

# Mid San Fernando Valley

www.midsanfernandovalley.org

Service Above Self

Meeting at 94<sup>th</sup> Aero Squadron  
Thursdays, 12:10 p.m.  
16320 Raymer St., Van Nuys, CA 91406



## June 28, 2012

**Flag Salute:** Robin Kellogg

**Invocation:** Jim Tenner, who started by recognizing the impending 4<sup>th</sup> of July and included quotes from both the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution

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

**Fellow Rotarians:** PDG Les Grossman, Zoraida Suarez, Diana Sanchez, Jim Tenner, Mauricio Aranda, Ron Wolf, Roz Kogler, Mike Quiroga, Tom Harris, Judy Coates, Razi Sheikh, Patrick Fahey, Don Reinken, Raul Castillo, visitor Ashley and our Honorary Member Mercedes Moreno,

**Guests:** Raquel Robinson and Francesca of New Horizons, Sandra Santucci and Karen Kenny, our speaker

### Announcements

#### Goodbye and Thanks

Today was Roz Dubrow's last official Rotary meeting – due to family demands on her time she is having to resign from our club. Roz thanked us for the two years of wonderful projects and memories, adding that what she treasures most is the warmth and friendship shown her. She promised to stay in close touch, and will continue to be a delivery point for her friends who so generously contribute their talents to our Rotary Knitting Communities Together project. We'll miss you, Roz! And your warm smile and loving spirit. We hope you'll be able to rejoin us in the future.

#### Thanks

Outgoing President Razi thanked Raul for one of the gifts he received in thanks for his year as president: the use of Raul's lake house for a vacation! Razi said it was beautiful, and a wonderful retreat. Great way to rest up after all that work.

#### And More Thanks!

Diana recognized Tom for all his work in promoting the Van Nuys Airport and its activities, presenting him with a special clock, shaped like an airplane.

#### Van Nuys and North SFV Demotion Party

Last week's party was not only a lot of fun, the clubs voted to accept the merger with Mid SFV. It will take

### Calendar

- 7/5 **Club Assembly**
- 7/8, Sun., **Mid MFV Demotion Party**, 4:30 p.m., Beth's house
- 7/9, Mon., **5:30 p.m. Board meeting** at Rich's office
- 7/11, Wed., **Bingo**, 6:30 p.m. Union Hall
- 7/12 **TBA**
- 8/18, Sat., **E-Waste Collection Fundraiser**
- 8/25, Sat. **Afghanistan Dental Clinic Fundraiser**  
dinner at Barbara's house (tentative date)

awhile to process all the paperwork, but we will start the new year as one club. Below are some photos of the event, thanks to Mauricio.



*Razi and Sakina Sheikh*



*Revelers*



*Razi Sheikh receiving proclamations from PDG Les Grossman*



*Razi Sheikh*



*Diana Sanchez giving Don Reinken proclamations*



*Sakina Sheikh*



*PDG Eli Gauna teasing Don Reinken*

### **Bingo**

Rich reminded everyone to sell tickets – so far Zoraida is the queen of sales, with 20! Les has already sold 7, and others 3 – 4. Remember – give the entire ticket to the buyer. We are each responsible for turning in \$20 / ticket we sell or returning those unsold, but we hope to have no returns!

### **E-Waste Collection Fundraiser**

Mauricio announced he has tentatively scheduled August 18 for our next e-waste collection fundraiser. This time we will be the only club involved so there should be no problem with schedule changes or publicity.

### **Food Collection**

Mauricio also asked that we consider collecting food for SOVA, one of the larger Valley food distribution centers giving food to the homeless and indigent. He suggested we invite a representative to be our speaker one week.

### **El Proyecto del Barrio**

Mercedes told us about a project the group she works with, El Proyecto del Barrio, is embarking upon. They are designing T-shirts decorated with a broken heart split by a gun to protest drug wars and other gun violence. She

promised to share the design with us once it's completed. The project is being called *Abeulas Por La Paz*.

### **New Rotary Year**

The new Rotary year starts next week, so incoming President Jim announced he'll schedule a board meeting for the new officers within the next week or so. It was also decided to meet next week, even though Wednesday is the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

### **New Board and Merged Club Name**

PDG Emilio read the list of proposed officers for next year, and Don asked for any floor nominations. There being none, PDG Les moved that the proposed individuals be approved as the new officers. Patrick seconded and approval was unanimous. The new officers are listed below (in the yellow box).

PDG Les passed out voting slips for our new merged name, and after collecting them announced the top two vote getters: Greater Van Nuys and Van Nuys. In a live vote Greater Van Nuys won by a 2:1 margin. We have a new name!

### **Special Recognition – New Horizons**

Mauricio told us the Van Nuys club started recognizing people who would otherwise not be honored 10 or 12 years ago. These unsung heroes overcome great personal odds to succeed. Today's honoree, Françesca, is from New Horizons, and was introduced by Raquel, who works there. She explained that Françesca was very withdrawn when she moved into one of their group homes two years ago. Today she is outgoing, always helping others in addition to doing her own chores, busy going to Richmond High School, and receiving plaudits from every group she comes in contact with. She does her job and her schoolwork ably and with lots of enthusiasm, while still finding time to be a supportive friend to her roommate.

Because our schedule got a bit mixed up, Mauricio promised Françesca's certificate and gift card would be delivered to her.



*L-R: Don Reinken, Françesca and Raquel*

**Speaker: Karen Kenney, Ph.D.** (with additional information)

Although her specialty is psychology, working with victims of PTSD, Karen spoke to us today on American

history, in honor of the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> of July, and as a coordinator of the San Fernando Valley Patriots. She asked us to imagine being in Philadelphia that hot summer of 1776, with no air conditioning, when homes were generally 20 miles from town and transportation was by horse, and she'd tell us about four patriots we are may be unaware of.

Karen kept us riveted as she described the connections and steps that led to Betsy Ross being the creator of our first flag. At that meeting with her uncle, George Washington (who sat near her in the Episcopal church she'd converted to from the Quakers when she married John Ross) and others, Betsy described the basic design of stars in a circle, the red stripes signifying the British and white for independence. She impressed Washington when she was able to fold fabric in such a way that with one snip she created a 5-pointed star; Washington had thought only a 6-pointed would be feasible. Later seamstresses developed the Stars and Stripes version that has evolved to our current flag, but Betsy Ross created our first.

Another founder (and signer of the Declaration) was Robert Morris, superintendent of finance of the Continental Congress. In late 1776, with the Continental Army in a state of severe deprivation because of a shortage of capital and the failure of several of the colonies in paying for the war, Morris loaned \$10,000 of his own money to the government. This money provisioned the desperate troops, who went on to win the Battle of Trenton (Washington Crossing). Throughout the war he personally underwrote the operations of privateers, ships that ran the British Blockades at great risk and thus brought needed supplies and capital into the colonies.

At times he took out loans from friends and risked his personal credit by issuing notes on his own signature to purchase items such as military supplies. In 1783 Morris issued \$1,400,000 in his own notes to pay the soldiers. He did this during the same year that New Hampshire contributed only \$3000 worth of beef toward the war effort, and all the states combined contributed less than \$800,000. This extensive use of his personal credit strained his own fortune.

In 1781 he devised a plan for a National Bank and submitted it to Congress. It was approved and became The Bank of North America, an institution that brought stability to the colonial economy, facilitated continued finance of the War effort, and would ultimately establish the credit of the United States with the nations of Europe. Morris was immediately appointed Financial Agent (Secretary of Treasury) of the United States, in order to direct the operation of the new bank.

In addition to putting in a great deal of his own money, Morris persuaded Haym Solomon (Salomon in some texts), a Sephardic Jew who immigrated to New York from Poland during that period, to become a prime financier of the Continental Army.

Solomon loved what the fledgling country made possible, and had written to friends and relatives in Poland that they should emigrate, because here they could truly be free to practice their religion and to thrive. Sympathizing with the Patriot cause, Solomon joined the New York branch of the Sons of Liberty. In September 1776, he was arrested as a spy but the British pardoned

him, after serving only 18 months of his sentence being tortured on a British boat, in order to use his abilities as an interpreter (he spoke 10 languages) for their Hessian mercenaries. Solomon used his position to help prisoners of the British escape and encouraged the Hessians to desert the war effort. In 1778 Solomon was arrested again and sentenced to death, but he managed to escape, eventually making his way with his family to the rebel capital in Philadelphia.

Once resettled, Solomon resumed his activities as a broker. He became the agent to the French consul, as well as the paymaster for the French forces in North America. In 1781, he began working extensively with Robert Morris, the newly appointed Superintendent for Finance for the Thirteen Colonies. In August 1781, the Continental Army had trapped Cornwallis in Yorktown. Washington, the main army and the Count de Rochambeau with his French army decided to march from the Hudson Highlands to Yorktown and deliver the final blow. But Washington's war chest was completely empty, as was that of Congress. Washington determined that he needed at least \$20,000 to finance the campaign. When Morris told him there were no funds and no credit available, Washington gave him a simple but eloquent order: "Send for Haym Solomon". Solomon raised \$20,000 and Washington conducted the Yorktown campaign, which proved to be the final battle of the Revolution.

Solomon negotiated the sale of a majority of the war aid from France and Holland, selling bills of exchange to American merchants. Solomon also personally supported various members of the Continental Congress during their stay in Philadelphia, including James Madison and James Wilson. Acting as the patriot he was, he requested below market interest rates, and he never asked for repayment. The Treaty of Paris, signed September 3, 1783, ended the Revolutionary War but not the financial problems of the newly established nation. It was Haym Solomon who managed to raise the money to bail out the debt-ridden government.

John Hancock we remember for his large signature on the Declaration of Independence. Karen said he explained he wrote it so large so King George III would know where to find him. He was a shipper, and when the colonists were fighting the tea tax, he refused to off-load it. The British went to arrest him, but he and Sam Adams had gone to Concord, to stay with Hancock's aunt. To warn them and alert the Minutemen that the British were on their way and to prepare for battle, the Sons of Liberty sent not just Paul Revere but 22 runners out into the countryside. Their cry was not "The British are coming", but "The Regulars are Out!" The riders included a 16 year-old girl, who had the longest ride that night, and a 9 year-old free black boy named Abel Benson, son of what was possibly the first marriage in the colonies between a slave, William Benson, and a free white woman, Sarah Perry. (William was later granted his freedom.)

[There were other blacks we know of who fought for freedom as well: Prince Estabrook fought and was wounded at the Battle of Lexington. Peter Salem fought in the Battle of Bunker Hill and was credited with the shooting of British Major John Pitcairn. At least three other Black

Minutemen fought on April 19, 1775: Caesar Ferrit and his sons John and Thomas.]

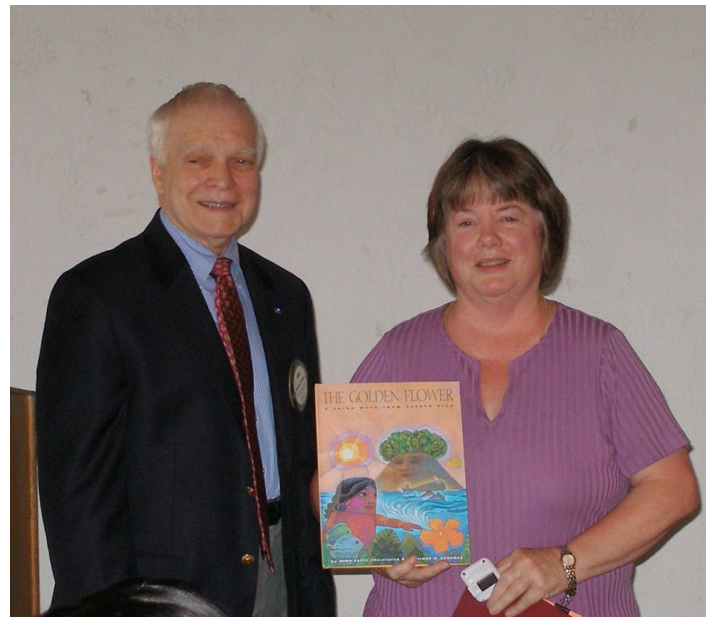
Those riders shouting their warning saved Adams and Hancock, who hid in the grass as the British came to the farm. They are just a few of the many people whose names we don't know, but who were absolutely critical to making our independence possible.

Karen shared a few other historical tidbits with us. For example, George Washington was very tall – 6'4" – but John Madison was only 4'10", so if they are pictured together, you can be sure they are shown seated! Sam Adams was a cousin, not brother, of later President John Adams, but they were so close people often referred to them as brothers. John was very devoted to his wife Abigail, calling her "my dearest friend". One of her cousins was married to John Hancock – the community was small and very inter-related. She is remembered for the many letters she wrote to her husband while he stayed in Philadelphia during the Continental Congresses in part because John frequently sought her advice on many matters. Their letters are filled with intellectual discussions on government and politics, and her attempts to persuade John to include women's rights, including suffrage, in the new constitution.

Gouverneur Morris is another name many may not be aware of. This peg-legged, anti-slavery delegate from Pennsylvania spoke more on the floor of the Constitutional Convention than any of the other founding fathers. As Jefferson was chosen to draft the Declaration of Independence, Morris was chosen to write the first draft of the Constitution. It is thanks to him that rights devolve to individuals rather than governments, because he changed the wording from "We, the States" to "We, the People".

Karen closed by reminding us to be thankful for, and to celebrate, what so many gave their lives to ensure: freedom to live, worship and vote as we choose. We have an obligation to participate in the process that keeps those freedoms active.

Karen can be reached at 818-996-6820.



*Don Reinken and Karen Kenny*

**50/50 Raffle:** Ron Wolf won half of \$90.

***Notable Quotables:***

"If you're good at a sport, they attach the medals to your shirts and then they shine in some museum. That which is earned by doing good deeds is attached to the soul and shines elsewhere." Gino Bartali, Italian cyclist and WWII hero, 1914 – 2000



*Have a very happy and safe  
4<sup>th</sup> of July!*

**2012-2013 Club Officers:**

**Co-Presidents:**

Martha Stulman H 818-708-8947  
Jim Tenner H 818-241-9435

**Immediate Past Presidents**

Barbara Pampalone H 818-882-2395  
Don Reinken H 818-368-3341  
Razi Sheikh W 818-774-9201

**Director, Administration:**

PDG Emilio Basile H 818-886-4142

**Secretary:** Robin Kellogg

H 818-993-5378

**Treasurer:** Razi Sheikh

C 818-652-7529

**Director, Membership:**

Rich Miller W 818-994-8234

**Director, Projects:**

Mauricio Aranda W 818-634-4043

**Director, Foundation:**

PDG Les Grossman H 818-757-0157

**President Van Nuys Rotary Foundation:**

Donald Fetherolf

**Director, Public Relations**

Raul Castillo

**Bulletin Editor *pro tem*:**

Beth Ullman H 818-701-6889

**Community Chair:**

**Int'l Chair:**

**New Generations Chair:**

**Vocational Chair:**

**Programs Chair:**

**Sgt. at Arms:**



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