

Rotations

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President John Sherry opened the meeting. Visiting Rotarians and Guests: too numerous to mention by name. 71 people attended.

See Tom Henry before Dec 23 if you are interested in going on the Reno Train Trip.

Dick Holt presented checks to the school music departments that participated in the

Concert at the Res – \$1,500 each to Acalanes and Stanley, and \$750 to Bentley. For the first time we gave \$350 to the Rossmoor Big Band, presented to Frank Como, in recognition for their participation over the years.



SPEAKER: Yau-Man Chan spoke about his two seasons as a contestant on *Survivor Fiji* and *Survivor Micronesia*. He was born in Borneo, where he was an Interact member in 1968. He grew-up eating coconuts and is familiar with the flora and fauna of islands, which helped him during *Survivor*. Yau-Man has a BS in Physics from MIT and an MS from UC Santa Barbara. He resides in Martinez,

and is Chief Technology Officer for the College of Chemistry at UC Berkeley. He was also the 2005/06 Northern Calif. Div. Director of the National Collegiate Table Tennis Assoc.

Each season, about 20-30,000 apply to be on *Survivor*. Producers of the show contacted Yau-Man because they wanted an Asian contestant. Applicants are invited to ten days of tests and interviews at a secluded hotel. So many applicants apply because the winner receives \$1 million, first runner-up, \$100,000, 3rd, \$85,000, and 4th \$50,000. The six-week production typically costs \$25-30 million – the show filmed in China cost \$50 million. China had handlers who monitored all aspects of the show and demanded changes if their country wasn't shown in the best light.

The producers provide the clothes the contestants will wear for six weeks – one pair of each: shoes, socks, shorts, bathing

suit, long pants, and shirt. They are not allowed any toiletries. A medical box is placed in the jungle for minor injuries. Medics are helicoptered in from the crew location for more serious injuries. Sun screen is provided, but it attracts bugs, and is not used a lot. About 250 production members stay in a tent village away from the contestants so there is no contact.

Yau-Man says *Survivor* is mostly a social game for the most part, not extremely physical. Those that do best are good at building alliances and trusting people. Filming is 24 hours per day for six weeks, then edited to make a story told in one hour segments each week. The camera crew is not allowed to eat or drink in front of contestants. It takes a few weeks for the contestants to learn to ignore the cameras and become more talkative.

Challenges take about an hour to film – explanation of complicated rules can take 30 minutes whereas on television the audience sees no more than a minute. Viewers see what looks like a few contestants going through a challenge, but they are really “clones” of the contestants – look similar and wear the same type of clothing. They practice the challenge before the contestants to make sure everything works. Tribal council, where the eliminations take place, can take up to two hours – reduced on the show to about 15-20 minutes. Although it looks like the contestants walk to the challenges and tribal council, they actually travel some distance by boat and vehicles to get to these events.

Jeff Prost, the show's coordinator, ad-libs his questions at each tribal council. After a contestant is eliminated, the first person they talk to is a psychologist to verify they are all right. Eliminated contestants stay in a secluded hotel until filming is over. Those that end up on the jury at the end are lodged in tents at the crew location. Contestants sign a contract not to discuss the outcome of the show until after entire the series airs, or they could be fined over a million dollars.

On *Survivor Fiji*, Yau-Man finished fourth. He was voted the favorite survivor, with a 65.5% popularity rating. The second-most-popular only had 10%. He had lost 15 lbs.



CARBON OFFSETS BENEFIT ROTARY PROJECTS

Diana Schoberg – The Rotarian – Dec 2008



Airlines such as Continental, Delta, and British Airways offer passengers the chance to buy carbon credits to offset the carbon dioxide generated by their travel. So do rental car companies and credit card companies – even eBay offers carbon credits for sale. The *New York Times* reported that in 2007, people and companies in the United States bought \$54 million in carbon offset credits.

Christine Sephton recalls reading news reports about consumers not knowing where all that green money ends up. "I got to thinking, Rotary could be doing this," says Sephton, a member of the Rotary Club of East Hampton, NY. "We could have our own offset trust, and the money could go to Rotary projects."

The result was a joint project between the Rotary clubs of East Hampton and Sheffield, England, where Sephton's husband, Peter, is a member (the couple divides their time between England and the United States). The CO2 Offset Trust – Rotarians for CO2 Reduction now includes nine clubs on four continents.

Here's how it works: Visitors to the trust's Web site, www.co2offsettrust.org, can calculate the amount of carbon dioxide generated from an airplane flight. They can then donate to the trust through the Web site using a credit card; the amount is calculated based on the amount of carbon dioxide produced. The trust is a registered charity in the United Kingdom.

The money raised helps fund Rotary projects that remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere or that teach people how to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. Money has gone toward a forest replanting project by the Rotary Club of Harrogate, England, and a solar oven project by the Rotary Club of Fresno, CA. Lorna Milligan, a member of the Fresno club, is working with her club's environmental committee to involve Rotarians in generating funds for CO2 offsets. "We find that most people believe it is important for us to do something, and this is a way to get started," she says.

The Sephtons also see the project as a forum for Rotarians to share ideas. Information on the trust's Web site emphasizes things Rotarians can do to conserve energy and educate themselves and the public about climate change. "Everything is connected," Sephton says. "It's joining up the dots. Rotary does so much with disease and poverty, but it's all connected."

TERRY CAMP vs YAU-MAN



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GIVE HOPE - GIVE A HAND



The Rotary Club of Lafayette donates an LN-4 Prosthetic Hand in the name of our speaker each week. The LN-4 Prosthetic Hand transforms lives and empowers those who have lost hands and limbs due to

land mines, birth defects, and other catastrophes.

MAKE UP MEETINGS NEARBY

MON
 12:00 Danville, Brass Door, San Ramon

TUES
 07:00 Walnut Creek Sunrise, Scott's Seafood
 07:00 Danville-Sycamore, Crow Canyon Country Club, San Ramon
 12:15 Moraga, Soda Center
 12:00 Walnut Creek, Heather Farms Garden Center Bldg
 05:30 Diablo View, Pyramid Alehouse

WED
 12:00 Rossmoor, Hillside Clubhouse
 12:15 Alamo, Round Hill Golf
 12:15 Orinda, Community Center
 12:15 Concord-Diablo, Marie Callendars

THU
 07:00 Clayton Valley/Concord Sunrise, Oakhurst Country Club

FRI
 07:00 Lamorinda, Postino
 12:15 Concord, Concord Hilton

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

12/18 Christmas Luncheon, Lafayette Park Hotel, 11:30 am – donate coats
 12/25 Christmas, no meeting
 12/26 8 am Breakfast, Chow's
 01/01 New Years, no meeting
 01/02 Gin Fizz, Camp & Camp Assoc., 2540 Camino Diablo, WC
 01/08 TBD
 01/15 TBD
 01/22 TBD
 01/29 TBD

LOCAL ROTARY EVENTS

12/13 Salvation Army Red Kettle Day
 12/21 Breakfast & wrapping party for Shelter Inc at Hellers, 8:00 am
 01/13 Board meeting, 5, Laf Chamber
 01/25-26 Reno Train Trip
 02/04 Interclub Meeting, location TBD
 04/18 Wine Tour
 05/16 Concert at the Res
 10/01-04 District Conference, Lake Tahoe, free early registration

ROTARY INT'L EVENTS

06/21-24 2009 RI Convention, Birmingham, England
 06/20-23 2010 RI Convention, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

BIRTHDAYS

12/19 Mike Heller
 12/22 Bill Whitten

ANNIVERSARIES

12/01 Mike Heller
 12/09 Lisa Cohen
 12/18 Polly Bernson
 12/29 Jesse Wellen

GREETERS

01/08 Bud Moulthrop
 01/15 Alan Nisen
 01/22 Andy Scheck

"In 2008-09, I will ask you all to Make Dreams Real for the world's children. This will be our theme, and my challenge to all of you."

-- RI President D K Lee

