

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 8, 2012

Flag Salute: Leo O'Biecunas
Invocation: PDG Eli Gauna
Song: PDG Les Grossman

Attending Members: Frank Santucci, Renée D'Auria, Roz Dubrow, Sara Vasquez, Barbara Pampalone, PDG Emilio Basile, Judy Rockey, Jean Mabilon, Robin Kellogg, Carlos Menjivar, Rich Miller, Martha Stulman; Beth Ullman

Van Nuys and NSFV Members and Other Rotarians: (partial list) Sheri Polak, PDG Eli Gauna, PDG Les Grossman, Alice Gauna, Zoraida Suarez, Javier Nuñez, Raul Castillo; Mike Quiroga, Mauricio Aranda, Judy Coates, Leo O'Biecunas, Roz Kogler, Jim Tenner, Ron Wolfe, ADG Phil Johnson, ADG Mel Powell, Brenda Branford and the newest member of Van Nuys Rotary, Maher "Mac" Shamieh, Territory Sales Manager of Wurth USA, supplier of high-quality automotive chemicals, fasteners, hand tools and electrical supplies (cell # 818-636-3179)

Guests: Michelle Pincus

Joint Meeting with the Van Nuys and North SFV clubs

Announcements:

Van Nuys Track Meet Will Be April 28

Leo O'Biecunas passed around a sign-up sheet for those who can help at the 33rd annual Van Nuys Track Meet for students from all over Southern California, either by registering participants or manning one of the many event sites, such as the race track or pole vault. If you can help but weren't at one of the joint meetings, please call or email Leo: 818-891-1160; leo_ob@zolaw.com.

Past Presidents Day

Mike announced they will be celebrating all the past club presidents at a special event March 29, and invited everyone to sign up for it.

District Conference

ADG Mel Powell invited everyone to our last 5260 District Conference, to be held just 2 days, June 8 and 9, at the Beverly Garland Hotel, 4222 Vineland Ave., North Hollywood. Sheri kindly passed out flyers. It will start with dinner Friday night and go all day Saturday. It's close by, so most of us can go home Friday night, lowering the cost. This may be one of the last chances we'll have to be with district members who will be going to different districts

Calendar

- 3/15 Dale Katz, Adult Education
- 3/16 Fri., Salvation Army Sobriety Banquet, 6:00 p.m., 9501 Balboa Blvd., Northridge, \$25 each
- 3/22 American Cancer Society on Proposition 29
- 3/29 Club Assembly, including a vote on the proposed merger
- 4/4 TBA
- 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

than we will, plus we'll learn the final, permanent, homes of the 3 silver bells. Costs and more details to follow.

Van Nuys Club Car Show

Mike announced the annual car show with all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast and much more will be held at Valley College, May 26. Be there if you can!

Bingo Update

Rich reported that a letter was sent to the State for a letter of exemption which will allow us to get our bingo license. He'll keep us posted on the progress.

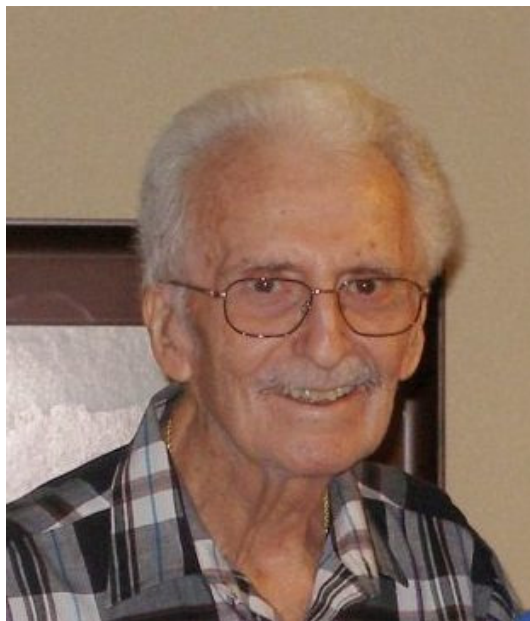
Speaker – Al Feldman, CPA

Al Feldman, a frequent visitor to our club, has 47 years of experience as a CPA, 27 in his own company, working with both private and public organizations. He was also the manager of taxation at a private insurance company, and taught at CSUN and UCLA Extension. Today he spoke on some additional things to be aware of with taxes due soon, including:

- If you use your car for business (outside of driving to and from work) you can either assign a flat percentage of your usage or deduct 51 or 55½ cents per mile (for the first and second halves of the year, respectively), but either way you need records to back up your claim.
- This year (2011 expenses) you can deduct up to \$500,000 in new equipment purchases; for 2012 that drops down to a maximum of \$139,000.
- This year the amount you can deduct for using your car for other reasons varies – 23½ cents per mile for medical purposes, and just 14 cents per

mile for work you do for charity, such as going to board meetings. Remember there is still a 7½ % exclusion rate for medical and other expenses; i.e. only the amount great than that percentage of your income is deductible.

- If you are self-employed and maintain an office in your home, you can deduct a portion of your utilities, house upkeep and insurance, based on the size of your office compared to the total square footage of your house. The difference this year seems to be that it must be your primary work location.
- The capital gains tax rate you pay will depend on the length of time you hold the stock or property and your income level. Stock brokers are required to provide you with the tax basis (purchase price minus commissions) of any stock you purchase through them, and the net amount – gain or loss – when you sell.
- Gambling losses can be deducted, but only up to amount you have won.
- If you make a large donation to a charity (clothing, household items, etc.), it is deductible, but the IRS expects you to document it. A receipt signed by the organization you donated to is usually required. (Always if the amount is \$500 or more.)
- You can deduct the cost of major improvements to your house when you sell it and report a capital gain on its sale, subject to a maximum of \$500,000 per joint return or \$250,000 if you file as a single person. Good records are essential to prove any such deductions.
- Up to the first \$3,000 of child care expenses can be deducted, and two different types of college expenses. Up to \$13,000 of any adoption expenses are deductible.



Al Feldman

- There are still a lot of credits available for buying energy-saving appliances, solar panels, etc.

- When meeting with your tax preparer, don't forget to bring the new 1099K form, issued by your credit card company.
- To avoid tax penalties or over paying during the year, be sure to manage your quarterly estimated income tax payments accurately.

Al graduated from UCLA Anderson School of Management, and is a resident of Northridge, CA. You can reach him by email at taxal1931@aol.com.

Salvation Army Sobriety Banquet

On March 16 the Salvation Army will again hold their Sobriety Banquet for alumni, current beneficiaries and volunteers. This celebration will be at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, 9501 Balboa Blvd. in Northridge. Those of us who attended last year had a wonderful time. If you can come, please let Judy know in person, by email judith.rockey@usw.salvationarmy.org, or by phone (818-883-6321, 9 at the prompt then extension 31). Cost is just \$25/person; RSVP by March 10.

Food Needed – Please Bring Items to Meetings

Two weeks ago we donated about 50 pounds of food, and this week at least 100, thanks to Judy, to North Valley Caring Services. Thank you all for helping support their food bank program, and keep up the good work! They still need items for both their food pantry and breakfast program until May. 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. Jennifer Rodriguez is the Office Manager, 818-891-0481 x23, and Yvette Pineda is the Executive Director, x24.

Get well!

Don Reinken was absent today because he's under the weather. Hope you feel better soon, Don!

Raffle: Mel won half the \$140 and graciously said he would be giving much of it to The Rotary Foundation. Congratulations!

Reminders:

Forklift and Musician Needed

The Salvation Army ARC needs help in acquiring a forklift for the warehouse, and someone who plays guitar or piano for weekly services. If you can help with either of these needs, please contact Judy immediately by email judith.rockey@usw.salvationarmy.org, or by phone (818-883-6321, 9 at the prompt then extension 31).

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.

Casa Esperanza Needs Supplies

If you have sewing supplies or equipment to donate, please contact Maritza De Artan (or Beth). They are starting a class teaching sewing skills and still need machines, thread, fabric, scissors, etc. Maritza was able to have the Chesed Committee at Valley Beth Shalom also send out an email asking for donations, so hopefully they will soon have enough to start the first group. Maritza can be reached at 818-786-1076.

Notable Quotable:

"We should not write so that it is possible for the reader to understand us, but so that it is impossible for him to misunderstand us." Quintilian (Marcus Fabius Quintilianus), rhetorician (c. 35-100)



"I was thinking of celebrating St. Patrick's day in the old country, but then I remembered...I have no family left over there."

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 <i>pro tem</i>: 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

Happy
St. Patrick's
Day!



Meeting Information for Nearby Clubs

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

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

Studio City-Sherman Oaks, Tuesdays at 12:10 p.m.
Sportsmen's Lodge Hotel
12825 Ventura Blvd., Vista Room
Studio City

Tarzana Encino, Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.
John O'Groats
16120 Ventura Blvd.
Encino

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

*Beth Ullman
17426 Napa St.
Northridge, CA 91325*