



Rotary Club of Palos Verdes Peninsula · November 21, 2008

If You Missed Us On November 14

HOW GREAT IT IS TO BE AN AMERICAN!

—by *Keith Deisenroth*

If you missed us last week, you missed the opportunity to be reminded how great it is to be an American. **Norm Donner** and **Shell Hellberg** were the first to remind us in their role as greeters. We were further reminded in our own hearts as we placed our right hand over our heart and followed **John LaBella** with the pledge to our flag. We again were cognizant of being an American when **David Johnsen**, without the benefit of a musical instrument,

had us bellow out “America” as if there was no tomorrow.

Nancy Crawford introduced the many guest from other Rotary Clubs who joined us to celebrate being an American. Our own **Len Dandryd** stood tall on two of the strongest legs in our Club, now that he has completed his surgery successfully, and had us sing the welcome song like it has never been sung before. (Of course each time we sing the welcome song it is like no other time before.)

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS

NOVEMBER 21: Rabbi Isaac Jeret, on church and state relationships

NOVEMBER 28: DARK. Happy Thanksgiving.

DECEMBER 5: District governor visits our club

CLUB CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 29: DARK. Loaves & Fishes event at Riviera United Methodist Church.

DECEMBER 7: Holiday Party.

PICTURED ABOVE: John Clayton was a most inspirational speaker. Cox Cable filmed and will show his presentation.



PVP PENINSULA · ROTARY CLUB LEADERSHIP 2008–2009

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

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John LaBella gives thumbs-up approval to the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

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Tony Cangas informed us of our involvement with the Riviera United Methodist Church's "Loaves and Fishes" event scheduled for November 29 (at 375 Palos Verdes Blvd, Redondo Beach). If you have used clothing or food items you would like to donate bring them to the next meeting or contact Tony for more details. The District Governor will visit our club on December the 5th. Please remember our Holiday party on December 7th (Pearl Harbor Day).

Greg O'Brein shared a Rotary flag he received while attending a meeting at the Hong Kong Rotary Club on his three-week journey through Asia. He was also a winner of one of the bottles of wine.

Then John Clayton, a long-time

travel industry veteran, radio and TV personality, and author shared his views on "What it means to be an American." John is very passionate and emotional about his United States citizenship, which he received in the mid-1960s. He was born and grew up in Kensington, London, and is living proof that "Dreams do Come True in America". John has traveled in more than 50 countries. He says in his opinion there is no greater country on the planet. He shared with us a plethora of examples of how great this country is, but none summed it up more than the poem he wrote just after 911: "What it means to be an American" (see reprint on page 3).

You can email John a jdcradio@cox.net. ●

PVP ROTARY CLUB NEWS



Honorary club member **Ed Clay**, center, who now lives in the Seattle area, was visited recently by our own **Jackie Ignon** and her husband, Roger.

What It Means To Be An American

It's wonderful to live in the Land of The Free
To work and achieve, whatever you want to be
Mighty and great, proud and strong
America will always be celebrated in words and song,
As a place where Freedom rings loud and clear,
And that's something positive we can **always** cheer.
With our inner resolve and will to win,
Americans can always "take it on the chin"
As indeed we have in many times past -
- but the fact is, *real winners* last.
As I think about this beautiful land
Of rolling hills, valleys and beaches of golden sand,
I'm reminded of when America began...
It's a spirit that says **"Yes, I can."**
September 11th, 2001, was an aberration in time
But it's American courage, yours and mine,
That's kept us strong, and at Peace with God, throughout the years,
So that we've **ALWAYS** come through with winning cheers
I love our flag that's red, white & blue....
I'm Proud To Be An American - **Are YOU?**