www.mapscharities.org
- 2/14 **TBA**
- 2/21 **Pete Satuloff**, Cuba
Recognition: New Horizons
- 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
- 3/6 **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

year's Harvest Festival. As Jim explained, these grants are possible because much of the funds donated to The Rotary Foundation from a district get returned three years later for use in projects. This year our combined district got \$80,000 and was thereby able to give out 40 grants to clubs.



PDG Les Grossman and Jim Miceli

Bingo

Rich and Marco have tickets for our next Bingo game, February 27 – bring your friends! Each ticket is just \$20. If everyone sells just 2 tickets each, we can fill the hall.

SPEAKER: 1/31 Jewel Price and Alen Andriassian, Group Study Exchange Team Trip to Japan

With wonderful pictures of the people and places they visited, Dr. Jewel Price, GSE team leader, and Alen Andriassian told us about their trip to Japan. Unlike most years, this year's team went in the fall to be able to attend the Japanese district conference in November. As a result they got pictures of Mt. Fuji during their month's stay that show the snow level receding almost to its minimum. It is so high and imposing that no matter where they were, they could see Fuji-san.

The team members included one who is fluent in Japanese, which was invaluable, as many of the Rotary clubs and officials they visited were only Japanese-speaking. Before going, though, they had all also gone through some intensive training in the language. Very helpful, as they gave all their presentations, even at the conference, in Japanese.

Although they flew into Tokyo, most of their time was in the Shizuoka and Yamanashi prefectures, where they visited the cities of Kai, Shizuoka, Atami, Hamamatsu and Shimoda, which is on the Izu Peninsula, and noted as the site where Commodore Perry landed when he "opened" Japan to outsiders again. (Under the shoguns the country was closed to all but a few Portuguese traders.) Their last week was spent in the city of Kofu.



L-R Alen Andriassian, Dr. Jewel Price, Past President Don Reinken (in back), and Jim Tenner

Among the many places they visited were the Suzuki automotive plant, a photonics factory, a fish market (where they had a breakfast of sushi – a treat at the market that even most locals didn't have access to), and a sweets shop. In one location they were surprised to be dressed in traditional Japanese garb, with the ladies getting the full Geisha make-up as well. Jewel said for them it was 4 hours of hair, make-up and clothes of much more complexity than is obvious. Alen added that the men were ready, on the other hand, in about 30 minutes! Elsewhere

a Rotarian who is also a calligrapher painted a peace symbol for Jewel. A monk responsible for the original scrolls detailing Commodore Perry's visit, who was featured with them in an MIT documentary, met and shared the scrolls with them. They visited temples (where they admired decorated ceilings a thousand years old), met the mayors of 5 cities, and rode with the Shizuoka City Police Department. Jewel and Alen, both working in education, visited a number of schools. At one they were privileged to hear the Number Two Taiko (Japanese drums) band in Japan – a special treat, as Jewel's son also plays. They were kept *very* busy!

In addition to the Rotary practice of exchanging club banners, the Japanese custom is to exchange gifts with honored visitors. As a result, our team members were overwhelmed with gifts from those they met as well as their many host families. As Alen noted, they expected to *give* lots of gifts, especially to their hosts, but were touched by how many gifts they *received*. On arrival, their suitcases were half full of items that are popular but hard to get in Japan, like coffee, beef jerky, dried cranberries American Indian jewelry, cowboy books, and some very special JPL hats and Mars Rover pins, in addition to all the Rotary exchange items. Alen was counting on having all that freed up space to use for things he wanted to buy, but the gifts filled it up!

Rotary is very big in Japan, turning up in some surprising places. For example, there were KFC outlets all over, most with a full-size statue of Colonel Sanders. And on every statue was a Rotary pin. The district conference gave further proof, when they were treated to a classic Japanese tea ceremony led by Dr. Sen, a 15th generation Tea Master, who is honored throughout the country the way we might treat a movie star from Hollywood's Golden Age.

GSE is designed to promote international goodwill through professional and cultural exchanges with other countries. The closeness that developed between the team and their hosts definitely did that. Alen helped the daughter in one of his host families with her application to UC Davis, and recently learned she was accepted. His wife joined him in Kyoto for a few days after the GSE portion of the trip, and that host family made the two hour train trip to meet her! They will be coming to California when their daughter enrolls, and Alen hopes they will stay with his family. In the meantime one of his relatives is helping the girl find housing and make arrangements for living here. Just one example of the life-long friendships that GSE helps form.

The team from Japan will be visiting the San Fernando Valley in May. We don't have their club visit schedule yet, but they will be at the District Conference in May – another good reason to attend!

Opportunity Drawing

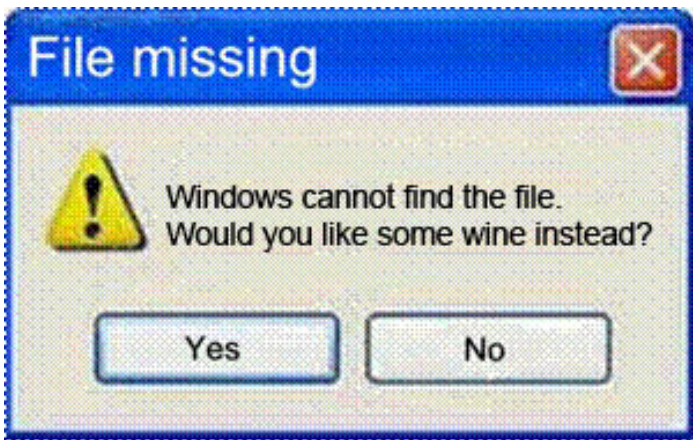
Congratulations to Rich, who won half the \$95 pot.

Notable Quotables

"Cheerfulness and contentment are great beautifiers and are famous preservers of youthful looks." Charles Dickens, novelist (1812-1870)

"Mistakes are part of the dues that one pays for a full life."
Sophia Loren, actress (b. 1934)

Just for Fun



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

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

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*

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

*Beth Ullman
17426 Napa St.
Northridge, CA 91325*