



Stories

This week at Rotary - Rotary Club of Santa Monica's 90th Birthday Celebration
Posted by Scott Kunitz

Join Us As We Celebrate the 90th Birthday of the Rotary Club of Santa Monica!

Event is in lieu of our lunch meeting of March 23rd



At this party you'll really appreciate being a member of the Santa Monica Rotary Club!

Want to come to our 90th Birthday Celebration??

This is your last chance to RSVP!

PLACE: Casa del Mar Hotel

DATE: Friday, March 23, 2012

TIME: 6pm Cocktails, 7pm Dinner & Program

COST: \$90 per person*, \$10 valet parking

Rotary Club Meeting March 9, 2012 - Keith Raymond Erickson
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Meeting Cast

At the head table, Far Stage Right we had Invocator **Paul Leoni**; Next to **Paul** we have **George Collins**. Stage left of the podium and here to introduce our speaker for today, we have **Ávedis Guerboian**. Next to **Avo** is our speaker for today, **Keith Erickson**. Far stage left of the Podium and here to introduce our visiting Rotarians and guests we have **LaVonne Lawson**. Our song leader was **Tom Larmore** with **Ken Waltzer** on piano, and our Greeters were **Jillian Alexander & Bill Rayman**.

Visitors

We had 2 visiting Rotarians, **Cynthia Cummings** from Park Cities, and **Ronald Lyster** from Westwood. Our only guest of a Rotarian was **Doug Metzler** who was a guest of **John Bohm**.

Announcements

- Many of us just came from services for past president **Jack Michel**, affectionately known to many of us as the "Milk Man," because his family owned a dairy business for many years. His classification was Milk Distribution, and he first joined our club in 1965, and became our club president in 1980. He was also a past chairman of the Santa Monica Rotary Foundation. All of us who knew him will surely miss his laugh and his smile.
- Our next Healthy Living event will be a historic tour of Downtown Santa Monica on the 24th of March.
- **Sharon Gavin** Rotary reads is next week, Wednesday and Thursday. 1 Lucky reader will win a Kindle Fire.
- The District Conference will be at the beautiful Hilton San Diego Resort and Spa in Mission Bay the weekend of April 20th, and you still have time to get the special rate if you sign up before March 15th.
- **Bill Buxton**, Next Supper Service at OPCC is in 1 week from today at the Turning Point Facility on 16th and Broadway. We start cooking at 4pm and serve at 6 pm.
- **George Collins**, sponsorships for our 90th Birthday Party.

Fines

- **John Dravillas**, trip to Thailand \$50.
- **Jillian Alexander & Laurel Rosen**, International Women's Day \$50 fine each, but since Jillian received hers last week we will just fine Laurel.

Presentation

Keith Raymond Erickson (born April 19, 1944 in San Francisco, California) is a former American basketball player. After graduating from El Segundo High School (CA), Erickson played at UCLA, where he was a member of the 1964 and 1965 NCAA Champion teams. Erickson, who attended UCLA on a shared baseball/basketball scholarship, also played on the 1964 US Men's Olympic Volleyball team. **Coach John Wooden** would later remark that Erickson was the finest athlete he ever coached.

After leaving UCLA, Erickson spent 12 years making his way around the NBA. He played his rookie year with the San Francisco Warriors, two years with the Chicago Bulls, five years with the Los Angeles Lakers, and four years with the Phoenix Suns. The crowning achievement of his NBA career was playing on the Los Angeles Lakers championship team in 1972 with basketball legends Wilt Chamberlain and Jerry West.

After leaving the league, Erickson put his experiences and knowledge gained on the court to good use working as commentator for Lakers games on radio and television with **Chick Hearn** from 1979 to 1987. He also worked as a commentator for the Phoenix Suns for seven years.

Keith Erickson told us stories about legendary Lakers' play-by-play announcer **Chick Hearn**, his broadcast partner for eight years.

"Doing color commentary with **Chick** was a challenge," **Erickson** said. "I could barely get a word or two in edgewise before he moved on."

Erickson recalled one of the two times he saw **Hearn** rendered speechless. **Hearn** was interviewing Hall of Fame forward **Elgin Baylor** after a game and presented **Baylor** with a gift certificate to a clothing store from a new sponsor. **Baylor**, still in uniform with a towel around his neck, looked at **Hearn** who was dressed in a suit and tie and said, "You keep it, you need it worse than I do."

Keith Erickson discusses his relationship with John Wooden and the impact the legendary coach had on his career and life. He called **John Wooden** "The finest man I ever met." But he did not realize this until after he left school. From 18 - 20 he did not listen much. He does remember a few things; **Coach Wooden** loved his wife and children, and he never swore. If you heard him say "Goodness gracious sakes alive" you knew you were in trouble.

John Wooden was great with handling players. He never said win. His goal was to get his players to play to their top potential. **Erickson** remembers the first practice with **Coach Wooden** he made everyone take off their shoes and socks, to show them how to put them on properly and avoid getting blisters.

Coach Wooden had a policy that if you had to be clean shaven to play on the team. **Bill Walton** showed up his senior year with long hair and sideburns. **Bill** told **Coach Wooden** that he had a right to wear his hair the way he wanted to. **Coach Wooden** said we will miss you. **Bill** went to shave right away. 25 years later they were discussing this incident and **Bill** asked would you have really kicked me off of the team? **Coach** answered, the most important thing is that you believed I would.

At 95 years old **Coach John Wooden** still had 2-3 meetings a day, it kept him busy. At 96 he was asked what legacy did he want to leave and he answered "I want to be remembered as being as close to the man my father was."

John Wooden's Seven Point Creed, given to him by his father **Joshua** upon his graduation from grammar school:

- Be true to yourself.
- Make each day your masterpiece.
- Help others.
- Drink deeply from good books, especially the Bible.
- Make friendship a fine art.
- Build a shelter against a rainy day.
- Pray for guidance and give thanks for your blessings every day.

Two Sets of Threes also give to him by his father:

- Never lie, never cheat and never steal.
- Don't whine, don't complain and don't alibi.

Thank you Mr. Erickson for an excellent talk!

Thought for the Day

Samuel Clemens, who went by the pen name **Mark Twain**, said: "Always do right. This will gratify some people and astonish the rest."

ROTARY CLUB OF SANTA MONICA

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