



# THE SUN LIGHT

ROTARY CLUB OF GEORGETOWN - SUN CITY  
District 5870 TUESDAYS 12 NOON  
Cowan Creek Amenity Center, Cool Spring Way  
July 10, 2012

[www.RotaryDistrict5870.com](http://www.RotaryDistrict5870.com) [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)  
1530 Sun City Blvd, Suite 120 Box 441, Georgetown 78633

*Welcome to the 2012-2013 Rotary year*

President: Jamie Mattison  
President-Elect: John Chenoweth  
Vice President: Bob Weimer  
Secretary: Herman Knodel  
Treasurer: Doug Lowe  
Sergeant at Arms: Gary Sandercock  
Strategic Planning: Doug Lowe  
Past President: Rich Petro

**DIRECTORS:**  
Membership: Lou Gibson  
Service Projects: Bob Weimer  
Rotary Foundation: Bill Miller  
Public Relations: Tom Minor  
Club Administration: Adaire Wolf

**LAST TIME:** President's Night, celebrated on June 26<sup>th</sup>, was a wonderful evening. Outgoing President **Rich Petro** welcomed everyone, then **Bill Thompson** provided the invocation, **Susie Ward** led the Pledge of Allegiance, and **Norm Peters**, a founding member of the club, had us recite the Four Way Test. Among our many guests were **Carola Meister**, outgoing president of the Sunrise Club; **PDG Gonzalo Garza** from the Georgetown club, a frequent and always welcome guest; and **Assistant District Governor Jim Albers**; along with almost 20 Rotarian spouses.

The theme for the evening was **Fiesta**; the tables were decorated; and **Jeanette and Richard Nemec** produced a super Mexican dinner ending with cake and ice cream! Many thanks to **Barb Pekar** and **Adaïre Wolf** for their organization.

At this time **Bill Miller** came forward and passed out Paul Harris pins to: **Herman Knodel**, **Bob Weimer** and **Susan F. Ward** PH +2 each, **Tom Minor**, PH +4, and a PH +3 pin that will be sent to **Linda Roberts**.

Then President Rich Petro asked **Herman Knodel** to come forward and presented him with the **Rotarian of the Year Award** in thanks for all his efforts.

After these presentations, Rich summarized the successes and completions of the past year. Foremost was that we had a net increase in membership of 6 members; the fundraising activities - Breakfast With Santa and Spring Fling - were very successful. Our club also partnered with other clubs to help people in India obtain medical help for eyesight problems by establishing an eye clinic. In addition the club helped those affected by the Bastrop fires earlier this year by providing funds; and as well gave \$2500 to the Annunciation Home to provide security.

Rich then passed the gavel to **Jamie Mattson** along with the President's pin. But before he was allowed to sit down, Jamie presented him with a special clock with the club's heartfelt thanks for leading the club "with dignity, with caring, and a wonderful sense of service above self."

Jamie's first act was to recognize and introduce the incoming officers for 2012-13 all of whom were then formally inducted by Assistant District Governor Jim Albers. Jim also reminded the club members of our successful efforts to help eliminate polio.

**New President Jamie Mattison** then talked about her aims for the club looking ahead. She will hold to the comfort of tradition, the stability of tradition, and also do some things in a different way. Jamie has two sets of priorities which will blend together: those of Rotary International and those of our own club as depicted by rivers of confluence and of convergence. One of the areas of service is New Generation: featuring new ways to enthruse and encourage membership and service in the club to keep it growing. To keep Rotary interesting and exciting and fun we need not always meet in the same place; as an example Jamie mentioned e-clubs that meet via skype. Regarding international service, one area of focus will be clean water and sanitation which is so important especially for children. Jamie hopes to have a clean water project in Central America through our association with Norm Peters and MEDICO.

Jamie then went on the speak about diversity in recruitment and in membership. It is now the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women in Rotary and we need more women in our club. 16% of members worldwide are women but in our Rotary Club of Georgetown – Sun City we have only 8%.

Another area of focus will be education and literacy. 1 in 3 people in the world is illiterate and 65% are women. We will continue to support students not only in Jarrell ISD with books, but also students in Central America. RYLA plays a strong part in education and giving scholarships to students to help enable them to further their education after high school is important.

**Dan Barr** was then persuaded to come forward for a quiz and Jamie held up \$100 and asked if anyone cared to match it. **Norm Peters** agreed and then the risible match began. Jamie fooled most of us but Dan was a great sport, the members and guests were entertained – and Rotary International was better off by \$200.

Jamie mentioned we are now partners with Brookwood in Georgetown (BiG) and will help them with their projects. She then had everyone think about why he is in Rotary, what is the quest for significance. Service Above Self. Having Fun. People Working Together.

Jamie finished by reiterating we will keep our traditions and add variations while maintaining our traditions. She thanked the new officers and Directors and pledged to work hard for our club and Rotary International.

The evening concluded with a Bingo game and it was obvious **John Chenoweth** has missed his calling. With able assistance from **Adaire Wolf**, John called the numbers and the following lucky attendees were the winners: Bill Miller, Jamie Mattison, Steve Mattison, and Susan Ward.

**THIS WEEK:** Club Assembly.

**THANK YOU:**

*Members of the "Bookophiles" Book Club of Sun City made a donation of \$250 to Rotary's PolioPlus Fund in memory of Bob Curran, the husband of their member, Mary Lou Curran. Bob suffered from post-polio syndrome and passed away in late May. The Rotary Club of Georgetown-Sun City sent a letter of condolence to Mary Lou and in thanks to the Bookophiles membership for their generous donation.*

**FUTURE PROGRAMMES:**

- July 17 Biographies
- July 24 Tom Minor's guest, Bill Wilbanks, will speak about High School Sports
- July 31 Carolyn Holloway's guest will be Kim Howard from Estrella
- Aug 28 District Governor's visit**

**PREVIOUSLY:** **Bob Derse** and Trudy have celebrated their 57<sup>th</sup> anniversary; **Bill Harrah** recollected the college world series in Omaha in 1951 when he was 2<sup>nd</sup> base; **Jamie Mattison** has just celebrated her birthday; **Kelly Barnett** reminded us about the special children's activities that will be held at The Worship Place this Wednesday and next Wednesday; **Pete Snelson** told us how thrilled he was to have gone to Washington D.C. with 24 others for the special WWII celebration; **Bob Derse** attended his granddaughter's graduation last week in California; **Bill Thompson** will soon be going on a European trip with his granddaughter; **Bill Miller** added to the Happy Bucks in recognition of Bill Harrah's past accomplishment; **Bob Weimer** thanked **Adaire Wolf** for bringing lunch since the **Nemecs** are on holiday; and **Lou Gibson** returned this week from the District Conference held at Lost Pine.

### **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- Aug 11 Rotary session on Foundation, Membership, & Future Vision  
Lake Aire Medical Center, 2423 Williams Drive, Georgetown.  
Cost of \$15 includes lunch.
- Sept 14-15 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Bi-District Reunion  
Two nations coming together providing Peace Through Service.  
Embassy Suites, Conference Center, San Marcos.
- Oct 27 Schwertner Ranch & Event Center, Salado 5:30 – 9:30 pm  
Denim & Diamonds, Rotary Foundation Gala & Fundraiser. Gourmet Texas  
Fare, Entertainment, Prizes, Auction. Win a .5 carat diamond!

### **ROTARY DISTRICT 5870 CONFERENCE FOLLOW-UP:**

There are 1.8 billion people living in the world today without access to electricity. Nearly one million children die every year because of the use of kerosene as their only source of home lighting. That is two children every minute of every day. Grid Earth is dedicated to putting an end to this needless suffering. It was a pleasure to meet with the representative from so many of the District 5870 Rotary Clubs, many of whom expressed interest in learning more about the Grid Earth Project and its mission to provide safe solar light to those without access to electricity.

. . . Audrey Cochran, Grid Earth, Executive Director

### **RYLA** July 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>

The following members and spouses went down to McKinney Roughs last Tuesday: Tom and Lori Minor; Don and Pat Bender; Harold Lawless; Herman Knodel; Charley Ray; and Bob Smith.

And on Wednesday, Jamie Mattison; Rich Petro; John Skannal; John Chenoweth; and Doug and Marcie Lowe were in attendance.

### **Eagle Scout Candidate**

As many of you will remember, Eagle Scout candidate David Cabazos came to speak to us a few weeks ago and told us about his efforts to cobble together some care packages for the Annunciation Maternity Home. Several members donated money towards his goal and last week David presented the Home with 25 care packages. The director, Linda Holmstrom, was so delighted especially as this donation came at a most critical time and "was an absolute blessing."

## **Dr. Gonzalo Garza**

As most members know, Dr. Gonzalo often attends our meetings here but, with thanks to **Bob Deffeyes**, here is some information you may not know.

Dr. Garza is a Sun City resident, past District Governor and a whole lot of other stuff. If you read the granite plaques on the bridge at the pond on Del Webb, you will find a plaque for this decorated war hero, superintendent of Austin ISD, writer, DG, etc. What a privilege it is to have Dr. Garza as a frequent visitor to our club. He is one amazing man. I sometimes wonder what it is that leads someone to achieve his level of greatness. Is it hereditary or environment? Just how does that happen?

We can rule out being born with a silver spoon as the cause. Dr. Garza was born in New Braunfels in 1927 and grew up in dire times as the Depression hit the economy. He attended a one-room school in Schumansville, called "the Mexican School". At that time, he spoke no English. He dropped out of school in the ninth-grade to help support his family, one of 10 children of Mexican immigrant parents. I think we can safely rule out having success handed to him as a birthright.

Maybe greatness was handed to him in the military. At 17, Dr. Garza became a Marine and made landings under Japanese gunfire in Saipan and Tinian. He was also in the "fake" landing on Okinawa. His unit landed to draw fire and to draw Japanese defenses to the side of the island away from the actual landing – not a user-friendly experience. At that point Dr. Garza spoke English and Spanish. The urgent need for interpreters and his bilingual skills caused his to be selected to learn Japanese. After war ended, he was sent to search out caves of Saipan to bring back Japanese soldiers who were still fighting - a job that can be hazardous to your health. Returning as a decorated Corporal for his combat experience, the only thing the military handed him was a lot of dangerous assignments.

Maybe he had unusual school opportunities given to him by the GI Bill. After the war, he earned a GED then enrolled in a Corpus Christi junior college studying to be a teacher. Thousands of GIs went to school under the GI Bill and they had earned the same opportunities. Oops. That is not what made Dr. Garza great. Two semesters before graduation, the Marines called again and Dr. Garza was off to Korea. He landed in Korea on his 24<sup>th</sup> birthday in January. His battle wounds and frostbite wound up with his returning in November of 1951. For his service in Korea he received service decorations from the US, the United Nations, Korea, including a Purple Heart.

Back home for good, he finished receiving his academic degrees and finally got to his career as a classroom teacher. But, wait. That didn't last long because his skills as an administrator took him on to other tasks. Eventually he became Superintendent of Schools for Austin ISD. Gonzalo Garza Independence High School in Austin carries his name. His credentials would take up several bulletins, but of key importance to our Rotary Club is his service as District Governor and his frequent visits to our club. However, I still wonder what it is that creates people who can rise to this level of greatness. How can America create a lot more people like this?

## **Polio Misc:**

A laser light show dazzled Rotarians at RI's 2012 Convention in Bangkok, Thailand, in May, in celebration of two recent milestones in the decades-long fight to eradicate polio worldwide: India's removal from the list of polio-endemic countries and surpassing the goal in Rotary's fundraising challenge.

More than 50 people, including 2011-12 RI President Kalyan Banerjee and his wife, Binota, gathered at England's Windsor Castle in March for a dinner celebrating the progress of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. The event raised over US\$40,000 for the campaign.

Four members of the US Congress received RI's Polio Eradication Champion Award in April for their support for ending the disease: Senator Lindsey Graham (member, Rotary Club of Walhalla, South Carolina) and representatives Norm Dicks of Washington, Steve Austria (member, Rotary Club of Xenia, Ohio), and Hal Rogers (member, Rotary Club of Somerset, Kentucky).

The Pakistan PolioPlus Committee and Coca-Cola Beverages Pakistan have teamed up to build awareness of polio and the importance of eradication efforts. On World Health Day, 7 April, a team of Rotarians and employees from Coca-Cola Beverages Pakistan joined others in a clean-up initiative in Karachi's Gadap Town, a high-risk area for the wild poliovirus.

### **Eight Bits Of Happiness**

Happy Dollars? How about eight-bits of happiness. Well, you know that two-bits is twenty-five cents. So eight-bits is the value of a "Happy Dollar". That all goes back to the 1700's, referring to the Spanish American Peso, "also called the Spanish dollar" our unit of currency. In early Texas, folks had to know that. Coins were rare back then and most things were done by bartering. What coinage was available in early Texas was the Spanish silver dollar, or "pieces of eight". Some of these coins were made in Mexico City as early as 1535 but also in the 1730's. The coin could actually be cut into eight pieces. These little wedges were called "bits".

The US dollar was pegged to the Spanish dollar at one to one, so a "bit" was worth 12.5 cents. When the U. S. minted the quarter dollar, it was worth \$.25, or "two bits". This scheme of things was official in 1785 when the United States adopted this model for our currency. The Mexican currency was called "peso del ocho", or literally "weight of eight" referring to the weight of the silver in one bit. So the symbol used for the peso was originally "p<sup>s</sup>" which gradually became written \$. We still use \$ as we pitch our "Happy Dollars" into the bowl each week. Your eight-bits probably brings a lot more than eight bits of happiness as your Rotary Foundation puts that money to work for others.

. . . **Bob Deffeyes**

OLD ACADEMICS never die, they just lose their faculties  
OLD ACCOUNTANTS never die, they just lose their balance  
OLD ACTORS never die, they just drop a part  
OLD ANTHROPOLOGISTS never die, they just become history  
OLD ARCHERS never die, they just bow and quiver  
OLD ARCHITECTS never die, they just lose their structures  
OLD ASSETS never die, they just depreciate  
OLD ATOMS never die, they just decay  
OLD BANKERS never die, they just lose interest  
OLD BANKERS never die, they just want to be a loan  
OLD BASEBALL PLAYERS never die, they just go batty