



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

March 15, 2012

Flag Salute: Jean Mabilon

Invocation: Lisa Long

Attending Members: Frank Santucci, Renée D'Auria, Roz Dubrow, Sara Vasquez, Barbara Pampalone, PDG Emilio Basile, Lisa Long, Jean Mabilon, Robin Kellogg, Rich Miller, Rosielee Jones, Clinton Jones, Marc Tapper; Beth Ullman

Guests and Other Rotarians: PDG Drew Frohlich of the Granada Hills club; Guillermina Menjivar; Max Kellogg; Gina Lowe; Cristian Palomino, President of the Lima Colonial Club, District 4450, Peru; Miguel Suarez, and Vice Principal Nancy Sferra and Dale Katz, our speakers

Rotary Minute: Roz Dubrow read a story from the current issue of The Rotarian.

Announcements:

Salvation Army Sobriety Banquet

The Salvation Army's March 16 Sobriety Banquet for alumni, current beneficiaries and volunteers was well attended by our club. Martha, Robin, Rosielee, Renée, Frank, Beth, Sara and her son, Alex and Robin's son Max were recognized for their volunteer work at the local Adult Rehabilitation Center. But whether serving holiday dinners, helping sort items, teaching jewelry making or job re-entry skills, all agreed the service given was more than rewarded by the satisfaction gained and appreciation of both the staff and beneficiaries.

Food Needed – Please Bring Items to Meetings

So far we've donated about 160 pounds of food to North Valley Caring Services, a food pantry in North Hills. Keep up the good work! They still need items for both their food pantry and breakfast program until May – just 6 more weeks. They prefer non-perishable food but do take fresh fruit and vegetables. Besides bringing food, if you can help with transportation we are taking turns dropping off the donations. Their office, located on the Sepulveda United Methodist church site across the street from Green Arrow, is open Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Office Manager Jennifer Rodriguez is at 818-891-0481 x23, and Yvette Pineda, Executive Director, x24.

Possible Merger

PDG Emilio reported that if we opt to merge with the Van Nuys and NSFV clubs meetings would be held at the

Calendar

- 3/22 **American Cancer Society** on Proposition 29
- 3/29 **Club Assembly**, including a vote on the proposed merger
- 4/4 **TBA**
- 4/28 Sat., **Van Nuys Track Meet**, Birmingham H.S.
- 5/26 Sat., **Van Nuys Rotary Car Show**, Valley College
- 6/8 & 9 Fri. & Sat., **District Conference** at the Beverly Garland Hotel, 4222 Vineland Ave., North Hollywood

94th Aero Squadron, but a committee would be formed to try and find a better location. There would be an option to not eat, but the restaurant might start charging for drinks or limiting how many people can opt out. Unfortunately, many of the restaurants that might be good choices charge significant room fees or parking (the Airtel charges \$8) or high lunch prices, bringing costs back to the \$17+ the members of the Van Nuys club currently pay, in addition to \$10/month to cover speakers. As we know from recent experience, it can take quite awhile to find a good and affordable restaurant that can accommodate us.

The exploratory committee has no recommendation on a name for a merged club. Projects would continue, with some difference in how they are paid for or how much they cost each member. The \$4,000 cost of the Van Nuys club's annual track meet that they now pay for in their dues would be at the very least spread over more than twice as many people. With that the much higher dues they pay would come closer to what ours are, but ours would go up. Emilio will have detailed information for us at the club assembly on the 29th.

Speaker – Dale Katz, Adult Education

Marc introduced Dale, a friend of his for many years. She has a background in music and singing, and worked in an assisted living facility before moving into adult education, working in a reading lab helping kids learn. Until budget cuts eliminated the job she loved last year. Dale read a very heart-felt thank you letter from a girl who was able to go from an F to a B in English. The girl said she also gained learning skills in addition to knowledge, and now wants to go to a state university.

Sadly, the current California state budget makes other successes increasingly less likely. While currently a "worst case" budget, there will be cuts no matter what, with adult education near the head of the line.

Most of the students helped by adult ed are 15 – 19 year olds getting credit replacement, re-taking classes they previously failed in order to graduate. Close to 90% leave with a B! Other students are adults in the work force, or trying to be, getting computer skills or other job-related knowledge, such as ESL.

Dale asked us to help contact our elected officials and campaign to help save funding for adult education.

Nancy Sferra, Assistant Principal, Operations, LAUSD

Nancy told us some ESL classes will probably be funded no matter what the budget finally looks like, but no one knows if anything else will be left. Besides the huge loss of jobs (over 2,000 teachers are in the adult education program), the lack of classes will have a huge impact on our communities, the skill level of employees and our economy.

Other budgets are being forced to change because of the state's fiscal problems. Most of us saw the LA Times article this week delineating proposed changes to the community colleges pricing: basic courses now available at \$36/unit will go to \$46/unit in the fall, until the state-funded ones are full; the overflow demand would be met with contracted courses at \$200/unit!

Adult education classes are essential to producing good employees and to helping people get jobs, which then allows them to pay taxes, buy products and stay off welfare. Investing in education returns much more than it costs.



Nancy Sferra, Dale Katz and Barbara Pampalone

Nancy also asked us to contact our representatives – whom Robin suggested flooding with emails and phone calls. Sara noted that this needs to be done at the state level, where the budget is being decided, but all agreed letting our local representatives and school district know how important this is to the community will help.

In addition to making our voices heard, Nancy said she is looking for corporate sponsors to raise a total of \$5,000 that would be distributed to the 100 or so graduates for use toward higher education. Someone asked about the

district helping, but even if our district funds were not already committed for this year, that foundation is prohibited from donating to another 501(c) organization. Lisa suggested the funds might be better used for keeping teachers, but at present that is not allowed, nor can LAUSD offer classes for a fee to businesses (classes with a minimum of 20 can be held at a business location), but that may change in the future.

Nancy can be reached at 818-595-8000 (El Camino Real campus), 818-758-3700 (Reseda Campus) or by email to njs39231@lausd.net; Dale can be reached by email to dalekatz@aol.com.

Cristian Palomino, President of the Lima Colonial Club, District 4450, Peru

With Guille Menjivar as our outstanding interpreter, Cristian told us about his 10 year-old Rotary club, which became an e-club a year ago. That change stopped their gradual membership decline and helped them grow, as well as gave them some very interesting members in places as distant as Nepal. Needless to say, their speakers are also international. Recently a doctor in Kabul spoke to them via Skype. That same doctor will be at the RI Convention in Bangkok. They meet online three times a month and in person once a month (in San Isidro), keeping the camaraderie that often is possible only with face-to-face meetings and events. But they find the internet is a great new way to communicate and connect all over the world.

The club's main focus is on projects for the disabled, primarily children. There is a great deal of poverty in Peru, and being disabled makes life even more difficult for those children as they grow into adults. As Cristian said, the question is, what does one do to help? His club is developing ways to educate these children. As he told us, having a good education is the only way the poor can hope to compete with the rich.



Guille Menjivar, Miguel Suarez, Cristian Palomino and Barbara as Barbara and Cristian exchange club banners

They have started a number of projects in rural communities, including constructing buildings for classes. As an architect, Cristian designs the buildings and makes sure the Rotary symbol is prominently displayed, embedded in the pillars.

Working with others internationally, Cristian and his club want to build a university for the disabled in Callente, about 120 kilometers outside Lima. It will incorporate the internet in many ways, including through online classes and conferences. The people are too poor to have their own computers, but the students can gather at the school and hear and see on a large screen some of the best teachers in the world, via the internet. In Peru the law requires businesses to give some jobs to the disabled. For those children who are severely disabled, their parents will be the students, learning how to best take care of them. This school will start with the lower grades, then become a technical school, and then finally a full university.

Our thanks to Cristian for selecting our club to visit while visiting Southern California, and giving us an impromptu presentation, and to his brother-in-law Miguel for bringing him. To reach Cristian, you can email him at c.palomino@arqperu.com or call 818-277-3319 or in Peru 051-1-999-102-711.

Reminders:

Woodland Hills Fundraisers

Saturday, March 31, the Woodland Hills Rotary club is holding a fundraiser at the Santa Anita Turf Club. If you attend, you can even get an 8:30 a.m. tour of the track facilities – the races start at noon. If you are taking the tour, please remember jeans and shorts are not permitted in the Turf Club. For more information, contact Robin.

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

Happy Bucks: Thank you to everyone who contributed today. These contributions go into our general fund for expenses and projects that aren't self-supporting.

Raffle: Jean won the \$5 and Barbara won the chance to try for the joker, but pulled the king of spades. There are just 16 cards left, and \$849 in the pot!

Notable Quotable:

"It is not so much our friends' help that helps us as the confident knowledge that they will help us." Epicurus, philosopher (c. 341-270 BCE)

"A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty." Sir Winston Churchill

Meeting Information for Nearby Clubs

Calabasas, Tuesdays, 12:15 p.m.
Wolf Creek Restaurant
26787 Agoura Rd.
Calabasas, 91302

Granada Hills, Thursdays at 12:10 p.m.
Porter Valley Country Club
19216 Singing Hills Dr
Northridge CA 91326-1716

Greater San Fernando Valley **E-Club**, Mondays at 12:00 p.m., Online 24/7, <http://www.rotaryclubgreatersfv.org>

North San Fernando Valley, Thursdays at 12:00 p.m.
94th Aero Squadron (with the Van Nuys club)
16320 Raymer St.
Van Nuys

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, Thursdays at 12:00 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

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

*Beth Ullman
17426 Napa St.
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