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On December 7th, members of the Show Your Colors Flag Project Committee distributed nearly 1,000 project flyers to drivers in rush hour traffic at Phelan and 23rd Street. Our goal is 500 flag subscribers by the end of June.

ROTARYgrams

Photo by Steve Buser

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Vol. 95 No. 27, February 22, 2006

CAMP ENTERPRISE



It's time for the 26th annual Camp Enterprise! It will be held Thursday, March 2nd through Saturday, March 4th at the Holy Family Center, 9920 North Major Drive.

Camp Enterprise Chair **Chad Blanchard** Co-Chair **Scot Quintel** and committee members have

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SHANGRI LA



Leticia Villarreal, Shangri La Environmental Education Intern, will be speaking about the recovery efforts after Hurricane Rita and the construction prospects of its new facilities.

Leticia is a graduate of Michigan State University with a major in wildlife management. She moved to Texas in early Sep-

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HEAD TABLE



INVOCATION
LEE FREELAND



PLEDGE
JASON ARMSTRONG



4-WAY TEST
RIX GAREY



GUEST INTRODUCTION
TOBY CASTRO

Barbecue - Brisket and Sausage



The next flag display will be Presidents' Day in February. Subscribe now by calling the Rotary office - 842-1913



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Future Programs

March
 3rd **CAMP ENTERPRISE**
 8th Kyle Hayes

Make-ups

Monday:
 No. Port Arthur Holiday Inn Hwy 69
 Vidor..... Hibernia National Bank

Tuesday:
 Spindletop..... Holiday Inn 11th St.
 Orange..... Sunset Grove
 Port Neches..... Pompano Club

Wednesday:
 Groves..... Pompano Club

Thursday:
 Port Arthur..... Holiday Inn Hwy 69

Friday:
 Nederland..... Sanderson's

On-line: www.rotaryclubone.org
 (limit 3 times in each quarter)

REVIEW

"I'd rather have the gift of your-
 self, volunteering your time, than
 the gift of your money," **Paula
 O'Neal**, the director of Some
 Other Place, told us Wednes-
 day.

Mixing entertaining stories with
 facts about social services,
 Paula managed to bring new life
 to the definition and importance
 of volunteers while singing the
 praises of social workers.

Not only do volunteers help the
 poor, hungry and homeless, she
 pointed out, they also help Ro-
 tarians in many ways: teaching
 Sunday School, bringing food
 when we are sick, entertaining
 our children (or grandchildren),
 and visiting us when we are in
 the hospital, touching our lives
 every day.

Paula said the government has
 put a value of \$18.04 on the
 value of a volunteer man hour.
 "That means the value of the
 volunteers at Some Other Place,
 a small social service agency,
 was \$542,697 last year," she
 told us.

In connection with Hurricane
 Rita, Paula acknowledged that it
 created many problems but, she
 said, "it also gave all of us an
 opportunity to live like the peo-
 ple we serve. Every day of their
 lives they wonder where they
 will spend the night, where they
 can get food and whether or not
 the lights will come on when

they flick the switch."
 She also told us a story or two,
 including one about a gentleman
 they found digging in their dump-
 ster. He had been jailed for steal-
 ing donuts and put in prison for
 violating his parole, a real victim
 of the system, Paula said. After
 she helped him qualify for SSI,
 they went shopping and got him
 what he needed to re-create his
 life. Months later, when Paula's
 picture was in the paper, the man
 returned to Some Other Place
 and asked her to autograph her
 newspaper photo because, he
 told her, "You are the only one
 who ever cared about me."

She explained to him that he was
 wrong. "Every volunteer in there,
 everyone who gives money,"
 Paula said, "is just as much con-
 cerned about you as I am. We all
 care."

Paying tribute to professional so-
 cial workers, she started by stat-
 ing that they don't make much
 money. "But what do they
 make?," she asked. "They make
 it possible for a child to sleep
 without worrying about his fa-
 ther's fists; they make a boy with
 Down's Syndrome believe he is
 the smartest boy in the world;
 they make forgotten people feel
 important; they make a differ-
 ence."

Paula admitted that she has had
 moments when her courage was

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tested. Back when HIV Aids was new, and even more scary than it is now, a nun asked Paula whether Some Other Place would deliver meals to a man terminally ill with Aids. No one volunteered at first. Finally, one lady said she would alternate days with Paula if Paula was willing.

"The first time I went to that house," she told us, "I rang the doorbell with my key. I wouldn't touch anything, especially the man who was sick. But, over time, I overcame my fears and we became close. In fact, when he died, he asked me to speak at his memorial service." Paula confided to us that it is possible that volunteering means the most when it makes us a little uncomfortable.

As **Mary Parmer** said of Paula while introducing her, "She has the spiritual gift of mercy. Her leadership has resulted in thousands of people volunteering to help Some Other Place."

In her speech, Paula was both informative and entertaining. In her life, every day, she is inspiring.

(Continued from page 1)

been planning this year's event for several months. Please call them to volunteer.

Our club welcomed 75 high school juniors and 12 senior counselors last year and we hope to match those numbers this year!

BIRTHDAYS

22nd Gary Underwood (01)
Time Warner Cable



Born in Canton, Ohio, he is a graduate of Southwest Texas State University. He and his wife Julie are the parents of Sydney. He enjoys playing golf, cars and music.

24th Mark Ferris (04)
Personal Trust Manager,
Hibernia National Bank



Born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, he is a graduate of Arkansas A&M and the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking at SMU. He and his wife Kathleen are the parents of Robin. He enjoys playing golf, hunting, fishing and traveling.

24th Camille Mouton (97)
Vice President for University
Advancement,
Lamar University



Born in Harlingen, she is a graduate of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. She is the mother of Ann, Ashley, Kristi and Beth, and is a member of St. Anne's Catholic Church. She enjoys travel.

25th Carole Reeves (99)
Officer,
Talon Insurance Agency
Born in Port Arthur, she attended Lamar University. She



and her husband Marvin are the parents of Aimée, Amber and Spencer, and are members of First Baptist Church in Groves. She enjoys reading, spending time with family and friends and snow skiing.

28th Michael Lohr (85)
Retired



Born in Bad König, Germany, he is a graduate of the University of Frankfurt in Germany. He and Carol Ann are the parents of Dion, Sheri and Michael. He enjoys stamp collecting, playing golf and reading.

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tember shortly before Hurricane Rita and has documented the devastation Rita caused to Shangri La and the Orange Community.

Shangri La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center, supported by the Nelda C. and H.J. Lutchter Stark Foundation, was created to provide environmental and horticultural education of Orange County. It is located on a 250 acre private reserve located within the city limits of Orange, Texas. Shangri La has a unique ecosystem possessing not only wetlands, but a mixed deciduous forest, cypress tupelo swamp, and a large lake that attracts ducks and migratory birds.

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