



Mid San Fernando Valley

www.midsanfernandovalley.org

Service Above Self

Meeting at 94th Aero Squadron
Thursdays, 12:10 p.m.

16320 Raymer St., Van Nuys, CA 91406



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

May 31, 2012

Invocation: Jim Tenner
Flag Salute: Patrick Fahey
4 Way Test: PDG Les Grossman

Attending Members: Frank Santucci, Marc Tapper, Barbara Pampalone, Robin Kellogg; Beth Ullman

Fellow Rotarians: Marie Valencia, Tom Harris, Jim Tenner, Judy Coates, Pete Satuloff, Ron Wolf, Don Featheroff, PDG Eli Gauna, Alice Gauna, Mac Shamia, Raul Castillo, Don Reiken, Guy Mangia, Razi Sheikh, Leo O'Biecnas, Patrick Fahey, PDG Les Grossman, Roz Kogler, and Bob Reimanns

Guests: Peggy Mala, Barbara's sister; former NSFV club president, Paul Korb, a realtor; Jan Goforth, PR Van Nuys Airport; Steve McLoed, Studio City/Sherman Oaks Rotary; LaunchPad intern George Alonzo, and LaunchPad Program Director Jose Nolasco, our speaker

Announcements:

Former Members Update

Pete gave us the sad news that former Van Nuys club member Jim Swiston died last week, and Marsha Difatta (Joe's wife) has been in and out of the hospital with heart problems. Marsha will be having surgery soon, and is then expected to make a full recovery. Please keep both of them in your prayers.

Pancake Breakfast and Car Show

The first (annual?) Pancake Breakfast and Car Show at Los Angeles Valley College on May 26 went wonderfully, thanks to the hard work and support of so many members and friends. Mac told us there were 20 exotic cars, viewed by a hundred or more participants, and so many breakfasts made they had to get more supplies. Jim added his thanks and congratulations, as well as wishes that PDG Les and Zoraida continue to make pancakes together for another 50 years.

June 7 Van Nuys Airport Raffle

Sitting in for Diana, Jan reminded us that everyone needs to get their tickets in for the June 7 iPad raffle.

Bingo for a Cause June 6

Frank and PDG Les announced the upcoming bingo game and fundraiser. Most of the event work items have been taken care of, but we could use a few more volunteers to help and LOTS of people to play! Marie took

Calendar

- 6/2 Sat., **District 5280 Assembly**, Carson Community Center, 3 Civic Plaza Dr., Carson
- 6/3 Sun., **6:00 p.m., Jazz Concert** with Cathy Segal-Garcia at The Salvation Army ARC, 21375 Roscoe Blvd., Canoga Park
- 6/6, **Wed., Bingo Event** at Union Hall
- 6/7 **Club Assembly**
- 6/8 & 9, **Fri. & Sat., District Conference** at the Beverly Garland Hotel, 4222 Vineland Ave., North Hollywood, \$20 + meals
- 6/14 **4-Way Test Essay Awards**, Sepulveda
- 6/21 **Mid SFV Club Assembly**; Denny's; VN/NSFV dark
- 6/22, **Fri., Van Nuys Demotion Party**, 94th Aero Squadron
- 6/28 **Karen Kenney, Ph.D.**
- 7/8, **Sun., Mid AFV Demotion Party**, 4:30 p.m.
- 7/11, **Wed., Bingo Event** at Union Hall

flyers for the event to pass out at senior centers near by, and everyone is encouraged to distribute as many as possible. Remember – the flyer is good for a free sheet of 3 games. Please invite everyone you know to play on June 6 at 6:30 p.m. at the Union Hall, 14800 Devonshire St. (on the SW corner of Devonshire and Woodman). Refreshments will be available for purchase. If you miss the festivities on June 6, the next game will be July 11.

Do You Have...?

Barbara unfortunately left the leader's manual for our entrepreneurial training on the podium two weeks ago – did any one save it from the cleanup service before leaving the restaurant? If so, please let her know ASAP, or we'll need to buy another copy. Thanks!

Dental Project

Barbara also gave us the good news that she found and ordered a portable X-ray machine for our dental project, which should be delivered next week. This will help make diagnosing patients a lot easier!

District Conference

If you haven't signed up for the **District Conference**, June 8 and 9 yet, do it now. This will be the final time 5260 will get together as a District. The event, to be held at the Beverly Garland Hotel, 4222 Vineland Ave., North Hollywood, will begin Friday night with a dinner honoring

all the PDGs and outgoing presidents. Paul Netzel, Past RI Director, will speak Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. Conference cost is \$155, including all meals (registration is just \$20 of that). An updated application is available online, or you can use the prior version. After May 25 you need to register by phone or online.

Speaker: Jose Nolasco, LaunchPad

Robin introduced Jose Nolasco, our speaker, who is the Program Coördinator of LaunchPad, a relatively new organization in Van Nuys helping students succeed in school. Jose started by telling us that “it goes without saying in this group that it’s what we do for others that matter in this world.”

With four children of his own, ranging from 18 down to 4 years of age, Jose is very child oriented; he loves family and kids. That’s part of what led him to LaunchPad, which helps students with academic tutoring while also providing physical activities, like basketball, music, arts programs and lots of caring adults to listen to whatever the students feel a need to talk about.

Before joining LaunchPad, Jose worked almost 12 years for Children’s Hunger Fund in Africa, Russia and South America. He noted that there was always a lot of bustling going on in the cities, with people going in and out, but few stopped to help those who needed it. He himself grew up in Pacoima, an area, as he said, rather light in country clubs, and where the biggest limo was the RTD bus, but with strong family and community ties.

One of the key goals for LaunchPad is to “Build brighter futures for children.” He told us about Adall, who is a great example of the kind of impact they can make. Adall is 15, already 6’1” tall, with a wonderfully engaging smile, who is earning A’s and B’s in school. But when he first came to LaunchPad for tutoring help two years ago it was a very different story, with his grades in the C’s and D’s showing he really needed help. Now when he comes to their after school program his homework is usually already done, and he can grow in lots of new areas.

Both the student interns and adult mentors really connect with the kids, helping them develop in areas as diverse as artistic expression and good manners. Jose said they find that often bad behavior is due to a lack of knowing any other way to behave, so their mentors help them learn what is socially acceptable. With people who “pour care” into them, the children blossom.

While many of the children have parents who are not involved in their education, in other cases the parents have reached the limit of their knowledge or time, especially when students start needing help with higher math and science. The Kahn Academy has been especially helpful in the math area, training the tutors how to teach the subject well.

When parents are involved, the program finds that kids start to connect more with them, opening up and sharing more of what is going on in their lives, such as one girl Jose mentioned who started to tell her dad about drug use at school, giving him a chance to teach her how to avoid difficult situations that could ensue.

LaunchPad has really coalesced in the last two years from groups of services offered at Church on the Way in Van Nuys (at Kester and Sherman Way). They have a

new Director, and, in Jose, a Program Coördinator now. They are still looking for more tutors, especially in math and science. From 26 – 40 students are in the tutoring program, and another 50 – 100 in the church mentoring program. Funding comes in part from a federal grant that extends into next year, but that covers only some of their expenses. Jose teased that if any of us know a millionaire looking for someone to give a briefcase full of money to, they’d gladly help!

For now they are doing a lot of good things with the money they do have, including recently buying 10 iMacs for a computer lab to teach high schoolers internet skills in the fall. Families do contribute a little: \$25/family with one or more children in the program. In addition to tutoring in a wide range of academic subjects, art, music and sports, the students receive T-shirts and notebooks.

Barbara gave Jose a 4 Way Test coin, certificate of appreciation and Rotary information, and then Don presented him with a book for Casa Esperanza and its bookplate to sign.

For more information about LaunchPad, or to volunteer, please visit www.launchpadyouth.com, or contact Jose at 818-779-8442, or by email at jnolasco@tcotw.org.



L-R: Don, Razi, Jose and Barbara

Happy Bucks

Thank you to everyone who gave happy bucks today, including Barbara, for her son’s recent nuptials (congrats!); Beth in honor of our speaker and her car needing service two days *before* the warrantee ran out; Jim in honor of Les and Zoraida cooking together at the pancake breakfast; PDG Eli, PDG Les and Razi for Paul’s visiting, and Paul for their “saving” him from the phishing email that put them back in touch with him-

Opportunity Drawing

This week’s 50/50 pot went to Raul, who won \$20.

Notable Quotables:

“In a completely rational society, the best of us would be teachers and the rest of us would have to settle for something less, because passing civilization along from one generation to the next ought to be the highest honor and the highest responsibility anyone could have.” Lee Iacocca, automobile executive (b. 1924)

"One of the secrets in life is to make stepping stones out of stumbling blocks." Jack Penn

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.rotaryclubgreaterfv.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 12:00 p.m.
The Olive Garden
19724 Nordhoff Pl.
Chatsworth, CA 91311

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 7:15 a.m.
Coco's on Victory and Topanga
Topanga

Woodland Hills, Wednesdays at noon
Woodland Hills Country Club
21150 Dumetz Rd.
Woodland Hills

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

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