

Rotary Club of Hayward

HIGH GEAR

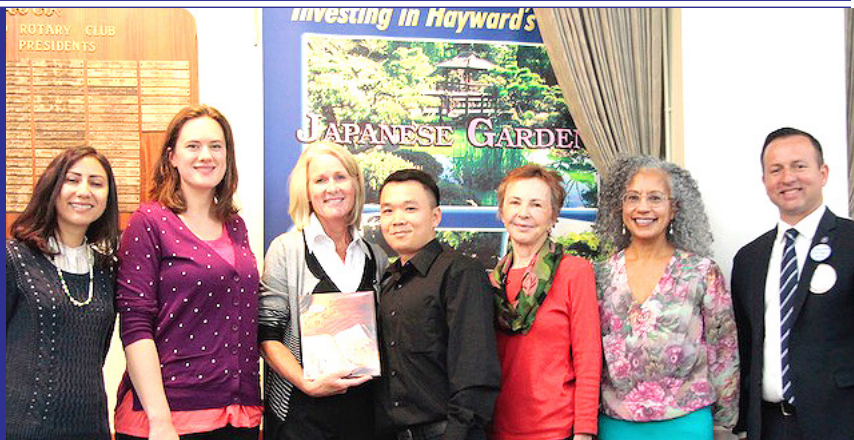


EDITOR: SARA LAMNIN & SEAN REINHART • PHOTOGRAPHER: ED AVELAR

JULY 18, 2016

LITERACY CHANGES LIVES

This week's keynote presentation featured the work of the Hayward Literacy Plus program. Pictured here are staff members Xenia Lal, Friederike Glassey, and Cynthia Breeden-Johnson; learner Vincent; tutors Winnie Thompson and Crystal Porter, and President Sean Reinhart



Call To Order

President Sean Reinhart called the meeting to order by unveiling a brand new Rotary Bell. The Bell is fashioned of gleaming brass topped with the Rotary International emblem, and bears the inscription "Hayward Rotary Club, Established June 23, 1922." It features a custom lockable carrying case, heavy gold shackle and chain, and multiple heavy-duty gold padlocks for "enhanced security". **George Pacheco** promptly came forward to examine the new Bell and assess the strength of the security measures. He seemed to find them satisfactorily formidable (for now at least), and returned to his seat.

Sam Falk then led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by **Douglas den Hartog** and **Chuck Horner** leading the patriotic song, "America the Beautiful". New member **Connie Willis** provided the Thought for the Day: "The well-being and hopes of the world can never be served until peace - as well as freedom, honor, and self-respect - is secure" - Ralph J. Bunche

GREETERS



Sam Falk



Connie Willis

Introductions

Sam Falk introduced Visiting Rotarian: Electrical Contractor from Dublin Rotary, Bob Tucknott – Mr. Tucknott was accompanied by his brother-in-law, Jeff Middleton.

Rotarians Introduced their Guests:

- **President Sean** welcomed several guests from the Hayward Literacy Plus program, and deferred their introductions until the keynote address later in the meeting.
- **Freddye Davis** introduced her guests from the Hayward South Alameda County NAACP - Georgia Browne and two Interns from the Alameda County District Attorney's Justice Academy (DAJA), Tenora Allen and Stephanie Gonzalez.
- **Barbara Halliday** introduced her two DAJA Interns, Jessica Oropeza and Juan Luis Ruvalcaba.
- **Sara Lamnin** introduced her DAJA Intern, Maritza Ramos.
- **María Ochoa** introduced her guest and former Hayward Planning Commissioner, Barbara Sacks. (Ms. Sacks then made a generous donation to support the Back-to-School Child Spree – thank you!)

The inimitable **Douglas den Hartog** and **Chuck Horner** led everyone in singing Hello! to our guests and visitors.

Elections: Hayward Rotary Club Foundation Board

Paul Martin and **Bob Sakai** conducted the election of the Hayward Rotary Foundation Board. All Club Members are also members of the Foundation. There are six seats up for election with terms from 7-1-16 through 6-30-18. The slate of candidates are: Tony Varni, Dennis Butler, Ken Meirovitz, Robert Sakai, David Elkins, and Mona Diamantine. Ballots were distributed to Club members. Results will be announced at the end of the meeting.

Announcements

- **George Pacheco** reminded Rotarians and guests that the annual sponsored shopping trip for local students, aka: Child Spree, will take place on Saturday, August 13, at 6:30 am at JCPenny. He also mentioned that donations are still being accepted. Child Spree is only a few thousand dollars away from reaching their goal of 12,000. Donate today! Volunteers are also needed. Check your email for details.
- **Joel Thornley**, retired Superintendent of Hayward Schools, proudly announced that his son has been named principal of a Fremont elementary school. **Joel** made a generous donation to Child Spree in his son's name. Congratulations and thank you, **Joel**!
- **Robin Wilma** welcomed everyone to sign a get well card for **Past President Andy Krake** who is recovering well from his foot surgery.
- **Marita Cheng** invited everyone to a Saturday Night Fever BBQ and Concert, on Saturday 20th August 2016, from 3-8PM at Skywest Restaurant Pavilion, 1401 Golf Course Rd, Hayward, Ca 94541. Sponsored by Asian Business Alliance.
- **Chuck Horner** asked for volunteers on Sunday, July 24, for the Salvation Army dinner. Contact him for available shifts to help serve dinner.
- **Francisco Zermeno** asked for volunteer Editors for the *High Gear* now and throughout the year. The *High Gear* is one of Hayward's longest running publications, published continuously since 1922. Let's keep our records intact! Sign up with Francisco asap.
- **President Sean** reported from last week's Club Board Meeting, held on July 14. The Board adopted a balanced operating budget for the Club, approved hiring an accountant to file our taxes, and reviewed the Club organizational chart and draft calendar. The Board will be updating policies and procedures in the coming months. Next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, August 11.

New Member Induction

Hayward Rotary Club proudly welcomed our newest member: **Anna Laveria May**, classification Real Estate. **Anna** is a former member of Hayward Rotary Club, and prior to that was a member of the South Hayward Rotary Club before it dissolved. Most recently, **Anna** served as Past President of the F.U.N. Sunset Club. **Anna** was reinducted into the Hayward Rotary Club sponsored by **President Sean Reinhart**. Welcome Back!



New member Anna Laveria May, classification Real Estate, with President Sean Reinhart

Vocational Talk

María Ochoa illuminated us with her thoughts and personal history. From a young age she enjoyed writing and has actually written every day since the age of 7. She finds it disappointing that elementary schools do not require students to practice cursive anymore as she actually wrote her first piece of work in cursive writing and thought it very mature.



Rotarian María Ochoa

María has a BA in creative writing and has since written a lot of books and materials. She has led many programs and organizations, such as Bucks for Change and the Women's Foundation of California. She received her Master's Degree, following her research into Chicano Visual Artists. She later then became Executive Director of the Sun Gallery. Further down her career, she went on to teach at San José State University for 12 years. She briefly joined Hayward Rotary Club previously, but had to leave the Club due to her demanding academic schedule at SJSU.

Looking forward to coming home to Hayward, **María** answered the call from Chabot College seeking a new Executive Director for Development and the Foundation. Two years ago **María** and her colleagues started a new foundation that up to now has raised over \$30,000 scholarship for every semester and will soon form an Alumni Association.

Fines and Foolishness

- **Roger Power** was recognized for a glowing newspaper story in the *East Bay Times* (complete with a photo!) about his career and recent retirement after 48 yrs. of service in law enforcement. **President Sean** also noted that Roger has a club anniversary. *Fine doubled!*
- **President-Elect Stan Dobbs** was called up for his recent wedding anniversary to Claudia. When asked how many years of wedded bliss, **Stan** paused to do some quick mental math. *Fine doubled!*

- **Nels Nelson** interjected to volunteer a fascinating and elaborate anecdote about **Roger Power**. *Courtesy fine issued.*
- **Ed Bullok** was called upon to retrieve his Rotary badge, which was left behind at last week's meeting. Fortunately **Ed** had the good sense to entrust his badge to **President Sean's** care. *Badge returned - Protection fine issued.*
- **Susan Sperling** confessed that she too was badge-less, having left her badge on her desk at the office. Understandable, given the busy demands of service as the President of Chabot College. *Fine upheld!*

ROTARY TIP OF THE WEEK

Wondering who the keynote speaker will be on a particular date? Need to check the date of an upcoming Rotary event? Find speaker information, event dates, High Gear back issues, and more on our website, www.HaywardRotary.org

Keynote Presentation

Barbara Halliday introduced our Keynote Speaker, Cynthia Breeden-Johnson. Ms. Breeden-Johnson is the Literacy Program Coordinator for the City of Hayward Public Library. She has served in the position of Literacy Program Coordinator for 13 years. She was born and raised in Hayward and has attended Hayward schools, including Sunset High School. She holds a Master's Degree in Education and Administration from Mills College. Prior to joining the City of Hayward team, she served as Executive Director of a major children's program in San Leandro for 19 years. Ms. Breeden-Johnson has taught College level classes, been a mentor-teacher at Chabot College, and has trained adults in Early Childhood Education. Her skills include adult education, grant writing, fundraising, family programming, parent education and community outreach, plus energy, enthusiasm and a passion for literacy.

Ms. Breeden-Johnson presented an overview of the Literacy Plus Program, a volunteer-driven organization that has provided 1:1 literacy tutoring to thousands of low-literate and illiterate Hayward adults since 1985. Tutors are intensely trained in literacy education techniques and then matched with a literacy learner. The pair then works together to help the learner with their personal literacy goals, an intensive and deeply rewarding process. Literacy Plus also offers English as Second Language tutoring to adults who are immigrants and whose first language is not English.

Ms. Breeden-Johnson then introduced tutor-learner coordinator, Friedricke Glassey. Ms. Glassey spoke eloquently of her experience matching tutors to learners, who then enter into an intensive shared learning experience that often lasts several years. As the gift of literacy is passed on from tutor to learner, the program transforms the lives of not only the learners, but the tutors as well.

Ms. Glassey introduced a tutor-learner pair, tutor Crystal and learner John. Crystal spoke passionately about the powerful educational journey she and John shared. After two years of intensive shared learning, John went from being unable to read to being literate and confident in his abilities. She then introduced John, who spoke powerfully about his experience which led him to join the Literacy Plus program and ultimately transform his life through the power of literacy. At the close of John's comments, the Club gave him a rousing and well-deserved standing ovation.

The next speaker was Xenia Lal, Coordinator of the English Conversation Circles and English as a Second Language (ESL) programs offered through the Literacy Plus. After describing the program's format and goals, Ms. Lal introduced ESL tutor Winnie and learner Vincent. Winnie spoke about the deep satisfaction the program brings to her life as a tutor, in addition to the lives of the learners involved. Vincent testified to the positive change the program has offered to him, that his dream is to become a restaurant manager and that the ESL program will help him achieve his dream. After Vincent's comments, he too received a heartfelt standing ovation. Ms. Breeden-Johnson noted that volunteer tutors are being recruited now, and interested parties should inquire about the upcoming tutor training sessions this September. For more information about the Literacy Plus program and to get involved, visit www.hayward-ca.gov/library.



A tutor-learner pair works together in the Hayward Library to achieve the learner's personal literacy goals.

President-Elect Stan Dobbs capped the presentation by personally offering a scholarship to John and Vincent to cover tuition for their first college classes at Chabot Community College.

Adjournment

President Sean called on **Bob Sakai** to deliver the Foundation board election results. **Bob** reported that all six candidates on the slate were overwhelmingly elected. Congratulations to all! **President Sean** then adjourned the meeting with thanks to our Visiting Rotarians and esteemed Guests; today's greeters **Sam Falk** and **Connie Willis**; **Sara Lamnin** for taking the *High Gear* notes with help from her intern Maritza; Sergeant-At-Arms **Janiene Langford**; and photographer extraordinaire **Ed Avelar**.

Hayward Rotary Club
P.O. Box 629
Hayward, CA 94543

First Class Mail



The new official Rotary Bell, shown here in an undisclosed location. The inscription reads, "Rotary Club of Hayward, California, Established June 23, 1922". The new Bell features several enhanced security measures including a custom locked carrying case, heavy gold shackle and chain, and industrial strength gold padlocks.

www.haywardrotary.org



Be a gift to the world

HAYWARD ROTARY CLUB CALENDAR



- | | |
|----------------|---|
| July 25 | Steven Burchik. "A Compass and a Camera: A Year in Vietnam" |
| Aug. 1 | Janiene M. Langford. "Hayward STEM Community Engagement" |
| Aug. 8 | Dr. Susan Sperling: "The Future of Chabot Community College" |
| Aug. 13 | <i>BACK-TO-SCHOOL CHILD SPREE AT JCPENNEY 6:30am at JCPenney</i> |

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JUNE 1, 1922 • CALIFORNIA
CLUB NO. 482

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President - Elect.....	Stan Dobbs
Immediate Past President.....	Andy Krake
Secretary.....	Mona Diamantine
Asst. Secretary.....	Dick Bowman
Treasurer.....	Gay McDaniel
Sergeant at Arms.....	Janiene Langford

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