



The Rotary Club GOOD NEWS

Volume 14 Number 6

JUNE 2013

The Rotary Club of Menifee meets Thursdays at 12:10 p.m., BJ's in Menifee Market Place, 30208 Haun Road, Menifee, CA 92584

Voted BEST local non-profit by Menifee Chamber of Commerce

50 Years of Rotary in Sun City/Menifee

In the Beginning ... our Rotary Club of Menifee was organized as one of the first new service clubs in developer Del Webb's Sun City back in 1963. It was originally the Rotary Club of Sun City. In the early 2000's, the name changed to Rotary Club of Sun City-Menifee Valley to acknowledge the large amount of growth in the area outside of the core of Del Webb's 55+ planned community. When the new City of Menifee incorporated in 2008, the name was changed to Rotary Club of Menifee.

Let's quote directly from "The First 25 Years," published by the club in 1988. After starting off with the words to our marvelous "Smile" song, the foreword states that "The Club was chartered on March 25, 1963, Sun City. A community where, in 25 years, sheep grazing, agricultural land and hills and remnants of old Spanish Ranchos have been transformed into a beautiful senior citizen community."

At that time, the main highway close to Sun City was the old State Highway 395. There was little development between Fallbrook in north San Diego County and Perris, with only Lake Elsinore to the west, Hemet to the east and, beyond that, Riverside. Del Webb built a golf course and added the King's Inn Motel and Restaurant to house and feed prospects who came to visit his new community. Being the only place in town at the time, the Inn served as the initial luncheon host to the Rotary. The Inn is gone now, leaving a vacant lot at Cherry Hills and Bradley.

Fifty years ago, as the Rotary Club of Sun City was established, it had a membership of more than 60. As noted earlier, it is community leaders who become Rotarians. Several Rotarian leaders are listed among those who established a hospital in our city. According to one source, "It was a group of Rotarians who formed a hospital foundation and raised money to bring a hospital to Sun City." You might say it was an unofficial Rotary project.

Bill Baines, well-known in our Valley for many years and a longtime Rotarian, put together the 25-year history. Bill listed all the Presidents, starting with Hollis Hammond 1963-64. Hollis had the good fortune to lead a new club with a high percentage of former Rotarians and Past Presidents who had come to Sun City to retire.

By the 1980's, the Club was still strong and with excellent attendance. Moving the meeting site to the Sun City Bowl was a reason for its continued success, according to the 25-year history. The Sun City Rotary also had an active group of wives, called Rotary Anns. The ladies met weekly as well, also at the Bowl. The Bowl was a bowling alley located on McCall, just east of today's Wendy's. It is today a storage facility. Later, our Rotary Club also met at various times at The Sizzler in Perris for a short time, the Menifee Valley Medical Center, Cherry Hills Golf Club, Debra's—which is now Jimenez' on State Highway 7 in Homeland, and the old golf driving range on Antelope just south of Mt. San Jacinto

College. More recently, the club met at Boston Billie's, Menifee Lakes Country Club and, beginning April 4, 2013, the meetings moved to our new home at BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse.

Along the way ... an early President of Sun City Rotary was a young attorney, **Thomas Carpenter**, in 1970-71. To quote the 25-year history, "The salvation for our Club that year was that we had a gang of old pro Rotarians on the Board to keep the 'hippy' bearded kid President out of trouble." Tom's widow, **Vicky**, attends Club events as an Honorary Member.

Sun City Rotary has had several significant members. Past Rotary International President, **Bill Walk**, a Southern Californian, retired, moved to Sun City, and became a member of our club. City Council member and former Mayor, **John Denver** represents Menifee's city government in our club. He was first a Sun City Member in the 1980's, took a detour to the Perris Club where he was President, then returned to our club. Other recent members who some of us remember include the late Doctor **Rex LaGrange**, Reverend Doctor **Alex Evanoff** and **Ken Baustian** CPA, whose wife **Carolyn**, a psychologist, remains close to the club as an Honorary Member. Recent transfers to other clubs in southwestern Riverside County from Menifee are Past Presidents **Don Lunday** and **Dan Marconi**.

Tom Carpenter recalled a bit of club history: In 1977 the newly retired Deputy Chief of Scotland Yard, **Lloyd Preece**, brought with him some good baggage with his membership in the club, his British connections. He suggested we contact U.K. Prime Minister **Margaret Thatcher** and invite her to be an Honorary member of our club. The so-called "Iron Lady," who had risen from her background as a shopkeeper's daughter to become the most powerful woman in the free world, and a firm friend and ally of U. S. President **Ronald Reagan**, accepted and, though it is seldom mentioned, the late "Maggie" was indeed proud to be an Honorary Member of our Rotary Club.

Menifee Rotary Today — The past 25 years have seen our club through many changes: moving meeting locations, bringing women into Rotary, helping build a local hospital, and becoming an important part of the new City of Menifee. Our relationship with the City started with its incorporation in October 2010, when our club changed our charter name from Sun City-Menifee Valley to the Rotary Club of Menifee. That relationship continues today, with two Rotary events as City Signature Events: *Annual Mayor's Ball* and *Menifee Motor Madness Car Show*.

Our club has established signature projects and donations as benefits the principal service club in Menifee. For a number of years, we have given Webster's Standard dictionaries to every third grade student in the Menifee and Romoland school districts. We also annually provide scholarships to high school seniors and students at Mt. San Jacinto College. We sponsor a strong Interact

Continued on Page 4

The Rotary Club GOOD NEWS

Rotary Welcomes New Member Steve Kennedy

Steve Kennedy, new Superintendent of the Menifee Union School District, was welcomed as a member of the Rotary Club of Menifee at a recent Thursday Noon meeting at BJ's Alehouse.

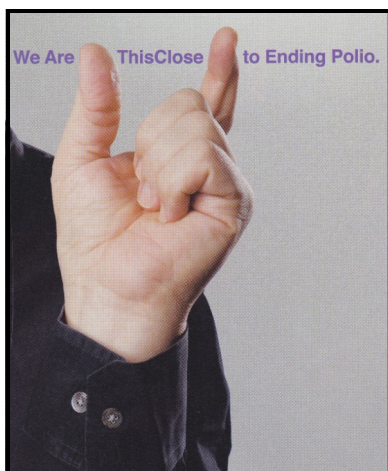
Menifee School District offers classes from K-8, and has been negotiating with the State Department of Education to add the local high schools within the Menifee City limits, currently Paloma Valley and Heritage. Because of the resulting loss of tax base, as well as racial balance issues in what would be left of the Perris High School District, it is unlikely a consolidation will be permitted any time soon.

Superintendent Kennedy is a graduate of USC, with many years of teaching and administrative experience. For several years he has been Assistant Superintendent of Personnel with the Menifee district, and before that was Principal of the old Menifee elementary school. He lives in rural Bonsall In North San Diego County on his 10-acre 'hobby' avocado ranch with wife Heidi and their two children.

Also present at the meeting were four high school juniors the Menifee Rotary sponsored earlier in the year to the annual RYLA camp in the San Bernardino Mountains. Hundreds of high school youngsters from the 60 Rotary Clubs in District 5330 attend the Rotary Youth Leadership camps each year, where they polish social and leadership skills. Every one of the students at the Rotary meeting reported they left for camp as rather shy, self-absorbed teenagers and, after just a week, they returned with a sense of purpose, appreciation of others, and the realization that the world did not, after all, revolve around themselves. Rotary District 5330, which covers most of Riverside County, as well as portions of San Bernardino County including Redlands and the Yucca Valley, sponsors more high school juniors to RYLA camps than any other Rotary District in the United States.



Menifee Schools Superintendent **Steve Kennedy** (l) is inducted into the Menifee Rotary Club by Membership Chair **Linda Denver**, as President **Carol 'Red' Sullivan** looks on.



Why not invite someone to the next meeting?

It's Been Fun!

It has been my pleasure to prepare the **Rotary Club Good News** for the past four years. Thanks for all the help I've been given—even if I had been a member of the Club and attended every event, I could not have done it alone. Especially, thanks to **Bob Roark**.

It's been a good diversification in my life of spreadsheets and financial statements, but it's time to give someone else an opportunity to show what he/she can do to take the newsletter to new heights.

Love & Blessings,

Jan Lunday

The Rotary Club GOOD NEWS

Memorial Day Veterans Salute

Each year at the meeting closest to Memorial Day weekend the Rotary Club of Menifee salutes our living Veterans, in order to honor them while they are still among us. This year the Club invited a wide range of veterans, ranging from several who served in World War II, the Korean and Vietnamese conflicts, on up to the present Mideast struggles.

The large crowd at BJ's Alehouse listened to Menifee Deputy Mayor Wallace Edgerton welcome the veterans on behalf of the City, as well as discuss the underlying greatness of the United States. All stood and sang 'God Bless America,' accompanied by local flautist **Sylvia Griffith**. Guests were introduced and applauded, and special mention made of several of the old warriors.



United States Veterans honored by the Rotary Club of Menifee on a recent Thursday. In the center is Deputy Mayor **Wallace Edgerton** and President **Carol 'Red' Sullivan**.

Frank Verano of Sun City now age 95, was aboard ship and under way in Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 and watched all of the great battle fleet sunk or damaged. **Bernie Baunan** was another, stationed as a Corpsman aboard the old carrier Langley, which was sunk at Pearl Harbor. He served on aboard the new light carrier by the same name as it survived nine combat actions throughout the war. Oddly enough, 52 years after he saved a shipmate's life, they ran into each other living in the same mobile home park. He transferred to the Air Force after the war and spent 20 more years, retiring with the rank of Major.

Another WWII survivor was **Paul Westfall** of Wildomar, who tried to enlist in the Navy just after war was declared, but was told there would be a 60-day delay—so he went next door and joined the Coast Guard for the duration. Rotarian **Jim Wilson** dropped out of Princeton and served four years on anti-submarine patrol in Alaskan waters working to distinguish the 'ping' on the sonar of a Japanese sub, as opposed to that of a whale.

Pete Maroosis, Commander of the local VFW Post and another veteran of the miserable battle with the North Koreans and Chinese at Chosan Reservoir were present. **Don Lunday**, former Assistant District Governor for Rotary District 5330 and also a Korean vet, was given a warm welcome. There were others, including highly decorated Army **Captain David Little**, a paratrooper with four years on active duty and now in the active Reserve and serving as a management trainee at U.S. Bank in Sun City.

Darci Castillejos appeared in her Navy uniform. She carries the rank of Chief Petty Officer in the active Reserves, and still owns and operates the restaurant at French Valley Airport.

Rotary considers all veterans, whether of wartime periods or as peacekeepers as heroes and is extraordinarily proud of them. The meeting was concluded with a stirring version of 'Taps', played by **Sylvia**.



The Rotary Club GOOD NEWS

50 Years—Continued from Page 1

student service club at Paloma Valley High School, and a Rotaract Club at the Menifee campus of Mt. San Jacinto Community College. We sponsor students and provide Discussion Group Leaders for the annual Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) leadership weekend for high school juniors. We work with the Menifee Valley Community Cupboard to provide food and toys for the children at Christmas. The holiday festivities generally feature authentic-looking Santa & Mrs. Santa, who strongly resemble Rotarians **John and Linda Denver**. We provide opportunities for students and young adults to participate in educational and vocational exchanges. We also contribute to a variety of other local charitable causes, as well as others in District 5330 serving Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, and at the international level.

Menifee Rotary Club, thanks to our Foundation Chair **Tom Yuzer**, is proud of its members' 100% participation in the Rotary Foundation. As Tom reminds us, 50% of our donations are returned to us for use in funding local projects like those previously mentioned. The other 50% is used for International projects, such as clean water, literacy and the eradication of Polio. Rotarians believe the best way to bring peace to the world is by insuring that all peoples have access to the basic necessities of life—health care, adequate food and water supplies, and the education required to create local self-sustaining economies. Our club has recently supported improvements to a small orphanage in Tijuana, and several clean water projects and cleft palate surgery clinics in other countries. Several of our members have traveled to other countries to perform hands-on service at their own expense. Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self" is a true guiding principle of the Rotary Club of Menifee.

Our club does not simply depend on the generosity of members to fund these projects. We have two primary events to bring in additional funds. One is the annual **Mayor's Ball**, an opportunity for the town to gather to see and be seen and have a good time. Typically, the Ball features black-tie optional attire, music, a silent auction, a keynote speaker, a catered sit-down dinner, dancing, and plenty of networking.

We are also proud of our annual **Menifee Motor Madness**, a car show for rods, antiques, and modifieds held on the Menifee campus of MSJC. There is an early pancake breakfast and live entertainment, vendor booths, food and refreshments, with judging of the entries, which all add up to making it a popular stop in the show car circuit.

Both of these events require many volunteers and are always a success. The club appreciates the contributions of our City, the local business community and our residents who attend these events which help create awareness of our City and provide funding for many local projects.

As with any successful organization, our club has the good fortune to be made up of dedicated and talented members. At this writing, our general membership includes civic leaders who include City of Menifee 2012 Mayor/real estate broker **John Denver**; our incoming 2013-14 President/community leader **Linda Denver**; 2012-13 President/community leader/activist **Carol**

'Red' Sullivan; Chamber of Commerce CEO **Dorothy Wolons**; School Superintendents **Steve Kennedy**, **Jonathan Greenberg**, and **Tony Rosilez**; plus Hospital Administrator **Tony Padilla**. Riverside County Sheriff's Department is represented by Lt. **Charlie Wilhite** and Lt. **Charles Guillen**. In the Professions, we can point to Pediatric Dentist Dr. **Ruth Bol**; financial planner **Ivette Taylor**; and Past President/bank executive **Mike Castillejos**. Business is represented by Past President/health club owner/manager **Paul David**; restaurateur **Stu Blaze**; Past President/non-profit administrator **Dawn Prather-Smith**; insurance broker **Bob Roark**; tax preparer **Dennis Martin**; Realtor **Cal Crosby**; Past President (twice)/estate/trust administrator **Judy Handwerker**; college instructor **Donna Wilder**; and mortuary manager **Joe Smolinski**. And we are proud to have some members who retired and moved into Menifee; retired fund raiser for the University of Minnesota **Tom Yuzer**, and a retired mortgage broker **Marty Rauscher**.

Sadly, just a few months shy of our actual 50th anniversary in March 203, we lost one of our two remaining charter members and a dear colleague, Past President/retired attorney and Judge Pro-Tem **Tom Carpenter**. The only remaining charter member is **Paul Wright**, whose family came to the Menifee Valley in the 1920's.

Over the years there have been a number of members of the club who served as Presidents of other Rotary clubs before moving to our community. **Jim Wilson**, a retired banker and active Honorary Member selling the 50/50 tickets each week, served as President of clubs in West Los Angeles-Brentwood and Northridge; **John Denver** served as President of Perris Rotary; Linda Denver was President of the Colton Rotary Club for two consecutive years; and **Tom Yuzer** was President of Waseca (MN) Rotary and Temecula Sunrise Rotary. The 1988-89 roster had eight members who were Past Presidents of clubs from California, Arizona, Texas, Montana, and North Carolina. And that same year, the club was honored with its first female member, **Jan Jones**, Principal of Perris High School!

The 25th Anniversary President, who served in 1987-88, was William Swegles. His article in the 25th Anniversary book was so upbeat and prescient that part of it deserves remembering here: *"Plato learned from Socrates, Helen Keller from Anne Sullivan. As I think back on the Rotarians that have had the most influence on me, I find that they have been Rotarians who really cared about their Rotary Club. Let's all adapt to the ups and downs in life by maintaining our sense of humor. Let's keep the child alive and awake within us ... As long as we can look at ourselves through the eyes of a child and not take ourselves too seriously, we have learned the essence of adaptability. We look forward to our Golden Anniversary year 2013 and we know each year will bring a new surprise, a new challenge, and a new delight. We look forward to the promise of each day, having discovered the secret that the Good Old Days are here and now.*

And, the members of the Rotary Club of Menifee look forward to impacting the future of our community and the world. ■

The Rotary Club GOOD NEWS

2012-2013 Leadership

President—Carol “Red” Sullivan
President Elect—Linda Denver
Vice President—Ruth Bol
Secretary—Judy Handwerker
Treasurer—Mike Castillejos
Immediate Past President—Paul David
Foundation—Tom Yuzer
Club Administration—Linda Denver
Public Relations—Bob Roark
District Governor—Jean Easum
Newsletter—Jan Lunday

June Birthdays

06/06 Jim Wilson
06/13 Donna Wilder
06/14 Stu Blaze
06/24 Lois Roark
06/27 Dorothy Wolons

June Rotary Anniversaries

06/15 Mike Castillejos
06/18 Jonathan Greenberg
06-18 Marty Rauscher

June Wedding Anniversaries

06/01 Stu & Tracy Blaze
06/11 Tony & Angel Rosilez
06/25 John & Linda Denver

Rotary Four-Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do ...

- Is it the TRUTH?
- Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Membership

BLAZE, STU—619-301-5211
Restaurateur
BOL, RUTH — 234-4319
Pediatric Dentist
CALLAWAY, DR. LINDA — 672-1851
School Superintendent
CASTILLEJOS, MIKE — 672-1971
Bank Manager
CROSBY, CAL “CROZ” — 246-2202
Realtor
DAVID, PAUL — 246-3530
Health Club Trainer/Owner
DENVER, JOHN — 672-1731
Real Estate Broker
DENVER, LINDA — 672-1731
Retired Educator
GREENBERG, DR. JONATHAN—943-6369 x126
School Superintendent
HANDWERKER, JUDY — 672-9860
Fiduciary
MARTIN, DENNIS — 926-4665
Tax Preparation
PADILLA, GREGORY—602-317-0338
Hospital Administrator
PRATHER, DAWN —756-4888
Charity Management
ROARK, ROBERT “BOB” — 800-824-6561
Insurance Agency Owner
ROSILEZ, DR. ANTHONY— 926-9244
School Superintendent
SMOLINSKI, JOE — 672-0777
Mortuary Management
SULLIVAN, CAROL “RED” — 672-1523
Clinical Research
TAYLOR, IVETTE — 679-2222
Financial Advisor
WILHITE, CHARLIE — 816-0420
Law Enforcement
WOLONS, DOROTHY— 672-1991
Chamber of Commerce CEO
YUZER, TOM — 679-8541
University Fund Raising

Honorary Members

BAUSTIAN, CAROLYN — 301-6071
SOTERO, MARJORIE — 679-8211
WESTFALL, LINDA — 830-6380
WILLIAMS, REAGAN
WILSON, JIM—301-5604
WRIGHT, PAUL—679-3429

All area code 951 unless otherwise indicated.