



LA ROTACIÓN

Rotary Club of Palos Verdes Peninsula · February 27, 2009

If You Missed Us On February 20

ANNUAL SPEECH CONTEST: IT WAS ALL TALK

—by John La Bella

It was a sunny day in Palos Verdes as the heat radiated through my car windshield. The time was 11:30 AM Friday, February 20. I was in third gear motor-ing down Hawthorne Boulevard toward the PV Country Club. The PV Rotary Club meeting was scheduled for 12:15 PM with more than a full agenda for the after-noon. That's when I go to work. I'm Joe Friday, the weekly reporter.

As I approached the sergeant-at-arms station, I made contact with **Phyllis Pelezzare's** optimistic eyes

and she uttered "would you lead the welcome song today?" **Debbie Deitch** was within eyeball distance radiating a look that implied "you'd better!"

I meekly explained that I was the meeting reporter and being a "one-ball juggler" could not lead the welcome song also. **Steve Day** followed me into the meeting room and signed up to lead the welcome song. Thanks **Mr. Day!** After purchasing a set of losing raffle tickets I was greeted by Paul Rubincam, who later led the invocation as well. *(continues, next page)*

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

FEBRUARY 27: TBA

MARCH 6: Chizuko deQuieroz, speaking about her life in a WWII internment camp

CLUB CALENDAR

MARCH 8: Family day at the **Automobile Driving Museum**. See details on page 4 of this issue. Sign up with Debbie Dietch.

PICTURED ABOVE: **Nancy Crawford**.



District #5280
**ROTARY CLUB OF
 PALOS VERDES PENINSULA**
 Chartered March 26, 1962

ROTARY NEWS ON THE 'NET

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 www.ROTARY528OLA.org

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL:
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SUNSHINE COMMITTEE:

Please let one of these Rotarians know if you have news about a fellow member.

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Rita Bhatia

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Prior to the meeting, I initiated a short discussion with President Emeritus **Harry Kitter** and current president, **Bruce Attig**. I started the conversation with "the stock market is down again?" Since both are financial planners, I thought they could impart some wisdom to me. **Harry's** chin hit the floor as he checked the status of his shoe shine. To my surprise and dismay, **Bruce** seemed to have lost his Jack Nicholson "The Joker" ear-to-ear grin. *(Thanks, Bruce.)* Now I was really worried and proceeded to call my broker with a sell order right after the meeting. Onto more pleasant subjects, such as upcoming Rotary events, brought a sense of optimism and levity to the discussion.

The pledge of allegiance was led by **Derald Sidler**, followed by **Hang Up**

Moon hitting the high notes with *God Bless America*.

The guests were then introduced. Scott, from Washington DC, was introduced by **Suzy Seamans**. Scott is an ETF passive-money manager and is looking for a position as an active-money manager. Can anyone help Scott? If so contact **Suzy** or **Linda Elliot**. **Marcia Haber** introduced David, who is involved in the 24-hour home-care business.

Mel Schrier then came to the podium to let us know he is on his way to the Amazon as a cruise-tour guide, commencing this Tuesday for 16 days. He profusely thanked **Greg Sparkman** for helping him prepare his travel program. Have a good time, **Mel**, and stay away from the monkeys!

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CLUB NEWS

RECOVERING

Jim Hartman is on the Saturday morning basketball injured reserve list. **Jim** was trying to block a “scoop shot” by one of the quicker players when he went down the smoke stack and into the popcorn machine, re-injuring his knee. By the way, the “scoop shot” was good! Try to cheer up **Jim** when you see him. ●

THE ENVELOPE PLEASE!

The grand-prize winner at our Rotary Oscar gala last Sunday was **Harry Kidder**, who correctly predicted Oscar recipients in 15 categories. Runners-up were **Julia Parton** and **Les Fishman**, with 10 good guesses each. Kudos to party planner **Debbie Deitch** and hostess **Inga Liden**. Thanks to the Canterbury for providing a wonderful venue, excellent food, and super large-screen television. ●

YOU MAY NOT BE SAFE AT YOUR SUPERMARKET!

Thanks to **Debbie Deitch** for sending this warning. *Please share this and beware.*

A friend of mine was held up at knife point in the Ralph's parking lot at the corner of Crenshaw and Rolling Hills Road, last Tuesday at 2pm in the afternoon.

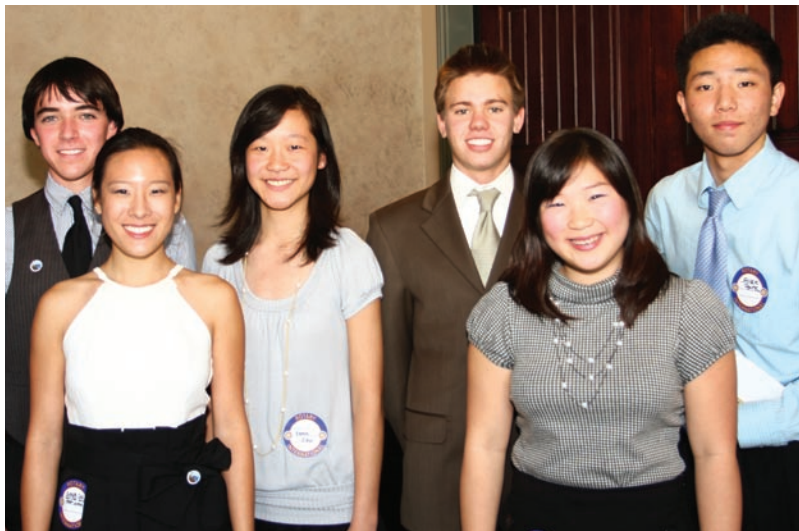
When she pulled into the parking lot, she saw a man who was distressed, waving his arms for help. She drove over to him, rolled down her window and asked if he needed help. When she did this, he jumped into the front seat of her car and another man jumped into the back seat of her car. They each had a knife that they were pressing against her. They wanted her purse and money. When she did not have enough cash for them, they wanted her to go to the ATM and take out more. She was too panicky to drive so they put the car in gear for her. They were screaming for her to go to the drive-thru ATM, but with all the panic and confusion, she got out of her car to walk to the ATM, before they realized what she was doing. Once out of her car, she ran and screamed for help. The two men, then ran away from her car, dropping the knife, which is now in police custody.

The police are investigating and the latest I heard, is that these men have not been caught. ●

CALL FOR PHOTOS

Marcia Haber, our club historian, requests any digital photos members may have taken since June 2008. Please send them to her at marciahaber@verizon.net or hand deliver to her at one of our Friday meetings. ASAP in March is appreciated. ●

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SPEECH CONTESTANTS were, from the left: **Tristan Nieto**, 3rd-place winner who spoke about Prop. 8 and same-sex marriage; **Gina Su**, 2nd place winner who spoke about pollution and climate change; **Lynn Chu**, who spoke about the fast pace of our current lives; **Joseph Levenson**, 1st-place winner who spoke about foster-children programs; **Flora Baik**, who spoke about discrimination; and **Alex Park**, who spoke about the origin of the 4-Way Test and its validity in challenging economic times.

Joan Behrens then began the program, which consisted of six high school students giving talks on: “What is a current challenge (in your family, school, community, state, nation, or abroad) and how can you solve it by implementing the four way test.” Club members were given rating sheets to score the performances of the speakers. The winner, **Joseph Levenson**, will move up to the next round of competition in the hopes of winning a Rotary cash grant.

Overall we were impressed by the speakers’ maturity, thoughtfulness, and delivery. It is comforting to know that the future of our country will be led by such individuals. Our only regret is that we cannot declare all the students winners!

Next, **President Bruce** assumed control of the meeting. However, he mentioned that he was not going to give us one of his “gold nuggets or parables” to close out the meeting. To this writer, this was like a full-course meal without dessert, like not seeing that last-second Steeler Super Bowl catch, like missing Kobe Bryant’s fall-away jump shot that wins the game, like not seeing if **Chris Stillians** goes for three desserts. We will just have to wait till next week! ●

**A fun family outing is coming up.
See details and reservation information
on the next page.**



***Rotary Family Excursion
at the museum that takes you for a ride!***

Sunday, March 8, 2 p.m. Automobile Driving Museum

Take ride back in time through automotive history at the Automobile Driving Museum, where you can actually ride in the cars of yesteryear. More than 70 classic cars are on display plus there are trains, games, gift shop, and an old-time soda fountain where Rotarians and their families will enjoy an old-fashioned root-beer float.

The museum is easy to find at **610 Lairport Street, El Segundo**. Visit their website at **www.automobiledrivingmuseum.org**.

For reservations for you and your family members, sign up at a Rotary meeting or contact Debbie Deitch at (310) 377-7796 or ddeitchca@aol.com.