

Rota-Monica

www.RotaryClubofSantaMonica.org

July 29, 2011

Meeting Cast

Jack Gregory gave the invocation, Lisa Alexander, craft talker, sat next to President David Bohn, Charlie Follette introduced our speakers and Merv Hecht sat next to him. George Collins introduced our visitors. We were greeted by Julia Miele and Grace Wang. Carol Jackson tickled the ivories for us, and Pat Bofird led us in pledge and song.



Jack Gregory offered the invocation; Charlie Follette was our program MC and introduced Craft Talkers Lisa Alexander and Merv Hecht; George Collins introduced guests and visiting Rotarians; our greeters were Julia Miele and Grace Wang (in action greeting Grace Cheng Braune); and Pat Bofird was our songbird.



Visiting Rotarians and Guests

Our two visiting Rotarians were Julien Bagnard, of France, and Al Sakai of Pacific Palisades.

Guests included Scott Kunitz, hosted by Bill Crookston and introduced by Judy Neveau, Jackie Lantz, guest of David Snow, Nick Guehner, hosted by RoseMary Regalbuto.



Announcements

- First Tuesday will be at El Cholo on Wilshire and 11th Street, Aug. 2
- National Night Out is also Aug. 2, see Dee Menzies for information if you are interested in attending.
- Next Beach Cleanup Up Day is Aug. 20 in concert with Heal the Bay. If you test drive a Ford car between 9 and 10 AM, Ford will donate \$50 to Heal the Bay.

- The birthday committee is looking for promotional items to add to its birthday gift stash. See Laurel Rosen if you have something to donate.
- If you have outstanding invoices due to the club, please pay up! We would like to encourage you to sign up with a MasterCard or Visa for automatic billing – easier on you and easier on Savi.
- **Oct. 2 – International Wine Festival at the Annenberg Community Beach House – the club’s only fundraiser. Please plan to attend – this counts as a regular meeting.**
- Nov. 6 – Rotary International Foundation Paul Harris Celebration - Since our District Governor, Brad Robinson flies on a trapeze with the greatest of ease (in his spare time), our celebration will take place at Circus Vargas, Del Amo Fashion Center, Torrance, 3525 Carson Street, 90503. Doors at 11 AM. Adults, \$65; children under 16, \$35; children under 2, free.
- Aug. 26 – Our next food service project for the homeless will be at OPCC’s Turning Point Shelter, 16th and Broadway. We start cooking at 4:00 PM, serve at 6:00 PM, and should be finished cleaning up by 7:30 PM. Members may come for any or all of the time and are free to bring family and friends. (It’s appropriate for kids starting about age 8.) Contact Bill Buxton (wbuxton@ucla.edu) to learn more.



Birthdays!

Laurel Rosen presided as we wished our July Birthday Rotarians a happy birthday: Henry. Alcantar, Bob Baker, Kent Colberg, Spyros Dellaportas, Susan Gabriel Potter, Ann Greenspun, Monte Herring, Tim J. Jackman, Bob Klein, Harris Levey, Jean McNeil Wyner, Dave Potter, Nicole Pratt, Lionel Ruhman, , Stan Shu, David Snow.



Laurel Rosen made sure no one was left out. Spyros Dellaportas and David Snow led the singing along with Dave Potter and Monte Herring. Meantime, Nicole Pratt, Susan Gabriel Potter and Ann Greenspun maintained a little dignity.



Fines

Monika White was fined for her trip to Bologna, Italy. She tried to get out of it by presenting a Bologna Rotary flag, but Prez David said, “Bologna,” to that. Roxie Janka was fined for her trip to Kiev (which she claimed was for business)! Klaus Mennekes was fined for taking the oath and becoming a citizen of the United States. (*Bravo, Klaus*, but if you think you’ll get more respect now, forget it!)



Fun and Games

President David introduced us to our new currency - \$25 Rotary Bucks. The money can be earned by playing Rotary Trivia and later be redeemed for... something. We played the first game we’ll call “Name That Rotarian.” Len Lanzi and RoseMary Regalbuto were the winners of a \$25 bill.



Presentation – Craft Talks, We Love Craft Talks

Lisa Alexander, our first craft talker, shared with us a bit about her life. Born in Seattle, the family moved to California when Lisa was in junior high school. She studied Linguistics and French at UCLA and spent her junior year studying in Paris. She went to law school at USC (so she’s understandably conflicted often) and now practices estate law – which she loves because it is personal – and as near to being a country lawyer as it comes

these days. She lives in Mar Vista with her mother and Eagle Scout son, Jim, 22. Outside of Rotary, Lisa's passion is Scouting – where she is very involved and shared her many medals for her work with the District and Council. Lisa is also a marathon runner, having completed seven LA Marathons as part of the LA Leggers.



Merv Hecht, our second craft talker, was born in Illinois, where his parents were “in ladies clothing.” Music was his passion and he moved to France to pursue it, but after his teacher told him “zee music – it is not for you,” he went to the Sorbonne to study philosophy. Back in LA, Merv's career path had many twists and turns. First, he ran a clothing store, then he worked as a short order cook where he met his wife, Bonnie. Bonnie was going to Harvard, so Merv went, too – and earned a law degree while there. Back again to LA, Merv opened his practice in the Pacific Palisades. Later, he became CFO of a computer business, then worked in business management with Fortune 500 companies. Next, he closed everything down and moved to Italy and began importing wine. Currently, his is helping French companies with planning, writes books, and writes restaurant reviews for the *Santa Monica Daily Press* and the *Beverly Hills Courier*. Somewhere along the line, he and Bonnie raised three children. One is a physician, one a lawyer, and one is teaching culture in Japan.

Thought for the Day (TFTD)

How many slams in an old screen door? Depends how loud you shut it. How many slices in a loaf of bread? Depends how thin you cut it. How much good inside a day? Depends how good you live 'em. How much love inside a friend? Depends how much you give 'em. - Shel Silverstein

Monthly Events

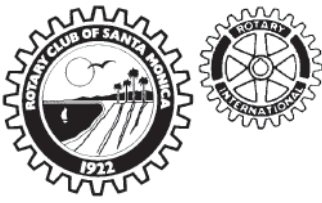
Third Thursday **Breakfast** – Aug. 18, anytime between 7:30 AM and 9:00 AM at Le Pain Quotidian, 13050 San Vicente, Los Angeles (just east of 26th St.)

First Friday **Tennis** – Next matches, Sept. 2. See Karim Jaude.

First Tuesday **Happy Hour(s)** – Next happy hour: Tuesday, Sept. 6 (Location TBD)

Calendar of Events

- Aug 12 [German Consul General Mr. Wolfgang Drautz, Berlin Wall 50th anniversary](#)
- Aug 19 [TBD](#)
- Aug 26 [Jessica Levinson, State Redistricting](#)
- Aug 26 Our first homeless agency project this year will be at OPCC's Turning Point facility, 16th and Broadway. We start cooking dinner at 4:00 PM, serve at 6:00 PM, and should be finished by 7:30 PM. Contact Bill Buxton (wbuxton@ucla.edu).
- Sept 2 **DARK for Labor Day**
- Sept 9 [Austin Buetner, blue-ribbon panel to bring an NFL team to LA. \(NFL season starts on 9/8.\)](#)
- Sept 16 [Sandra Lyon, newly appointed superintendent of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District.](#)
- Sept 23 [George Rosenthal, Wines of Malibu](#)
- Sept 30 **DARK** for the Club's only fundraiser on Sunday, Oct. 2 (which counts as the meeting).
- Oct 2 [International Wine Festival at the Annenberg Community Beach House. *Counts as a regular meeting!*](#)
- Nov 6 RI Foundation Celebration, Circus Vargas at the Del Amo Fashion Center, 3525 Carson Street, Torrance, 90503.



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ROTARY CLUB OF SANTA MONICA

Service Since 1922 • Meets Noon Most Fridays • Riviera Country Club • 1250 Capri Drive • Pacific Palisades

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 Kalyan Banerjee

Rotary District #5280 Governor 2011-2012
 Brad Robinson

“Reach Within to Embrace Humanity”

LOCAL MAKEUP OPPORTUNITIES

MONDAY:	Beverly Hills	12:15 p.m.	Beverly Hills Hotel	9641 West Sunset Blvd.
TUESDAY:	Brentwood (Los Angeles)	12:15 p.m.	Hotel Angeleno	Sunset and the 405
WEDNESDAY:	Century City	12:00 p.m.	Breeze Rest. - Hyatt Century Plaza	2025 Avenue of the Stars
	Malibu	7:30 a.m.	Pepperdine University	24255 Pacific Coast Hwy
	Culver City	12:15 p.m.	Radisson Hotel	6161 W. Centinela Avenue
THURSDAY:	Playa Venice Sunrise	7:15 a.m.	Marina International Hotel	4200 Admiralty Way, MDR
	Pacific Palisades	7:00 a.m.	Aldersgate Retreat & Cultural Center	925 Haverford Ave., PP
	Westwood Village	12:00 p.m.	UCLA Faculty Center	480 Charles Young Dr. (UCLA Campus)

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