

Mid San Fernando Valley

Service Above Self

Meeting at Denny's restaurant
 Thursdays, 12:10 p.m.
 16575 Sherman Way, Van Nuys, CA



June 16, 2011

Flag Salute: Roz Dubrow

Invocation: Beth Ullman

Attending Members: PDG John Alexander, Barbara Pampalone, Judy Rockey, Sara Vasquez, Roz Dubrow, Rich Miller, Martha Stulman, Frank Santucci, Marc Tapper, Debbie Navarro and Beth Ullman.

Guests: Peggy Mala, Barbara's sister visiting from Oregon; Lillie Gold, a guest of Rich's and Robin's, and Jennifer Brent, our speaker

Announcements

Club Members Recognized by District

Some of our favorite Rotarians were unable to attend the district conference, and so had not received their awards. We were able to rectify some of that today, when Martha presented PDG John Alexander with his award as the official District Photographer, and Debbie Navarro her award for her efforts this year as District Literacy Chair.



PDG John Alexander receives his District Photographer award from Martha Stulman

Picking up their awards at the conference were Robin Kellogg, District PR Chair, and Beth Ullman, Awards Chair, who also was given one of the Chairman of the Year honors. Yet to be presented are two awards for PDG Emilio Basile, one for being Long Range Plans, District Finance and PRLS Chairs in addition to his many other

Calendar

- 6/22, Wed., 5:45 p.m. **Board Meeting**, China Olive
- 6/23 **Wynn Rich**, Norman Rockwell
- 6/30 **Maritza de Artan**, Casa Esperanza
- 7/7 **DARK**
- 7/10, Sun. **Martha's Demotion Party**, 5 p.m.
17426 Napa St., Northridge
- 7/14 **Open**
- 7/16 Sat. **Membership and PR Seminar**,
New Horizon's Sam's Club, 15725
Parthenia St., North Hills
- 9/22 **District Governor Tom Hardy**

roles, the other a very special honor given to just 5 people, a Decade of Service award.



Debbie Navarro receives her District Literacy Chair award from Martha Stulman

District Conference in Long Beach

When Martha started to talk about the conference, Beth and Barbara put on their funny hats (worn at the dinner Saturday night), and Barbara added her lei (from Friday night's festivities). Luckily for them, no one got a picture, but everyone got to see a sample of the silliness we enjoyed there.

Martha told the group about our awards, noting the Vision Aid project we won a prize for is our on-going gathering and donating of eyeglasses for communities

around the world, and that it became a major collection this year thanks to Captain Judy Rockey, who arranged for us to get all the eyeglasses donated to the local Salvation Army facilities. Thank you! Judy and some of the SA beneficiaries also were key to the success of the award-winning project Marc headed, helping the West Valley Police Memorial Motorcycle Ride and Fundraiser. The re-entry training so many of us work on at the SA also took honors in Vocational. Martha gave credit to all our club members for the success of our great projects and the honors we won.

Throughout the conference we were privileged to hear from a number of distinguished Rotarians, from Bill Wittich, who spoke about how to nurture volunteers, to Ray Klingensmith's representative, PDG Jeffrey Cadorette, who gave his humorous spin on various topics from fellowship and the Rotary Foundation's Annual Fund to upcoming changes in our district. Our keynote speaker, PDG Ken Boyd, drove home what Rotary really stands for--Service Above Self, ethical behavior, tolerance, peace and fellowship.

Martha told us about Boyd's main talk, which focused on tolerance and peace-making efforts. Although he is partially of Armenian descent, when looking for a foreign exchange student he specifically requested one from Turkey. When the young woman arrived, his father was at first very upset, remembering what had happened to his grandparents during the Armenian Holocaust. Ken said that was never to be brought up in his house; they were going to learn about Turkish culture and not blame the child for what had happened. The entire family grew to love her, including Ken's dad.

The experience helped Ken bring Armenian and Turkish Rotary districts together. That effort almost failed before it started, when an Armenian friend was to address the group and felt he needed to be able to talk about the past using the terms "holocaust" and "genocide", both of which had been expressly forbidden by the Turkish group. Ken asked what his friend felt was the most important thing that could be done, and was answered with "bring peace to the world". Ken then asked, "Can you give up two words to achieve peace?" His friend, in tears, said "Yes, I can." That first meeting set the stage for partnerships between the two Armenian Rotary clubs and 20 Turkish clubs, which led to peace-making efforts and now involvement from the UN with funding to help build relationships between the two countries. Ken fully expects that such efforts, and more that Rotary is doing or is capable of, will win the Nobel Peace Prize. Best of all, it will truly increase peace in the world.

In the last bulletin we gave a recap not just of our club's awards, but also some of the honors given to distinguished Rotarians in the district. Many of you who know about such things may be wondering, "Who won the silver bells?" Governor Drew had made membership a key criteria (50%) for this year's winners, along with district participation and projects. He said he hates ties, but no matter how many times he looked at the results, for the large clubs there was a tie: between Lancaster West and Glendale Sunrise.

For medium clubs the winner was North Hollywood, and among the small clubs it was Lancaster Sunrise,

which actually grew from a small to a medium club during the year with their spectacular membership growth (they won the prize for largest net growth among small clubs).

Complete Membership Awards were as follows:

Largest percentage membership increase:

Small Club First Place: Universal City Sunrise 50%

Second Place: Northeast LA 25%

Medium Club First Place: North Hollywood 37%

Second Place: Mid SFV 21%

Large Club First Place: Glendale Sunrise 23%

Second Place: Burbank Noon 17%

Largest net membership increase:

Small Club: Lancaster Sunrise

Medium Club: North Hollywood

Large Club: Glendale Sunrise

We also had some great moments of levity at the conference, including the tall tale spinning of Richard Stewart, multiple-year winner of the Toastmasters' Tall Tales contest, and a funny hat contest at the Governor's Ball. (none of us won, in spite of valiant efforts.)



Richard Stewart in "costume"



A sampling of funny hats



Robin decked out for the ball

Rotary International Convention

Marc Tapper reported on the May convention in New Orleans, noting it was extremely well organized, from the people waiting at the airport to give guidance and rides to hotels to the many billboards everywhere you looked that advertised Rotary, PolioPlus (with the new slogan "We're this close" and showing a finger and thumb close together) and the convention itself. He brought us a great convention flag sporting a river boat that he says he was actually on. And out of the 30,000 attendees, he bumped into Barbara Pampalone, who was also there.

Barbara brought back some information brochures to share, and said the plenary speakers were outstanding. Bill Gates, now a Rotarian, gave one of the keynote talks, and while not a great speaker, had important things to say. He told the assembly that money alone is not enough, we need to keep up the pressure on governments and other groups if we are to succeed in eliminating polio.

Barbara passed around a woven pine needle purse, a native craft item, she bought from the Nicaraguan group, with whom she spoke about help they need in dental care. She also showed us her Bubba Gump playing cards and "newspaper" that covered the "bucket of trash" lunch her brother (also a Rotarian) had gotten, plus a copy of *The Rotarian* in French, which she got for Jean.

Member Updates

Ruth Cross-Batts sends her best regards to everyone, and her regrets that she has been unable to join us at meetings. Unfortunately she and Curtis have both had

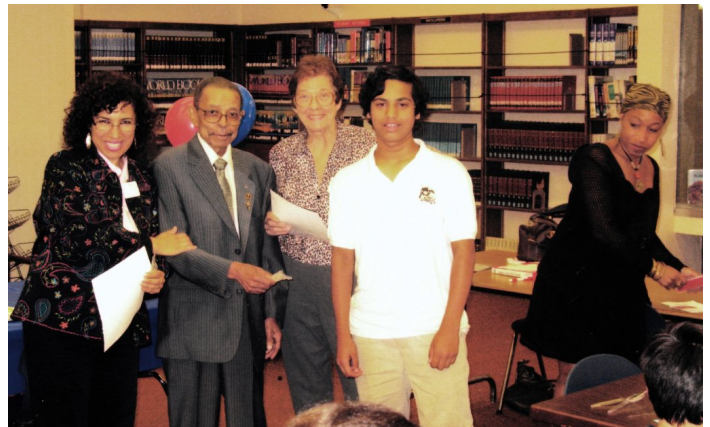
some new medical set-backs that are keeping them home more than they'd like. Please keep them in your prayers, and give Ruth a call when you can: 818-899-6225. She'd love to hear from you!

PDG Emilio also sends his regards – he's home recovering from surgery on his foot, making him unable to walk or drive at this point. He's still active on the computer and on the phone, so send him an email or give him a call (818-886-4142) – we know he'd appreciate the latest joke or cartoon!

PDG John is already back at meetings and looking great after his pacemaker surgery, which unfortunately kept him from attending the district conference. It was the first one he's missed in 43 years.

Frost Middle School 4 Way Test Essay Contest

On Tuesday, PDG John Alexander, Sara Vasquez and Barbara Pampalone awarded cash prizes and 4 Way Test coins to the 22 participants, 7 finalists and 3 winners of our contest at Frost. Sara told us the principal bought lunch for all the participants to help celebrate. They were so happy with the results, and the quality of the essays (some of which Sara said were better than the high school submissions), that they hope we'll do this with them again next year. The top winners were given \$25, \$50 and \$75.



Sara Vasquez, PDG John Alexander, Barbara Pampalone and student winners, with Frost English Dept. Chair Tracey Gilchrist looking on

Reach Out and Read (ROR)

Debbie Navarro brought 5 examples of the 400 books that were purchased for ROR thanks to our donation and the district matching grant. They are wonderful bilingual stories, with heavy pages for the toddlers and more normal paperbacks for older kids. You can see more for yourself if you can help sort and box them this coming Saturday, June 25, anytime from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The storage facility is at 15241 Rinaldi in Mission Hills, between Eden Cemetery and Providence Holy Cross Medical Center.

Bingo

Rich told us he, Emilio and Les Grossman of the NSFV club are working on getting us a license so our next bingo game, tentatively scheduled for August, can be open to the public.

Stamp Collection Evaluator Needed

Capt. Judy asked if anyone knows of someone who can appraise a major stamp collection that was donated to the Salvation Army. Please give her a call (818-683-3510) or send her an email (judith.rockey@usw.salvationarmy.org) if you have someone to recommend.

Speaker: Jennifer Brent, External Relations Manager for Found Animals Foundation, Inc.

Although her background is in retail, as someone who loves animals, Jennifer now has a dream job. Working from their Marina del Rey offices, she educates groups like ours, co-ordinates with pet clinics and shelters, and sets up adoption days at malls around the area.

The Found Animals Foundation was created and is funded by Dr. Gary Michaelson, who had won a \$1.35 billion patents settlement with Medtronic. He decided to create a number of foundations to address issues of concern to him, one of which is the high number of animals euthanized in the Los Angeles area every year: between 3 and 4 million – 64% of all animals in shelters; 72% of all the cats. LA spends \$50 million each year on shelters and euthanization, money that could be better spent if only most animals were sterilized.

To help make that happen, Found Animals helps fund low cost spay and neuter clinics, such as Fix Nation in the Burbank area, which sterilized 17,000 animals last year, including feral cats, and We Spay LA. The latter is offering cat neutering and spaying this summer for just \$15 and \$25 respectively. (The closest location is 14409 Vanowen St., Van Nuys. Call 888-WE-SPAYLA; 888-937-7295.) A third group, Spay for LA, gives free sterilization to cats, pit bulls and Chihuahuas (those most often euthanized) in the 90001 and 90011 zip codes.

They are also looking for even easier methods of controlling the unwanted pet population. Found Animals will award the \$25 Million Michelson Prize for a non-surgical way to sterilize cats and dogs. As Jennifer explained, one mating pair of cats and their offspring, left unchecked, could produce up to 420,000 kittens in just 7 years.

Other services the organization offers or helps fund include the microchips implanted in all cats and dogs adopted from LA shelters, and adoption fairs. Last year over 2000 cats and 1000 other animals were adopted at

such fairs, including those held in malls. (The one held Saturday, June 21, placed a record 496 animals from the shelters into homes.) Currently if you adopt one cat, they'll pay all the fees for your adoption of a second. And as anyone who has cats knows, they are a lot happier in pairs.



Jennifer Brent with Martha Stulman

One reason the group emphasizes cat adoptions is that they are euthanized in much greater numbers than dogs, even though they are in more homes. Too often cats are allowed to roam the neighborhood, and when not sterilized, that results in unwanted kittens. Downey has the highest rate – 94% of all shelter cats are euthanized – which Found Animals is working to help bring down.

One way they are helping achieve these goals is with a 2012 calendar, “6 Pack/9 Lives”, showing athletic men and their cats, to prove they're not just pets for single women.

What can we do to help? Adopt from shelters, license our animals (a percentage of the fees supports shelters and low-cost neutering), sterilize our animals, and spread the word.

For more information, visit www.foundanimals.org (they even have an Ask the Expert feature), or call 877-580-PETS (7387).

Reminders:

Jones Chiropractic Offers Body Scans in July

Drs. Rosielee and Clinton Jones are offering full body scans in their offices 16555 Sherman Way, Suite C in Lake Balboa (Van Nuys) on July 9th. If interested, please contact them (818-782-0022) to schedule an appointment. The scans offer early detection of a multitude of ailments.

Northeast Los Angeles Club Sponsors Concert

The Rotary Club of Northeast Los Angeles is holding its second annual fundraiser, “2011 Enrichment Through Service Youth Concert”, Saturday, July 9 at the East West Players in Little Tokyo. The performance, which starts at 7:00 p.m., will feature Vivace students from the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts. Tickets are \$25 each. Proceeds will go toward local charities, Polio Plus and Japan Relief. For more information visit their website at www.nelarotary.org, or call 818-527-6352 (527-NELA).

Happy Birthday

Today was Beth's birthday, so we sang happy birthday to her – much more in tune than she says the club used to do! "Back when" members paid \$10 to have the club *not* sing, and \$5 if they did – deliberately off-key.

PolioPlus

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Priscilla Pig for PolioPlus this week.

Happy Bucks

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Happy Bucks this week.

Opportunity Drawing

Judy won the \$5 this week. Barbara won the chance to pick the joker out of an ever-decreasing deck of cards, but she pulled the 7 of hearts.



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

(2011 – 2012 Theme)

2010-2011 Club Officers:

President:

Martha Stulman H 818-708-8947

Immediate Past President & Public

Relations VP:

Robin Kellogg H 818-993-5378

Administrator:

Emilio Basile H 818-886-4142

Secretary:

Sara Vasquez H 818-368-6682

Treasurer:

Frank Santucci C 818-652-7529

Membership co-VPs:

Rich Miller W 818-994-8234

Marc Tapper H 818-992-8211

Projects VP:

Beth Ullman H 818-701-6889

Foundation VP:

Emilio Basile H 818-886-4142

Int'l Chair:

Barbara Pampalone H 818-882-2395

Programs co-Chairs:

Debbie Navarro H 818-838-7218

Robin Kellogg H 818-993-5378

Sgt. at Arms:

John Alexander H 818-899-2045

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