



# LA ROTACIÓN

Rotary Club of Palos Verdes Peninsula · September 12, 2008

If You Missed Us On September 5

## THE ARTS ARE ALIVE IN THE SOUTH BAY

— by *Chris Stillians*

GREETER: **Jackie Ignon**

SGT. ARMS: **Jackie Ignon / Phyllis Pelezzare**

INVOCATION: **Dave Johnsen**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: **Greg O'Brien**

PATRIOTIC SONG: **H.U. Moon**

GUEST WELCOME: **Donna Duperon.**

Guests: Russ Gagliano and John Clayton, a travel writer and upcoming speaker.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

• **Mel Schrier** informed us of his newest grandchild, Emily Evon Schrier. He also told us our next speaker will be a

veteran of the Iraqi Army.

• **Jim Hartman** reminded us that the Paul Harris raffle tickets and or money for them, as well as any auction item donations, were due at the meeting today. He said he would extend it a week.

### OUR SPEAKER:

Our speaker was Rebecca Forster, a professional writer. She has written quite a few romance novels, but has now transitioned into writing mystery novels. She also writes professionally for corporations, and is currently working at Mary

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### UPCOMING PROGRAMS

**SEPTEMBER 12:** Shant Kenderian, who was drafted into and served in the Iraqi Army. See page 3.

**SEPTEMBER 19:** TBA

### CLUB CALENDAR

**SEPTEMBER 19–21:** Concours weekend.

**OCTOBER 4:** Wine tasting @ John Polen's.

**OCTOBER 12:** Districtwide Foundation event.

**DECEMBER 7:** Holiday Party.

PICTURED ABOVE: *Greg O'Brien and speaker Rebecca Forster, a writer of fiction books.*



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

**ROTARY NEWS ON THE 'NET**

**PVP CLUB:** www.Rotarypvp.com

**DISTRICT 5280:**  
 www.ROTARY528OLA.org

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL:**  
 www.rotary.org/

**08-09 RI PRESIDENT:**  
 Dong Kurn Lee

**08-09 DISTRICT 5280  
 GOVERNOR:** Chuck Anderson

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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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*Wonderful to see so much of former member Russ Gagliano, who spends summers in the South Bay. He has been the guest of John Evans, right.*

*If You Missed Us Last Week*, continues

Mount College teaching and managing their communication needs.

Rebecca has a master's in marketing and advertising, and for the past 17 years has pretty much spent 8-12 hours a day writing. She says, "I spend a lot of time at home with my imaginary friends. My husband says it's a good thing I am a writer, or he would have to send for someone to take me away to the nut house."

Rebecca has published 24 paperback novels to date. She said it all started after a strange encounter at a business meeting. She was writing marketing pieces at the time, and was meeting with a man at his home, who owned a cruise line. She said some woman kept coming out in different elegant evening gowns radiating energetic charm like the nuclear reactor at San Clemente, and profusely planting kisses on the man she was trying to

have a conversation with. After this happened several times Rebecca asked who the woman was. "Why it's Daniel Steele" was the reply, "and she has just been awarded a \$65 million dollar contract for the next four years to produce more mystery novels." Rebecca thought, "No wonder she's celebrating!"

On the way back to the office, Rebecca, being a writer at heart, thought "If she could do it, I could, too." She announced to the whole office, three floors worth, that she was going to write a novel.

Rebecca says today writers must look at writing as a business. When she first started submitting to publishers she was aware that the normal mode of operation was to submit to one publisher at a time. She decided to heck with that. She figured she had  
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*If You Missed Us Last Week*, continues

a better chance if she contacted as many publishers as she could. It paid off, even if it took nine months before the first notice of interest came back.

Rebecca writing romance at a time of change in the publishing industry. She eventually got fired from writing romance novels and started writing mystery thrillers. Even though romance was the most lucrative at the time, and there were only 40 independent bookstores that specialize in mysteries, she continued on as she felt her strength lay more in mysteries than in romance.

She told us that the title is very important and can make or break the business success of the novel. It should be very short and to the point. She also told us that the back cover and what was written on it was totally out of her control as the author. The cover design was up to the publisher unless you had something different in your contract.

Rebecca informed us that the average length of a novel for the genre she was writing should be 90 to 110 thousand words. She said short chapters worked best because research has shown that people like to read one chapter before going to sleep.

She told us that it is a lot easier to find an agent now. Go to [www.agentquery.com](http://www.agentquery.com); many are actually sitting in front of their computers waiting to respond to you. She told us that the average pay is .37 to .52 cents per book.

At that rate of return I think I will put my novel writing ideas aside for now. ● — *Christopher Stillians*

## PVP ROTARY CLUB NEWS

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The Board has received and approved the membership application of Derald L. Sidler, who is sponsored by **Jim Hartman**. Proposed classification TBA.

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION RECEIVED.

The Board has received and approved the membership application of Stephen C. Smith, who is sponsored by **Jim Hartman**. Proposed classification is Educator-Principal.

If there are objections to Derald or Stephen becoming members of our Rotary Club, please state the objections in writing and submit to any Board member within 10 days. ●

***Speaking this Friday:*** Shant Kenderian, who was drafted into and served in the Iraqi Army. His topic—

## 1001 NIGHTS IN IRAQ: The Shocking Story of an American Forced to Fight for Saddam Against the Country He Loves



*Shant Kenderian*

This is a wonderful opportunity to ***bring potential Rotary members, friends, and family*** to hear a timely, first-hand and exciting account of life under the dictatorship of the infamous Saddam Hussein.