

La Rotación

SEPTEMBER 11, 2009

Programs & Events

SEPTEMBER 11: DISTRICT GOVERNOR VISITS OUR CLUB

SEPTEMBER 11-13: Concours weekend of events.

SEPTEMBER 18: Paul Netzel

OCTOBER 3: Paul Harris event: Casino Night.

Pictured below: Suzy Zimmerman



SERVICE ABOVE SELF



IF WE MISSED YOU ON AUGUST 28

1.5 Craft Talks, Two Treasured Members

—BY JIM HARTMAN

Steve Day and **Les Fishman** greeted colleague Rotarians and their guests at our gorgeous Palos Verdes Country Club venue. **President John Polen** convened our weekly session and welcomed members and visitors. The invocation by **Major Steve Smith** was delivered with compassion and support for local, regional and state firefighters who have been so busy lately, and **Aryn**

Sieber gave the pledge to our flag. **Les Fishman** led the group in song, a beautiful *God Bless America*.

John Polen wanted to introduce our guests, but there were none in attendance. Despite protests from hungry Rotarians, the meeting proceeded, and we jumped into the Welcome Song led by **Liz Fitzgerald**; the meeting was in full swing. We were swinging and trying to eat at the same time.

John Gong invited Rotarians interested in doing business in or with China to attend a special dinner on Wednesday, September 9 at 5 pm. **John** is hosting a delegation of 10 influential Chinese businessmen, and he wants to complement that group with some of our members. Let's support **John** and register soon!

Liz Fitzgerald reminded members about the upcoming Paul Harris Dinner and asked people to sign up to go and to donate items for the silent auction. The event is set for October 3. **Julia Parton** reminded people to buy Con-

—“TALKS” CONTINUES, PG 2



John Evans, who chairs two classes of cars for this weekend's Concours d'Elegance.

—“TALKS” CONTINUES FROM PG 1

cours tickets and passed the board for sign-ups. **John Polen** reminded members about the Polio Plus fundraiser and asked for support. **John** also reminded Rotarians to attend the Citizen of the Year Event, honoring the **Gulchers** on October 2. Get your tickets now. Finally, **M.J. Schoenheider** indicated she would be arriving at the Concours in a Smart Car. That is definitely worth buying tickets to see. And Bob Bondurant, too. Wow!

And then the raffle: The prize is a donation. **Susy Seamans** won twice, making her a double-fisted donor or something like that. Remember the good old days with vino and talks by the winemaster? Things have changed. Probably for the better. Maybe not.

And then **Julia** introduced our special program: two treasures (three, including **Julia**) in our club on the same stage. Incredible.

Inga Liden converted a five minutes of fame talk into a half a craft talk, but the fact is we wanted more. This woman is absolutely delightful, and her presentation reflected her delight in addressing us. She is one special person. She talked about her days at the University of Stockholm, her affection for anthropology and fine arts and her degree there. She spent a gap year in England and also was selected by Rotary as an Ambassadorial scholar. She came to Lancaster, Pennsylvania where she was hosted by five Rotary families and came to appreciate the finer as-

pects of Lancaster, later marrying one of their own. **Inga** recalled coming to the USA in 1962 and back to Stockholm . . . oh, those days of youthful idealism. She was affected, as were we all, by the peace politics of John Kennedy, and she got right in line to pay her respects as she and we mourned. She has always had a deep interest in the United Nations and was selected to be a UNESCO intern, one of only a handful chosen. Do you think it was that combination of intellect, beauty and charm? Well, yeah . . . in the SoCal vernacular. She went on to earn a master's degree in Paris, her favorite city. She likes LA, too, . . . especially the sense of tolerance, diversity and acceptance here.

—“TALKS” CONTINUES, PG 3

—“TALKS” CONTINUES FROM PG 2

She married in Ocean City, New Jersey, and ran an art gallery and gift shop for 12 years. She could sell anything because she was so proud of what she was doing. She sold everything and was a huge success. She likes our club. She did not feel like she had a home or family in PV, and now she has all of us. And the best thing is: We have her. We love you, **Inga**. You are special. And your 20 minutes of fame speech qualifies for half a craft talk. You owe us some more, Inga.

Then, of course **Julia** treated us to the real craft talker, **Suzie Zimmerman**. Her sense of humor revealed itself immediately when she started with the fact that working on her craft talk had reinforced for her the insignificance of her life. She then had the audience in her palm . . . and that continued throughout her presentation. She has mastered the art of engaging the audience. We all need to learn from her, and learn we did. Her parents were German and very worldly. Her mother was a teacher, and her father sold mining equipment. Her sister, Alex, lives in Hawaii with her husband and their two



“IT’S TIME!”

DISTRICT GOVERNOR
SUSANNE SUNDBERG,
LEFT, WILL VISIT OUR
CLUB THIS FRIDAY.

children. Suzie was born in Chicago, moved to Munich, moved to Singapore, visited almost every Asian nation and then back to of all places, Peoria.

She played the trumpet in her small school marching band and to this day serenades her loving mother with the trumpet over the phone. Sounds tricky. I know I do not play better when holding the phone. Her work at a pet store motivated her to go to college and she got a degree at Champagne-Urbana where she joined a sorority and spent some time in the library and going to classes. Her dry sense of humor permeated her presentation. It had an intellectual (and funny) flavor not always present in our meetings.

She graduated as a Fighting Illini with a degree in German and international business. She longed for that fast-paced city life and ended up bartending at a health club. Even the oxymorons in our club saw humor in that. For the next several years, Suzy

worked for State Farm and has made a big name for herself in the world of insurance, She thought initially it was a bad idea to work for any company with “farm” in the title, but the company and she have thrived. She now has her own agency. She has been married to Zim, her husband of 20 years, and she has a blessed daughter, Emma, who is their joy. Emma is lucky to have such talented and caring parents. We are lucky to have **Suzy** in our club. **Suzy’s** smile and sense of humor will continue to serve her well in her career service role and in her role as a Rotarian.

Well . . . I enjoyed this meeting so much I ran to my station and wrote this before it got lost in my brain, because I thought this meeting was one of our best ever. **Inga** and **Suzy**. Who could ask for anything more? Two very special people in our club.

Thanks for that great story-joke from Bob Johnson. He is very funny too. ♦

Jim and John sign up, leaving less for the rest of us to do. Thanks, guys.





*Above:
This 1932
Auburn V-12
Boattail
Speedster will
be on display
this weekend.
Owner is
Anthony
Zehimni,
from West
Hollywood*

CLUB NEWS

ED CLAY IS ON THE MOVE

Ed has moved to an assisted living unit in the same building in which he's resided since moving to Bellevue, Wash. He is now legally blind and requires help to dress, walk, prepare and/or eat in the commons dining room, etc. Please give him a call at (425) 453-7786. He would LOVE to hear from you. Sherrie and **Gary Tossell** visit Ed about once a month. ♦

CONTINUE PRAYING FOR CLARA

Clara Duran Reed has started chemotherapy. She has two sessions completed with many more to go. ♦

FROM THE CONCOURS TO THE EDUCATORS

Concours weekend is finally here! It will be the grand culmination of months and months of diligent efforts by many, many of our club members and a wonderful gift of an elegant three-day event our community can be proud of hosting. Hopefully it will also prove a worthwhile endeavor for our club's foundation.

But there's little time to rest after the Concours for we go into high gear (pun intended) to present the 29th annual Educator of the Year Awards on Wednesday evening, November 4, at the Palos Verdes Golf Club. A committee has been working on the event for quite a number of months and now it's time for the rest of us to get involved as sponsors and to make a commitment to attend the dinner. This is an outstanding event honoring an elite group of educators from the many schools on the Peninsula. Your support is anticipated. ♦



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.ROTARY5280LA.org

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL:
www.rotary.org/

09-10 RI PRESIDENT:

John Kenny, Grangemouth, Scotland

09-10 DISTRICT 5280

GOVERNOR: Susanne Sundberg,
Rio Hondo Rotary Club

PVP PENINSULA · ROTARY CLUB LEADERSHIP 2009-2010

DIRECTORS:

PRESIDENT: John Polen

PRESIDENT-ELECT: Keith Deisenroth

SECRETARY: Mel Schrier

TREASURER: David Rowe

CLUB SERVICE: Debra Deitch

COMMUNITY SERVICE: TBA

INTN'L SERVICE: Joey Komada

VOCATIONAL SERVICE: TBA

YOUTH SERVICE: Inga Liden

CHAIRS:

PROGRAM: Julia Parton

COMMUNICATIONS: Greg Sparkman

MEMBERSHIP: Greg Sparkman

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Rita Bhatia

PHOTOGRAPHER: Chris Stillians

LA ROTACIÓN EDITOR: John La Bella

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Steve Day

PAST PRESIDENT: Bruce Attig

RI FOUNDATION: Liz Fitzgerald

CHAMBER LIAISON: Allen Bond

HISTORIAN: Marcia Haber

ROTARY IN THE HOME: Nancy Crawford

CONCOURS LIASON: Kjell Hellberg

INTERNET DIRECTOR: Hal Lazar

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR: Joan Behrens &
Jim Hartman

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE:

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

LIZ FITZGERALD
(310) 373-8060, lizfitz@earthlink.net

KJELL HELLBERG
(310) 378-2517

MARY JANE SCHOENHEIDER
mjsels@aol.com
penpeople@easyreader.info
(310) 375-3051, (310) 372-4611 x3021