

HIGH GEAR

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A BANNER YEAR

ROTARY
CLUB



HAYWARD
CALIFORNIA



2017



2017: A BANNER YEAR



Hayward Rotary Club had an eventful year in 2017. We celebrated our 95th year of service to the Hayward community. We raised many thousands of dollars and put those dollars to work supporting charitable activities in Hayward. We upheld the best of our traditions, changed others, and started promising new ones. We proudly welcomed several new members and a multitude of

esteemed guests to our midst. We also mourned our beloved members and friends who passed away, and celebrated their extraordinary lives as we bid them adieu. In many ways, 2017 was a momentous year. It was a year we can look back upon and rightly be proud of. Because as Rotarians, through all the successes and setbacks we faced in 2017, through all the transformations and triumphs, we helped make Hayward a little bit better and brighter place. Most importantly, we did so while staying true to our creed: "Service Above Self." **Here's a look back at the year that was.**

JANUARY 2017

Club board elections. On January 9th, 2017, Hayward Rotary Club members elected **A.T. Stephens** to serve as the Club's 96th President starting July 1st, 2017, after the conclusion of **President Sean Reinhart's** term. Also elected to serve starting July 1st were **Sid Hamadeh** as President-elect Nominee, and board members **George Pacheco, Mark Salinas, Michael Cobb, Norman Garcia**, and **Sri Ponnala**. Re-elected were **Secretary Mona Diamantine** and **Treasurer Gay McDaniel**.

Downtown banner. President-elect **A.T. Stephens** led a group of Rotarians to install gorgeous, massive new welcome banners to obscure ugly chainlink fences and beautify an empty lot on B Street.

Youth speech contest. We hosted the Rotary Area 2 youth speech contest, coordinated by **Mark Salinas**. The winner of our local contest



The 2017 Omelet Brunch "Dream Team": Terry Lee, Bob Scheppler, Lucy Lopez, Robert Pimental, Sid Hamadeh, Beth Ehrlich, Rick Hansen, Rita Shue, Francisco Zermeño, and President Sean Reinhart

was Kirthana Iyer from James Logan High School. Ms. Iyer went on to the Rotary District 5170 finals, where she won the grand prize!

FEBRUARY

Champagne omelet brunch. Our 8th annual Champagne Omelet Brunch fundraiser was a success, and raised over \$7,000 in proceeds for our 3rd Grade Literacy project and Rotary Community Grants. The event was co-chaired by **Beth Ehrlich**, **Rita Shue**, and **Lucy Lopez**.

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

HIGH GEAR is the official newsletter of Hayward Rotary Club. It is one of the longest-running serial publications in Hayward. The first weekly issue was released when the club was founded in 1922. The pages of HIGH GEAR offer extraordinary snapshots of Hayward history going back nearly a full century, updates on present-day community activities and projects, and the occasional hijinks of Hayward's movers and shakers.

Editor: Sean Reinhart. Photographer: Ed Avelar.

ABOUT HAYWARD ROTARY CLUB

We are Hayward's premier service club since 1922, over 90 members strong. We are a non-partisan, non-political group of people united in giving back to our community. Hayward Rotary Club members come from many diverse walks of life. We are leaders in business, education, government, nonprofit, and community service. Do you have what it takes to become a Rotarian? Learn more about who we are and how to become a

Rotarian by visiting our weekly meetings and website, www.haywardrotary.org.



Hayward Rotary Scholar awards (L to R): Hayward Schools Superintendent Matt Wayne; Hayward Rotary Scholar Chairperson Janiene Langford; Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School Principal Estella Santos; Hayward Rotary Scholars Carol Villalobos, Daniel Zepeda, Vanna Van, Kevin Go, and Alexander Derouen; Hayward Board of Education Trustees Robert Carlson and Lisa Brunner; Hayward Rotary Club President Sean Reinhart

MARCH

Hayward Rotary Scholar awards. Janiene Langford chaired the 4th annual awards, which recognize Hayward students who demonstrate extraordinary skill and achievement in school. Every child in Hayward has the potential to reach extraordinary achievements. The Hayward Rotary Scholar program honors students who distinguish themselves among their peers by achieving perfect scores on standardized tests, perfect attendance, and outstanding leadership in the school community. Out of 21,000 students in Hayward schools, five stellar students met all the criteria in 2016-17, and were named Hayward Rotary Scholars.

Centennial challenge for \$2 million launched. President Sean Reinhart announced the Hayward Rotary Club Foundation's Centennial Challenge for \$2 Million by 2022. The goal is to raise an additional \$700,000 over the next five years to increase the Foundation's corpus to \$2 million in time for the Hayward Rotary Club's 100-year anniversary.

Community Grants. "Hacksaw" Rick Hansen, chair of the Hayward Rotary Community Grants Program, presented \$18,500 in total grants to eleven local nonprofits. Over the last five years, the club has awarded \$128,000 in formal grants to local nonprofits.

Professional excellence awards. Michael Cobb chaired this annual award that recognizes non-members for professional excellence in three categories: public, private, and nonprofit. Winners were: Andrew

Ghali, Hayward Firefighters Local 1909; Jessi Clifton, Life Chiropractic West; Aaron Ortiz, La Familia Counseling Services.

APRIL

Foundation board elections. Club members elected two new directors to fill two vacant seats on the Hayward Rotary Club Foundation's board: **Rick Hansen** and **Craig Judy**. Members also re-elected to serve as directors were **Mona Diamantine**, **Robin Wilma**, **Bob Scheppler**, and **Michael Mahoney**.

2017 Outstanding Hayward Rotarian award.

Paul "The Godfather" Martin was named the Outstanding Hayward Rotarian of 2017. The honor is given annually to the Hayward Rotary Club member who best exemplifies the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self", and whose contributions in the five Avenues of Service distinguish them among their peers.

The award committee was comprised of the past five OHR honorees: **Brian Schott**, **Debby De Angelis**, **Larry Ratto**, **Nels Nelson**, and **Ed Mullins**.



*"An offer he can't refuse"
Outstanding Hayward Rotarian
Paul "The Godfather" Martin*



Congressman Eric Swalwell, Hayward Rotary Club member since 2013

MAY

Congressman Eric Swalwell.

Club members packed the hall for the annual report from our friend and fellow Rotarian in Washington, **Congressman Eric Swalwell**. **Eric** joined Hayward Rotary Club in 2013 shortly after being elected to the House of Representatives.

Rodeo fundraiser. Hayward Rotary Club's major fundraiser is the food and drink concession at the annual Rowell Ranch Rodeo. The fundraiser was a grand success, raising well over \$30,000 in proceeds



President Sean Reinhart and his wife Michele Petherick guard the Rotary Bell in an undisclosed location. "You never know who's gonna come a-hunting for the Rotary Bell, which is why we have protection."

toward our charitable work in the community. Special thanks to all the volunteers who supported the event by providing a whopping estimated 1200+ hours of volunteer service!

JUNE

Demotion Dinner. President **Sean Reinhart**, with the help of friends and compatriots, retained possession of the Rotary Bell (and his sanity) for a full year as Club President -- a daring and difficult feat! The triumphant escapades were [captured in a hilarious music video](#). Club members came together to celebrate **Sean's** year of presidential service -- and collectively groan at a year's worth of "dad jokes" -- at the Demotion Dinner. At the end of the celebration, we also witnessed the official passing of the gavel and bell

to incoming **President A.T. Stephens**.

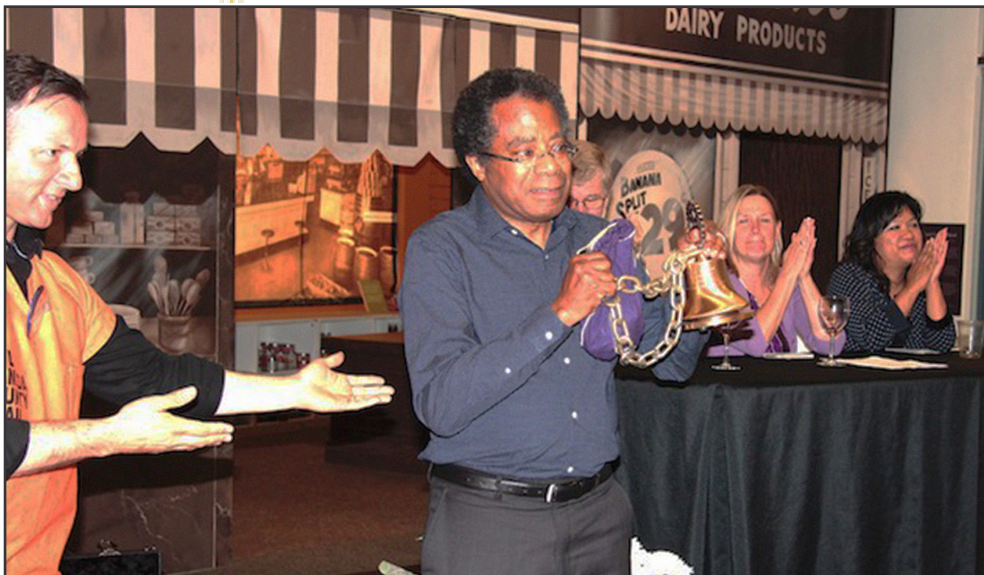
JULY

Ringing in a new year. President **A.T. Stephens** rang in his first meeting as Club President with a quote by Kurt Vonnegut, then outlined his three membership priorities for the year: recruitment, retention and reinvestment.

Mia's Dream. Hayward Rotary Club and Foundation are proud sponsors of the Mia's Dream universally accessible playground project, inspired by 9-year-old Mia Vasquez who has cerebral palsy and dystonia. Her wish is to have a



Mia Vasquez, 9, is held by her mother Emelyn Lacao on the swing at Tennyson Park, future site of the Mia's Dream Playground



Newly inaugurated President A.T. Stephens displays the coveted Rotary Bell as past president Sean Reinhart (left, in jail attire) celebrates his newfound freedom and "jurists" Linda Granger and April Chan applaud.

playground near her Hayward home where she and other children with disabilities can play.

Major fundraiser committee. Past President Sean Reinhart announced the formation of a committee to develop a new major fundraiser, possibly a craft beer festival, with a tentative date of August or September of 2018. The committee members include **President A.T. Stephens, President-elect Sid Hamadeh, Janiene Langford, Robert Pimentel, Lindsey Vien, and April Chan.**



Community volunteers take a child through JCPenney Southland mall during Hayward Rotary Club's Back-to-School "Child Spree" event

AUGUST

Back-to-school "Child Spree" shopping event. Hayward Rotary Club, with help from 100 community volunteers, took Hayward children on a shopping spree to buy back-to-school clothing and backpacks full of school supplies. The project served 97 children

and their thankful parents. **Lindsey Vien** and **Kenny Altenburg** co-chaired the project, with **George Pacheco, Pam Russo, Rod Andazola, "Hacksaw" Rick Hansen, Sid Hamadeh,** Hayward Police Youth and

Family Services Bureau, Friends of Hayward Library, and host JCPenney Southland Mall.



"Service above selfie." Hayward Rotarians Kim Huggett, Sean Reinhart, Matt Spielberg, Rod Andazola, and AT Stephens pause to take a selfie after installing a beautiful new welcome banner on the B Street fence.

Downtown banner upgrade.

President A.T. Stephens led a team of Rotarians to replace the welcome banners on the B Street and parking lot fence. The previous banners had become torn, and were replaced with new banners to keep B Street beautiful.

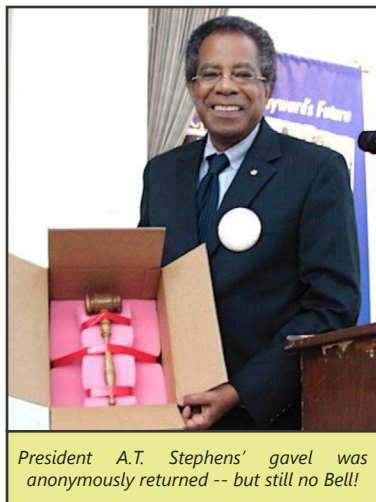
SEPTEMBER

Where's the Bell? This question was left hanging in the air. The Bell was last seen during a photo op with Circus Vargas after the August 28 meeting. **President A.T.** made a plea for the bell to be returned. A ransom note was found, causing a stir. Was it a conspiracy? Questions about a possible investigation arose. Answers were unclear. A new, unsettling mystery began to unfold.

OCTOBER

Third Grade Literacy Project.

Hayward Rotary Club annually gives brand new, full-color illustrated dictionaries to every third grade student in Hayward. Now in its 15th year, the Literacy Project has invested over \$300,000 and reached over 30,000 Hayward students. Studies have



President A.T. Stephens' gavel was anonymously returned -- but still no Bell!



Third graders proudly show off their new dictionaries, gifts from Hayward Rotary Club.

shown that children who have access to printed books in the home achieve significantly higher literacy levels later in life. In 2017, we hand-delivered a new dictionary to every third grade student in Hayward, over 2,200 students in all. The project was chaired by **Lucy Lopez**.



Pam Russo greets children at the pediatric clinic in Buhoma, Uganda.

International service project.

Hayward Rotary Club member **Pam Russo** traveled to the nation of Uganda to deliver medical supplies to a pediatric clinic in the village of Buhoma. Hayward Rotary Club members, notably including new member **Jean Luong**, gave their time and money to help raise funds for the supplies.

Hayward Rotary Scholar redux. Due to a quirk in the calendar, we held two Hayward Rotary Scholar awards in 2017: one in March for the 2015-16 school year



Front row: Hayward Rotary Scholars Joel Almodovar, Nathen Lee, Carol Villalobos, Hadassah Reddy, and Alyannah Nadeen Mabana. Back row: HUSD Superintendent Matt Wayne, teacher Paul Thomas, principal Leigh Woodmansee, and principal Brian White.

winners, and a second one in October for the 2016-17 school year winners. **Janiene Langford** again chaired the event in October, which honored five students, one of whom, Carol Villalobos, was a repeat winner!

NOVEMBER

“Smash 4 Cash” demolition derby fundraiser. Hayward Rotary Club members **Matt “Road Warrior” Spielberg** and **Gena “Fury Road” Engelfried** competed in the Good Guys “Smash 4 Cash” fundraiser by driving the official Hayward Rotary Club demolition derby car. They emerged in one piece after helping to raise funds for charitable projects and grants carried out by Rotary Club partner organization, Hayward Firefighters Local 1909.

Emergency Bell called into service. **President A.T. Stephens**, after seeing no sign of the official Rotary Bell for several weeks, broke the glass case containing the



Gena “Fury Road” Engelfried takes the wheel of the Hayward Rotary demolition derby car.



Matt "Road Warrior" Spielberg gets fired up for the "Smash 4 Cash" demolition derby fundraiser. He and co-driver Gena "Fury Road" Engelfried drove the official Hayward Rotary Club demolition derby car.



Sergeant-at-Arms Janiene Langford sweeps glass after President A.T. Stephens broke the glass case for the "emergency backup bell."

"emergency backup bell." (Unfortunately, that bell soon went missing, too.)

DECEMBER

Sorensdale holiday gift project.

Sorensdale is a facility and program of the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District that provides opportunities for adults with special needs to learn daily living skills. Each year, the students write letters to Santa. Hayward Rotary Club annually raises the funds needed to fulfill these wishes, buys and wraps all the gifts, and hosts a holiday party for Sorensdale students. The event is chaired by **Norman Garcia**, with support from Farmer's Insurance and Hayward Rotary Club.

There's much more in store in 2018. Our weekly luncheons resume on Monday, January 8th. Join us! www.HaywardRotary.org



The Mt. Eden High School Choir singers relax by the fire after a special starlight performance at the home of Hayward mayor and Rotary Club member Barbara Halliday.

SantaCon fundraiser. The sixth annual SantaCon pub crawl raised thousands of dollars for Hayward Animal Shelter to provide for the animals' basic veterinary needs while they are awaiting placement in their new forever homes. The event was co-chaired by **Anna May** and **Janiene Langford**.

Mt. Eden High School Choir. The Mt. Eden High School Choir stands among California's most talented and celebrated youth vocal music programs. This phenomenal group of young performers never fail to thrill audiences with their brilliant vocal harmonization. In 2017, Hayward Rotary Club raised over \$1,000 to support the choir's travel to performances and competitions. In addition, Hayward mayor and Rotary Club member **Barbara Halliday** hosted the choir in her home for a year-end starlight performance which raised thousands more.

NEW MEMBERS IN 2017

We welcomed new Hayward Rotary Club members Ray Ortner, Jean Luong, Ken Rawdon, Laurel Quirk, Aaron Ortiz, Lindsey Vien, Jason Carmichael, Gena Engelfried, Vrushali Nanjundappa, and Robert Pimentel.

IN LOVING MEMORY

In 2017 we mourned the passing of Hayward Rotary Club members Cecil "Ed" Bullok and Nels B. Nelson; and former member Jim Mealey. We also mourned the passing of Barbara Avelar, wife of member Ed Avelar; and Dorothy Pendleton, wife of member Con Pendleton.