



Mid San Fernando Valley

www.midsanfernandovalley.org

Service Above Self

Meeting at Denny's restaurant
Thursdays, 12:10 p.m.

16575 Sherman Way, Van Nuys, CA



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

February 2, 2012

Invocation: Rich Miller

Flag Salute: Jean Mabilon

4 Way Test: Bub Pickup

Attending Members: Frank Santucci, Renée D'Auria, Roz Dubrow, Bub Pickup, Rich Miller, Robin Kellogg, Sara Vasquez, Barbara Pampalone, PDG Emilio Basile, Jean Mabilon, Marc Tapper, Judy Rockey, and Beth Ullman

Guests and Visiting Rotarians: Todd Julkowski, a Senior Associate at collection agency Springer & Daly and a friend of Rich's; Roz Kogler and Ron Wolfe of the NSFV club, and Elizabeth Harris, our speaker

Announcements:

Let's Network! Rescheduled to Feb. 23.

To increase our networking and introduce business people to Rotary and our club, we'll be doing something different at our February 23 meeting. Please invite business owners and managers you know, as well as friends, to join us for lunch and the chance to share what they do. We'll give everyone (including current members) an opportunity to address the group and some space to showcase their products or services. Bring your brochures or product samples if you have them!

Possible Club Merger

The NSFV club is now meeting with the Van Nuys club at noon on Thursdays at the 94th Aero Squadron. They would still like to merge with us and have Sara be our joint group president, in part because all of their viable candidates have been president at least once before. We agreed to change our meeting plans so we can discuss the issues at a club assembly next week, moving the networking meeting to the 23rd. At least once a month we should try to meet with the other clubs at the 94th Aero Squadron, and co-ordinate speakers when we can.

Project Survey

Emilio and Sara emailed surveys for next year's activities to those members who have email, and passed out paper copies to members without email. Please fill yours out and get it back to Sara! We'll be using the results to determine which projects to continue and which to add or drop for 2012-2013.

Dues Are Due – Please Pay Frank if You Haven't Yet!

Calendar

2/9	Club Assembly
2/16	Monique Bryher , How Short Sale Fraud is Stealing Your Home Equity
2/23	Networking Meeting – Invite businesses and guests to promote their services
3/1	TBA

Robin Kellogg Being Inducted to Chamber

February 24 Robin will be inducted as the North San Fernando Valley Chamber of Commerce's new Secretary – congratulations! Come show your support, showcase your company, and meet other Valley business people and the honorary mayor of Northridge, Nancy Cartwright (the voice of Bart Simpson). The lunch will be held at the Odyssey Restaurant; tickets are \$55 each. Tables for the vendor faire are \$125 each.

Salvation Army Donation Drive

Judy announced that, thanks to Rosie and Clinton, there will be a donation drive from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on February 18 in the parking lot between Denny's and the Joneses' office. Time to clear out those closets, kitchen cabinets and garage storage areas, and let your unneeded items do some good for others!

E-Waste Recycling Project

Emilio will follow up with the Van Nuys club about the multi-club project, since we were unable to attend their first meeting and haven't heard what was decided.

Food Needed

Rich and Judy alerted us to a food bank in need: North Valley Caring Services, 15453 Rayen St. in North Hills is in great need of items for both their food pantry and breakfast program. Judy suggested we solicit donations from our members each week starting in February and going into May, at which point they will receive a major influx from the annual US Post Office drive. They prefer non-perishable food but do take fresh fruit and vegetables for both the breakfast program and pantry. We can take turns dropping off the donations. Their office, located on the Sepulveda United Methodist church site, is open Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Jennifer Rodriguez is the Office Manager, 818-891-0481 x23, and Yvette Pineda is the Executive Director, x24.

In addition to the food pantry, which is used by dozens

of families in the area, they feed 30 families through the breakfast program three times a week, teach an ESL class and hold after-school programs for children.

Community Dental Project

Barbara announced the first pieces of portable dental equipment have been received, including the portable chair, light and compressor. It will be housed mainly at New Horizons, where it will also get a lot of use. We need to turn in a report to the district by June 30, but if the project is still in the implementation stage, Jim Micelli will monitor its progress after that.

Rotary Minute: Marc summarized a story (from page 51 of the February Rotarian) of a recent Rotary Peace Centers graduate and her trip with a UN group to address ethnic violence in southern Kyrgyzstan. After interviewing locals she determined women and children were still in danger, and one simple change could help prevent more loss of life. One group evacuated before the violence because they knew it was coming; their neighbors in a different ethnic group were not warned, and one woman asked why not? Just alerting neighbors who also want to avoid bloodshed about coming attacks allows more to escape the violence, and rebuilds trust and friendships between the different ethnic groups. Please see the full article for more of this story.

Speaker: Elizabeth Harris, Santa Susanna Mountain Park Association

Elizabeth opened her talk by telling us of her Rotary connections. Not only had she received a very welcome and unexpected Rotary scholarship in high school, but her husband was a Rotarian for many years, when he owned a restaurant. Obviously it's time to renew those ties.



Elizabeth Harris and Barbara Pampalone

While her "day job" is as a research psychologist, over the last couple of years Elizabeth has gotten passionate about the Santa Susanna Mountain Park, its history and its

place in our community. She gave us an excellent PowerPoint presentation touching on everything from the area's ancient Chumash uses, with a wonderful photo of a Chumash grinding bowl carved into the rocks, to the many hikes and educational programs available today.

From petroglyphs, many in vibrant colors, we know that the area around Vasquez Rocks was the meeting and trading center for three indigenous tribes: Fernandeno, Tataviam and Eastern Chumash. Their grinding bowls and basins were used to mash acorns into flour and rinse away the bitter tannins, without losing the flour. On property now owned by NASA is the Chumash winter solstice site, with colorful petroglyphs dating back from hundreds to 3,000 years ago, that almost glow when the sun hits them at the solstice. Also on NASA property is the summer solstice site. Both require special permission to see, but there are many other petroglyphs in the park and on nearby private property which are easier to visit. On the toddlers' playground of Chatsworth Hills Academy is a cave of sorts with marvelous paintings on its ceiling! They are very worth seeing, and one only needs permission from the principal to access the site outside of school hours.

The Historic Stagecoach Trail that runs through the park served for many years as the only passageway between Los Angeles and Simi Valley. It is now a National Historic Site, but can still be hiked. The trails are terrific, with breath-taking views plus opportunities to see many native animals and plants up close. One section is so steep it is called Devil's Slide. These paths through the mountains are part of a major wildlife corridor for mountain lions, deer and bobcats, among others. Cutting them off would have disastrous ecological repercussions.

The connection to the old west doesn't stop with the stagecoach route – in part because of that and in part because of its rugged wilderness, the area is also where most of the westerns of our childhood were filmed, from series like The Lone Ranger and Zorro (his cabin is still there) to numerous classic movies like "Blazing Saddles", starting in 1931 ("Dracula"). Even parts of the 1935 version of "The Werewolf of London" were filmed there. (Other series you may remember include Have Gun, Will Travel, The Adventures of Rin Tin Tin, The Big Valley, Broken Arrow, Buffalo Bill Jr. and The Cisco Kid.) The Iverson movie ranch is still there in part, though much of it is now Rocky Peak Church, and the area is still beautiful. For more information on the area's movie history, the different rock formations and which sites are in jeopardy, visit author Jerry England's website, www.cowboyup.com.

The Park Association helps keep the area available and usable for visitors. New laws help prevent damaging development, like the Garden of Gods destruction from blasting to build a trailer park that destroyed petroglyphs and grinding basins. The association also alerts authorities to homeless encampments, illegal fires and graffiti. It takes special training and care to remove graffiti from ancient sites without damaging them, so the focus is on prevention. In one area you can still see the white paint someone dumped over an Indian site, left because removal would be too difficult or damaging.

There are guided hikes almost every weekend, each focusing on one of a wide variety of interests: wildflowers,

local history, archaeology and, of course, exercise. In addition, there are a number of educational programs for kids, all run by the group's 16 volunteers. There are no signs in the park, so it's a good idea to go with a guide, at least the first time. (Todd made the excellent suggestion that a knowledgeable guide note the GPS locations of sites on each walking tour and create a self-guided tour list to post on their website.) There are also few amenities, but the association did get \$16,000 from the Chatsworth Neighborhood Council, so there are finally a few toilets for visitors.

Five educational centers draw both children and adults to learn more about the area: Chumash, Stagecoach, Herpetology, Railroad and Quarry. At the Chumash center kids can see the elements of daily life among the original inhabitants, from meals to clothing and games. At the Stagecoach kids can try out an authentic reproduction, complete with the center bench (no back) for those less well-to-do riders needing transportation. If you visit the Herpetology location, you can hold some of the local inhabitants, from gopher snakes to tarantulas – but you don't have to!

A surprising point when visiting the Railroad center is visiting one of the longest tunnels in the U.S., dug from both sides of the mountain and almost perfectly aligned when the two teams finally met – without the benefit of GPS or other modern tools.

The area holds even more surprises, including an alpaca ranch on the top of the mountain and a church's youth ministry site. With its raw beauty, the wilderness draws ROTC for training exercises, horse back riders, mountain bikers and, of course, hikers.

Sadly, as of July 1 this park is slated to be one of the 70 that are closely statewide due to lack of funding. The Park Association is hoping to raise enough money – \$6,000 – to pay for the insurance needed to keep it open, and to run it with just volunteers. Los Encinos Park on Ventura Blvd. has stayed open an extra year thanks to an anonymous donation of \$150,000 toward their \$205,000 annual expenses – needed for managing the buildings and many visitors in a busy urban location.

You can reach the park from several directions, but the main entrance is from Devonshire – turn left onto Larwin and look for the big power pole. Elizabeth says the prettiest entrance is on Andora, west of Oakwood, where you get a quarter mile walk under a row of oak trees. Also lovely is the entrance from Lilac Lane, off Santa Susanna Road – but it's dirt, so make sure you and your vehicle can handle it. From Lilac you can walk just halfway down and be at Devil's Slide, a very interesting walk and view. If you time your visit right, you might see one of the natural waterfalls that appear after two or three days of rain. And bring your "best friend" if you want – it's the only state park that allows dogs. But on a leash – you don't want to risk a coyote attack.

Elizabeth can be reached by phone at 818-399-8158 or by email at dr.elizabeth.harris@gmail.com. For more information, including walking tour schedules, please visit the organization's website: www.ssmpla.com.

PolioPlus: Thank you to everyone who contributed to PolioPlus today.

Happy Bucks: Thank you to everyone who contributed today, including Frank for his surgeon releasing him after just 2½ months – half the normal time! And Emilio for being allowed out of the wheelchair for half an hour a day now. Congratulations to you both. These contributions go into our general fund for expenses and projects that aren't self-supporting.

Raffle: Barbara won the \$5 *again*, and Sara won the chance to try for the joker, but pulled the ace of clubs. The pot is now \$771, and there are just 19 cards left.

Notable Quotable:

"A well-developed sense of humor is the pole that adds balance to your steps as you walk the tightrope of life."
William Arthur Ward, author

"In order that people may be happy in their work, these three things are needed: they must be fit for it; they must not do too much of it; and they must have a sense of success in it." John Ruskin, author, art critic, and social reformer (1819-1900)

2011-2012 Club Officers:

President: Barbara Pampalone	H 818-882-2395
Immediate Past President	
Martha Stulman	H 818-708-8947
Administrator & Club Chair:	
Beth Ullman	H 818-701-6889
Secretary: Rosielee Jones	C 818-703-3201
Treasurer: Frank Santucci	C 818-652-7529
Membership VP: Marc Tapper	H 818-425-6667
Projects VP: Rich Miller	W 818-994-8234
Foundation VP: PDG Emilio Basile	H 818-886-4142
Sara Vasquez	H 818-368-6682
Public Relations VP	
Robin Kellogg	H 818-993-5378
Bulletin Editor pro tem:	
Beth Ullman	H 818-701-6889
Community Chair: Judy Rockey	C 818-683-3510
Int'l Chair: Sara Vasquez	H 818-368-6682
New Generations Chairs:	
Clinton & Rosielee Jones	C 818-609-7105
Vocational Chair: Carlos Menjivar	818-620-2569
Programs Chair: Robin Kellogg	H 818-993-5378
Sgt. at Arms: Renée D'Auria	H 818-882-1659

Selected Nearby Clubs and Meeting Information

Granada Hills, Thursdays at 12:10 p.m.

Porter Valley Country Club

19216 Singing Hills Dr

Northridge CA 91326-1716

North San Fernando Valley, Thursdays at 12:10 p.m.

IHOP, 1225 Truman St.

San Fernando CA 91340

Northridge/Chatsworth, Tuesdays at 12:10 p.m.

Porter Valley Country Club

19216 Singing Hills Dr.

Northridge CA 91325

Studio City-Sherman Oaks, Tuesdays at 12:10 p.m.

Sportsmen's Lodge Hotel

12825 Ventura Blvd. Vista Room

Studio City CA 91604

Tarzana Encino, Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

John O'Groats

16120 Ventura Blvd.

Encino CA 91436

Van Nuys, Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

94th Aero Squadron

16320 Raymer St.

Van Nuys

West San Fernando Valley, Thursdays at 12:00 p.m.

Coco's on Victory and Owensmouth *NEW LOCATION*

Topanga

Greater San Fernando Valley **E-Club**, Mondays at 12:00

p.m., Online 24/7, <http://www.rotaryclubgreatersfv.org>

Beth Ullman

17426 Napa St.

Northridge, CA 91325