

Rotations

PO Box 943
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Meetings:
Thursdays 12:15 pm
Oakwood Athletic Club
4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd
Lafayette, CA

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President John Sherry opened the meeting. John shared some St. Patrick's Day trivia and informed us that St. Patty was actually British before being kidnapped by the Irish in 1600's.

Visiting Rotarians: Thomas Peak, President-elect nominee of Lamorinda Sunrise.

Don Anderson reminded us of the Spring Egg Scramble on Apr 11, 10am Town Plaza. Meet at 9:30am at Bank of the West. For Rotarians at Work Day, Apr 25, bring gloves, rakes, and gardening tools to clean-up the Lafayette Community Center.

Bob Shusta distributed raffle tickets for the Concert at the Res.

Bob Aguilar has five spaces open for the Rotary Wine Tour on Apr 18. Contact him to sign up -- \$130.00 per person. Meet at Bank of the West at 10:30AM and leave at 11:00AM sharp.

Geoff Zimmerman said that twenty-two have signed up for the Rotary Town Hall Theatre Night on Apr 9. Meet at Bob Shusta's at 6:30pm for pre-show refreshments.

Troy Fedderson reported that the Interact club at Bentley school meets on their lunch break every Wednesday. They will help at Concert at the Res and will be looking to assist on future projects. They are having an E-Waste Recycling Day at Bentley on Sat., Apr 4, 9-4pm.

Mike Henn needs more volunteers for the polls for the Special Election on May 19.

John Sherry reminded us of the District Assembly on Apr 11, the Wine Valley Cycle for Sight & Rotary Ride for Veterans on Apr 18, Dist. Gov. Jim Campbell's East Africa Trip on May 2, and announced the Rotary International Conflict Resolution workshop on Apr 26 at UC Berkeley.

Jay Lifson said that Larry Duson is feeling much better after experiencing a minor stroke. He will return to work on Monday, and hopes to attend our next meeting.

Sandy Mitchell invited us to attend a Visioning Workshop with Dist. Gov. Candy Pierce. We need at least fifteen people to attend. Possible dates are May 21, Jun 2 or 4. It will be from 5:30 to 9pm with dinner. See Sandy for details.

Geoff Zimmerman recognized members: Alan Mac for his 52nd

birthday; he contributed \$50 even though he has immunity. Barry Toomajian gave \$110 for his birthday even though he is not 100. Larry Blodgett's son shot a 37 at Boundary Oaks in a recent high school match. Bill Ames for his fourth grandchild being accepted to college. Ed Stokes reminded us that St. Mary's men's basketball is in the NIT and will be hosting Davidson College on Mar 23 at 8:30pm. Sandy Mitchell said her husband made it to the final table in a Las Vegas poker tournament.



SPEAKER: Tapan Munroe, Ph.D., is a recognized author, speaker and consultant for regional economics and the high tech industry. He was a professor in the Economics Department at University of the Pacific and served as Chief Economist for PG&E for 16 years. His third novel was published this month and he writes an article in the Contra Costa

Times every Sunday.

Dr. Munroe discussed the state of our economy and how it compares to past downturns. His latest book analyzes the Dot-Com boom, how it went bust, and the economic resurgence afterwards. Times like this produce innovations for tomorrow. Some of our greatest companies, such as IBM, Microsoft, HP, GE, and Kraft, were developed during economic downturns. He feels it is a natural occurrence since there are a number of highly intelligent people available for hire during times like this. Recession is the "Mother of Innovation."

Tapan feels that our economy will begin to recover in the 3rd quarter of 2009 at best. The stock market normally is a leading indicator as it normally recovers 4-6 months ahead of the economy. He feels the stimulus package was necessary and we can't let our banks fail. He feels this recession will produce three positive outcomes in our economy:

- 1) We will learn to live within our means
- 2) We will have better banks
- 3) We will be energy independent

The new economy will have much more government involvement than in the past. He also sees AIG broken into a number of smaller pieces and will not resemble the AIG of old. Tapan's overall outlook was positive, and he was very helpful in answering a number of tough questions from our members.



SURINAME PROJECT DELIVERS CLEAN WATER TO 10,000

Joseph Derr, Rotary International News
19 Mar 2009 -- excerpt

The small South American nation of Suriname may only have three Rotary clubs, but Rotarians there have made a big impact with projects to improve access to clean water.

Illegal mining has caused mercury contamination in many rivers and streams in Suriname, affecting the lives of thousands.

Focusing on the indigenous communities of Kajapatie and Abenaston, the Rotary Club of Paramaribo worked with clubs in Germany, the Netherlands, and the United States on a \$73,000 project for a new safe-water system. These funds helped purchase holding tanks, filters, pumps, and other equipment, all powered by solar panels. The club received Matching Grant support from The Rotary Foundation and also partnered with the Georg Fischer Bicentenary Foundation, the Alcoa Foundation, and the Canada Fund for additional financial support.

Paramaribo club members have completed seven water projects in recent years, investing a total of \$350,000 to provide clean drinking water for an estimated 10,000 people. Other projects assisted different communities, including those of the Maroon people, who are the descendants of 18th century runaway slaves.

"These projects have been so enormously successful because in the planning stages, the local populations were actively involved in all aspects of the clean water facilities. Nothing was carried out without the village elders' consent and knowledge," says Paramaribo club member Anton Brandon, one of the key organizers for the projects. The clubs also emphasized community involvement to ensure the projects' sustainability. Villagers helped install underground water mains and were trained on system maintenance, Brandon says.

THE FOUR WAY TEST

Of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

ROTARY MOTTO:
SERVICE ABOVE SELF



Photo: Rotary Club of Paramaribo

NEW BLUE BADGE MEMBER

Deborah Cooper was born in San Rafael at Hamilton Airforce Base, and has lived in Concord for over forty years. She has been married to John for 30 years, and they have three sons, two grandchildren, and another on the way. Debbie started in banking with Bank of America in 1979, working her way up to Vice President, Branch Manager, until she left in 2005 to pursue a career in community banking. When her community bank was closed in 2008, she joined Mechanics Bank, opening their new Lafayette location in July 2008 as Vice President, Office Manager. Debbie was elected to the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce board in 2008. Debbie enjoys vacationing on the Oregon Coast yearly, and plans to retire there someday. She can be found Sunday afternoons watching Nascar and playing with her grandchildren.



OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Dong Kurn Lee RI President
Jim Campbell Dist 5160 Governor
John Sherry President
Sandi Mitchell Vice President
Bob Shusta Secretary
Greg Vaisnor Treasurer
Chuck Vogel Club Service
Don Anderson Community Service
Mike Kearney International Service
Terry Camp Vocational Service
Ron Wake Past President
Andy Scheck Sergeant of Arms
Geoff Zimmerman Sergeant of Arms

GIVE HOPE - GIVE A HAND



The Rotary Club of Lafayette donates an LN-4 Prosthetic Hand in the name of our speakers 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.



UPCOMING SPEAKERS

03/26 Cliff Dochterman, Past RI President, 1992/93
04/02 Tom Courtright, Efficient Watering for Drought Conditions
04/09 Bob Shusta, Arizona Project
04/16 Linda Lubitz Boone, Financial Planning and Climbing Mt Kilimanjaro
04/23 John Rossell III, Starting a new bank in these economic times

LOCAL & DISTRICT EVENTS

04/04 Orinda Rotary 60th Anniversary Dinner Dance
04/04 E-Waste Recycling Day, 9-4pm, Bentley School
04/09 Rotary Town Hall Theatre night
04/11 Spring Egg Scramble, meet at Bank of the West, 9:30am
04/11 District Assembly, Cal State East Bay, Concord
04/18 Wine Tour, 10:30am, Bank of the West
04/18 Cycle for Sight & Rotary Ride for Veterans
04/25 Rotarians at Work Day, Lafayette Community Center
04/26 RI Conflict Resolution workshop, UC Berkeley
05/16 Concert at the Res
05/19 Adopt-A-Poll, special election
10/01-04 Dist. Conference, Lake Tahoe

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

06/21-24 2009 RI Convention, Birmingham, England

MAKE UP MEETINGS

See 'Where Clubs Meet' for meeting times and locations of nearby clubs:

www.rotary5160.org/clubs/meetings.php

BIRTHDAYS

03/03 Mo Levich
03/08 Lee Deily
03/15 Alan Mac
03/28 Troy Feddersen

GREETERS

03/26 Andy Scheck
04/02 Mary Claire Searby
04/09 Steve Snyder
04/16 Bob Shusta

