

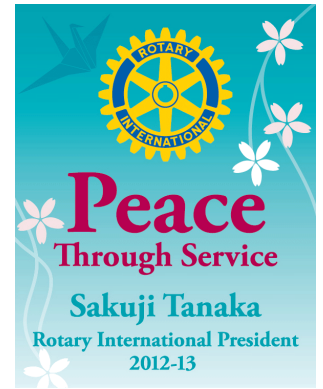
Rotary Club of Greater Van Nuys

www.greatervannuysrotary.org

Service Above Self

Meeting at 94th Aero Squadron
Thursdays, 12:10 p.m.

16320 Raymer St., Van Nuys, CA 91406



July 19, 2012

Flag Salute: Mauricio Aranda

Invocation: Marina Martinez

Attending Members: Mauricio Aranda, Renée D'Auria, PDG Judy Coates, PDG Les Grossman, Tom Harris, PDG Eli Gauna, Alice Gauna, Robin Kellogg, Don Reinken, Barbara Pampalone, Jean Mabilon, Razi Sheikh, Zoraida Suarez, Jim Tenner, Ron Wolf, Roz Kogler, Don Fetherolf, Peter Satuloff, Raul Castillo, Patrick Fahey, Rosielee Jones, Clinton Jones, Diana Sanchez, Robert Ramirez, Leo O'Biecnas, Marc Tapper, Marina Martinez, Robert Reimann, Lawrence Pleet; Beth Ullman

Guests: Mercedes Moreno, Guillermina Menjivar, Mari Satuloff and Michele Morley, our speaker

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mercedes Moreno, of Proyecto por el Barrio, has started a new group, Abuelas por la Paz (Grandmothers for Peace) to lobby against distributing arms to her homeland, El Salvador (where she was subjected to some of the violence of that country's civil war), in addition to other hot spots around the world. To raise awareness and funds the group is selling T shirts she designed and organizing a caravan cross country that will end in Washington, D.C. on September 10. For more information, you can reach Mercedes at 818-818-347-7131, or visit these websites: www.globalexchange.org; <http://movimientoporlapaz.mx>.



Mercedes Moreno and Barbara Pampalone

Calendar

- 7/26 **Holly Ransom**, President of the Rotary Club of Crawley, Australia
- 8/2 **Anthony Marks**, Current Pharmaceutical Problems
- 8/9 **Frank Baños**, Hypnotherapy
- 8/16 **Ken Craft**, Hope of the Valley Mission
- 8/18, **Sat., E-Waste Collection Fundraiser**, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., LA Valley College
- 8/22, **Wed., Board Meeting**, 6:00 p.m.
- 8/23 **Shelley Bell**, Laughter Yoga
- 8/25, **Sat. Afghanistan Dental Clinic Fundraiser** dinner at Barbara's house (tentative date)
- 8/30 **TBD**
- 10/10, **Wed., Bingo**, 6:30 p.m. Union Hall
- 1/9, **Wed., Bingo**, 6:30 p.m. Union Hall
- 4/10, **Wed., Bingo**, 6:30 p.m. Union Hall

Welcome Back

It was great to see Leo O'Biecnas today – we're happy to have you back from your trip, Leo.

Grant Application

PDG Les reported that he is submitting the Harvest Festival project (October 31) for the district community grant. If successful, we will put in \$500 and the district will give us \$1750 for this great event. We do need to submit a letter of support from the church, which Javier will get. In addition to the many activities for children, there will also be a dental clinic. Les is asking the three dentists in the club to help by participating. He also let us know he and Zoraida will be in Cabo San Lucas for two weeks just before the event, but return on the 30th. Ideally there will be plenty of volunteers and good organization beforehand.

Election Polling Site Volunteers Needed

Jim announced he has information volunteers might be interested in from Election Integrity, which trains poll workers for the Los Angeles area elections. If you are interested in being a volunteer poll worker, please see Jim.

Induction

As PDG Eli Gauna said, the most important thing we do is to induct new members, which he had the honor of doing today in welcoming Lawrence Pleet back into Rotary (he is a former member of the Granada Hills club), with

sponsor Robert Reimann looking on. Then Eli added the second most important thing is taking money. With that he started his usual induction of gibes, questions and information, drawing laughs from both the audience and Lawrence, and ended by giving Lawrence the red tag for his badge, explaining he has to wear it until we get our next new member.



PDG Eli Gauna and new member Lawrence Pleet

Lawrence is a retired LAUSD math teacher who got his BS from Loyola Marymount, his teaching credential and MS in science and math at CSUN, and his Ph.D. from Verne State. He started teaching at Holmes Middle School, then moved a couple of times, including Portola Magnet and the North Valley Cluster office before spending the last 18 years at Van Nuys High School. Now that he's retired, he wanted to rejoin Rotary, and we're delighted he decided on us. Welcome!

SPEAKER: Michele Morley, Haven Hills

Michele Morley has been a board member for 12 years and president (twice) of Haven Hills, which serves and houses abused women and children. The organization has been in operation for 35 years, starting with counseling and a hot-line, and now a operating full service 30 day crisis center that includes everything from shelter to schooling. Over 2 million women are abused every year, from every socio-economic level; as are 580,000 men. (There is a men's shelter program in Lancaster for those who may know someone who needs help.) In addition to trying to help these women and their children recover their lives, Haven Hills tries to stop the cycle of violence abused children often perpetrate onto the next generation.

Women usually come to the shelter with the help of LAPD when they answer domestic dispute emergency calls. Until budget cuts eliminated ride-alongs, Haven Hills staff or volunteers would often provide counseling on site when the officers responded. Now the police may bring a woman directly to the shelter, or ask that they call the crisis line, which is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Volunteers are put through a State-mandated 40 hour training program to make sure they can handle the many difficult things they will encounter.

Children must leave with their mothers and it's not safe for them to go to their regular schools (the husband or boyfriend knows where they'd be) so schooling is provided by Haven Hills, with their teachers working closely with the children's regular schools to get the lesson plans for the first 30 days.

The local Bar Association has provided a grant to help get restraining orders for the women. Unfortunately many men don't abide by it, and women have to leave the state. Three women are killed every day by their abusers, usually within two weeks of their leaving them. All too often any children are also killed, as we've seen in recent cases. As a result, it is critical they have a secret location to live where the abuser can't find them.

Many women are able to leave the 30 day crisis center by moving in with family or finding another safe place to live, but when those options aren't available, Haven Hills transfers them to their 18 month transitional facility, Haven Two. It is a 26 unit apartment complex, each one to four bedrooms, plus communal playrooms. Unlike the Crisis Center, once at Haven Two the children are sent to regular schools, though never the ones they used to attend.

It is very hard on both women and their children to have to leave their homes with almost nothing – they have to leave pets, toys, clothing – almost everything – behind. Haven Hills is working with the courts to try and help them retrieve some of their possessions safely. But their main goal is to help these women become self-sufficient and mentally whole. While at Haven Two they get job training or go to school so that after the 18 months they can get an apartment and job.

Women and their children also get therapy to help them recover; to help them break the cycle of violence. Their outreach center offers day and evening group counseling, plus helps develop secure plans for women who are not in the shelters. Unfortunately some of the anger therapy that used to be provided has disappeared because of State budget cuts, though they are lucky enough to be able to get money from both public safety and health funding groups within state government.

Funding for programs account for 77% of Haven Hills' budget, with the rest going to salaries and fundraising. A small portion of the budget comes from the federal government. Money from foundations has decreased since the 2009 financial crisis and not yet recovered, so state funds and fundraising are critical to operations. They have just received a million dollar grant from the State to increase the size of their 30 day crisis shelter, but must raise \$300,000 to cover the full costs of renovation.

Haven Hills is run as a very lean business operation, with strategic planning, audits and help from a number of outside sources. The Taproot Foundation, for example, helps recruit new board members, and they'll be holding a fundraiser in the near future.. Community members help fill their "Wish List" of items needed for the women and children in residence, copies of which Michele made available. Some key items, all of which need to be new, include diapers, baby wipes and other baby toiletries, Enfamil formula, lip balm, deodorant for boys, children's and adult underwear, soap, towel sets, bedding, cleaning supplies, wall clocks and kitchen items of all kinds. Michele asked that we share this "Wish List" with others in

the community who might be able to help, and the center's crisis services with anyone who might need help.

Haven Hills was first conceived in 1976, when two concerned members of the Canoga Park Women's Club, Jackie Gordon and Cheryl Ayers, became aware of the impact of domestic violence on women and children in the Valley, and the lack of services available to help them. They organized a community meeting, bringing together public and private service providers, religious leaders, concerned individuals and business leaders. Haven Hills was incorporated in August 1977.

The crisis line began operating in 1978, followed by the counseling clinic. In 1980 the 30-day crisis shelter opened with 36 beds, with a school on site starting soon after. The need for more time in a safe, supportive environment led to Haven Two, the 18-month transitional housing and employment facility, in 1997. A teen violence prevention program, Love's Child, was started in 2000. This peer-run, art based program addresses healthy relationships and dating violence for at-risk youth. Since its start, Haven Hills has helped over 600,000 women and children find a better life. They want to build another 18 month residence to help even more.

Michele showed a short video (thanking Don Reinken for making that possible), which included a woman and her children who had been saved by Haven Hills talking about what they had escaped, and how their lives were changed. Perhaps most chilling was the number of women interviewed who all answered, when asked what life would be like today if they hadn't been helped, that they would be dead.

Mercedes told us that Haven Hills had helped her get out of an abusive marriage and turn her life around; now she helps others through giving talks and community service. If someone you know is a victim of domestic violence please call their Crisis Line at 818-887-6589. For more information, visit www.havenhills.org.



Don Reinken, Michele Morley and Jim Tenner

50/50 Raffle: PDG Les won half of \$115 this week.

Reminders

New Horizons Yard Sale

The New Horizons yard sale will be Saturday, July 28, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This fundraiser will take place

in the parking area in front of Sam's Café, 15725 Parthenia St, North Hills. Those attending are being asked to park on Parthenia and enter the yard sale through the gates.

If you have clothing or any small items to donate (they can't accept furniture, appliances or computers and are unable to pick up items), please bring them to New Horizons' reception area, in the Annex Building, the week of July 23-26 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., or on Friday, July 27 from 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Proceeds will go toward programs and services for nearly 1,000 individuals with special needs. For more information about the yard sale, contact New Horizons at 818-894-9306.

Notable Quotables:

"The penalty that good men pay for not being interested in politics is to be governed by men worse than themselves." Plato, philosopher (427-347 BCE)

"Genius has its limitations, but stupidity is boundless." (variation of quotes from Einstein and others)

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

President Van Nuys Rotary Foundation:

Donald Fetherolf

Director, Public Relations

Raul Castillo

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 818-788-883

New Generations Co-chairs:

Rosielee Jones W 818-782-0022

Mauricio Aranda W 818-634-4043

Vocational Chair:

Programs Chair:

Mauricio Aranda W 818-634-4043

Sgt. at Arms:

Meeting Information for Nearby Clubs

Calabasas, Tuesdays, 12:15 p.m.
Wolf Creek Restaurant
26787 Agoura Rd.
Calabasas, 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 on Victory and Topanga
Topanga

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

*Beth Ullman
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