

Flywheel



SERVICE Above Self

September 2, 2005

A Weekly Publication of the Rotary Club of Richmond, California



**Richmond Rotary
Board Of Directors
2005-2006**

Officers

President

Jonathon Lawlis

President Elect

George Egan

Treasurer

David Brown

Secretary

Joe Nusbaum

Past President

Herb Cole

Sergeant-at-Arms

John Nicol

Directors

Jim Young

Josh Genser

Rhonda Harris

Joe Bagley

Pam Jones

Paul Washington

Rotary

International

President

Carl-Wilhelm

Stenhammer

District 5160

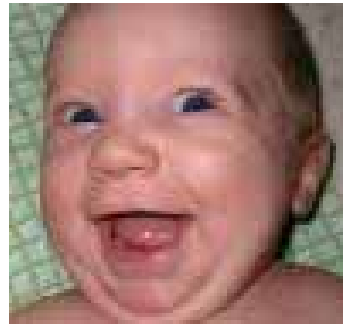
Governor

Brian D. Thiessen

*Richmond Rotary
meets every Friday
12:30 at the
beautiful Mira
Vista Golf and
Country Club*

Program for Friday September 2, 2005

Joke Day



All members not gone for the Labor Day holiday must have a Joke to tell, appropriate for Rotary (whatever that means) or risk being fined by the President

Door Duty: Charlie Fender and Judy Morgan

Program for Friday September 9, 2005

Dr. David Pearson

Dean of the School of Education (Tolman Hall), UC Berkeley, discusses current research in teaching/learning reading skills and the implications for reading curriculums

Door Duty: Bud Martin and

Meeting of August 26, 2005

Prez Jon rang the meeting to order on a beautiful summer day. **Past Prez Stoney** was in abstentia so we went right to the flag salute lead by **Don Hardison**. **Prez Jon** asked, **Prez-In-Waiting George Egan** to provide the thought for the day, "There are two way to do things, the easy way and the hard way. Most people prefer the hard way.", Rub Goldberg. **Sergeant-At-Arms, John Nicol**, motivated by his keen sense of cultural awareness, provided the members with some extemporaneous facts about the artist and "inventor". Rub Goldberg and the Rubin Awards for cartoonists, named after Rub Goldberg.

Door Duty

9/2
Charlie Fender
Judy Morgan

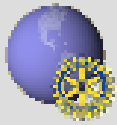
9/9
Bud Martin

9/16
Josh Genser
Norm Lundberg

9/23
Barry Gordon
Leslie Levy

9/30
Elof Granberg
Monique le Conge

10/7
Margaret Hanlon-Gradie
Don Lau



Where to Make Up

Mon 12:15 Seafood
Peddler, San Rafael

Tue 12:30 Solano Grill
Albany

Tue 12:15 Elks Club
El Sobrante

Wed 12:15 His Lordships
Berkeley

Wed 7:15am Hercules
Senior Center, Hercules

Wed 12:15 La Strada
San Pablo

Thu 12:15 Mira Vista
G&CC, El Cerrito

Thu 12:30 Outback Steak
House, Pinole

Thu 12:15 World Holiday
Inn, Vallejo



Visiting Rotarians

Prez Jon introduced his guest District Govern Brian Thiessen.

Rotarians With Guests

Don Lau introduced the CEO of Doctors Medical Center, Erwin Hanson.

Sunshine Report

David K. was “gone fishin’” but **Elof Granberg** was present and was recognized by Prez Jon as he has been feeling a little puny lately. Elof received a healthful round of applause.

Announcements

Hank Covell invited new (and old) members to participate in the Mac & Masquers Night with dinner at the Hotel Mac and an exclusive showing of “Enchanted April” at the Masquers Theatre across the street. **Pam Jones** announced that the Special Events Committee was meeting (has now met) on **Mike Winter’s** boat on Sunday in Benicia and will be traveling east on the Carquinez Straits to Suisun Bay. It was unclear from Pam’s announcement whether the boat trip hosted by Mike was the Special Event or whether the club can look forward to even bigger special events from the Special Events Committee. The Knight of the Swamps, **Sid Chauvin** invited the members to sign up for the Rotary Picnic at the Richmond Country Club September 24th. Children and grandchildren are encouraged to come as the club will have full use of the picnic facilities and the swimming pool. Sid asks that members “sign in” all adults and children who are planning to attend. **Prez Jon** reminded the members to mark their calendars for the Holiday Auction and Party both of which will be December 2nd. However, the auction will be at the Mira Vista CC per tradition and the party will be in the evening with the El Cerrito and Richmond Rotaries coming together to celebrate at the Richmond CC.

Recognitions

Prez Jon invited **Dandy Don Lau** to, “Come up and do what you do well”. The following interval of silence produced a spontaneous request for **X-Prez Herb**, We want to know what he does well?” To wit Dandy Don slyly replied, “Well it’s not hiring Superintendents.” After the laughing stopped Don asked **Paul Hodgen**, ‘What’s coming up?’.

After paying a self-imposed fine for missing his birthday and meetings since March, Paul related the brief story of

Upcoming Programs

Sep 16

Tony Thurmond newly appointed City Council Member comments on his defeat, appointment and vision for the City of Richmond.

Sep 23

Dr. Randy Schekman and his wife Nancy Walls update the club on the hopes, dreams and reality of stem cell research and politics

Sep 30

“The Truth About Olive Oil & other slippery, flavorful subjects”

Joint Meeting with Soroptomists! Oct 7

Tom Lynden, CPA and host of the West County Forum discusses the WCCUSD \$400,000,000 parcel tax, Measure “J” on the November ballot. 510-758-6800.

Raffle

Prez Jon asked DG Brian to select a ticket and raffle winner. The winner was Don Hardison who got the orange ball and contributed his winnings to the Rotary Community Fund.



Important Dates

9/15/05 Board Meeting at Richmond Country Club

09/15/05

Dinner - Theatre at the Masquers.

09/24/05

Picnic at Richmond Country Club

10/21- 10/22/05

District Conference in Concord

12/02/05

Annual Holiday Party

12/02/05

Holiday Party with El Cerrito Rotary

Object of Rotary

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

FIRST The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

SECOND High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

THIRD The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;

FOURTH The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

discovering that his wife Mary Jo had been diagnosed with a brain tumor in April. Fortunately we are blessed with outstanding medical facilities in the Bay Region and she was effectively treated for the cancer with the pineal gland and tumor removed surgically. Paul concluded saying that everything has gone well and he is very grateful to be celebrating his 30th wedding anniversary August 30th. Paul made a celebratory donation to the Polio Plus effort.

Dandy Don then pestered **Jim Young** in an effort to prove some level of memory loss asking him what happened three years ago August. Fortunately Don had already given Jim the answer so Jim said he joined the Rotary, but he said it seemed like five years. What he didn't say is that it is hard to believe that so much camaraderie and service have been packed into just three years. Jim followed Paul's leadership and donated \$20 to Polio Plus.

Happy & Sad Dollars

Dandy Don continued with Happy & Sad Dollars and started the fray by complimenting **Josh Genser** for the great picture of his sister and mother in the paper. Not only did Josh not have anything to do with the picture, he didn't even know about it but contributed Happy Dollars to the kitty anyway. Than you Josh (and thank you Dandy Don). **X-Prez Herb** had Happy Dollars for a whole bunch of stuff and as a petition circulated to require Herb to pay a-dollar-a-word for his Happy Dollar stories, he said he was happy his boat didn't sink, happy he's going to the first ever Cole Family Reunion and happy he's going to be in Texas for two whole weeks in September. Dang, that's Happy! **Judy Kafka** had Two Happy Dollars for being back at Rotary and her Breakfast Group of friends and three Sad Dollars for having to leave Maine and come back home. **Jan Brown** gave all the Contribute Dollars she had (\$2.14) because Flywheel Editor "**Jan B. Nimble**" reported the **Bob Dabney** anniversary event before it actually happened last week and an internal investigation could not find any other party responsible for the prequel reporting of the actual event. **John Wilson** chided Prez Jon for the Roster not showing that he and his wife have been married 47.5 years and his birthday on the 22nd. Appreciating the corrected information for the Roster, Prez Jon fined John for the inaccuracies in the Roster to date. Dandy Don called on **Charlie Wong** who asked the members to recognize that today's speaker, Jordon Simons, is the son of the late Henry Simons who was a naval Captain and esteemed member of the Richmond Rotary. Don called on "Mr. Past Everything", **Werner Schwarz**. Werner had a Happy Dollar for DistGov. Brian's visit today noting that he is the best District



Birthdays

8/3 Josh Genser
8/5 Bud Martin
8/13 David Smith
8/17 Dan Sanders
Elof Granberg
8/19 Bob Niccolls
8/28 Stoney
Stonework
8/30 Joanne Blum
Jonathon Lawlis

Anniversaries

8/7 Mike and Cindy
Winter
8/14 Bob Dabney and
Cheryl Maier
8/15 Stoney and Mary
Anna Stonework
8/18 Jim and Jane
Beaver
8/18 Loren and Carole
Straughn
8/29 Erle and Phyllis
Brown
8/30 Paul and Mary Jo
Hodgen

Club Anniversaries

8/5 Stoney Stonework
11 Years
8/16 Rich Alexander
10 Years
8/25 Jim Young
3 Years

Get To Know Our New Members!

Monique Le Conge

Classification
Libraries

Margaret Morkowski

Classification
Waste Management

Margaret Hanlon-Gradie

Classification
Consulting-Political

Lance Jackson

Classification
Engineering- Electrical

Don Joseph

Classification
Banking-Branch
Management

Jazzy Singh

Classification
Banking – Account
Executive

Nick Despota

Classification
Graphics-Web Design

EJ Shalaby

Classification
Wastewater
Management

Glenn Daggs

Classification
Security Management

Governor since 1988. (As a brief Editorial supporting Joke Day Sept 2nd, the Writer notes that “Mr. Past Everything” has just the kind of pun potential we are looking for on Joke Day given the possibility that “past” might not be spelled the same way.) Don then announced that next month, **Mr. Sid “vicious” Chauvin** will be Recognition Dude. Sid said he was going to be bringing something electric for his new job, but the uproar obscured his last words. It is either a guitar or cattle-prod. **Prez Jon** closed with Happy Dollars for **DistGov. Brian Thiessen’s** visit today and for **Jim Young** joining Rotary three years ago, even if it seems like five as he appreciates the great Program Chair job he’s doing. (Ah shucks, he didn’t have to say that.)

Special Announcement

Prez Jon then introduced **DistGov Brian** to say a few words, actually it was a lot of words, about the upcoming “District Meeting” at the Concord Hilton Oct. 21-22. DG Brian gave the pitch for the whole program that runs the gamut from a bocce ball tournament to the featured speaker, Kim Peek who is the savant whose story was told in the book and movie “Rainman”. Prez Jon concluded the meeting by agreeing to be fined \$100 each meeting between now and Oct. 21 if no Richmond Rotarian signs up to attend.

Program

Jim Young introduced today’s speaker, Jordon Simmons, who has been the Artistic Director of the East Bay Center for the Performing Arts since 1978. Young noted his own daughter did her very first performance on the Center’s stage and that since she has grown up and is a real actor, it seems like a good idea to listen to Jordon’s description of this venerable institution in today’s Richmond.

Jordon first thanked Charley Wong for his tribute to his father and all the help the Wongs provided to him over the years as he only recently passed away from Alzheimer’s Disease. Jordon noted his father was a very strong supporter of the Rotary values of service and outreach to other people and other cultures, almost suggesting that those values may have had an influence on the same very strong cultural outreach values of the East Bay Center for the Performing Arts. Jordon is a local boy having graduated from Kennedy HS in 1973. He then graduated from Reed College and has been working at the East Bay Center for the Performing Arts since his return to the community in 1978.

Jordon then began a very powerful and passionate description of the East Bay Center stating flatly that it is

Click Me



Highlights of the District Meeting:

Friday, October 21, 2005

8:00 - Golf – Diablo Creek
8:00 - Hike Mt Diablo
1:00 - Community Project – Markham Regional Arboretum, Concord
5:00 - No Host Reception – Banquet Room Area - Concord Hilton
7:00 - Dinner
8:00 – Rain Man – Kim Peek
9:00 - Club Entertainment – Fun, Food, Beverages – Suite Rooms – Concord Hilton

Saturday, October 22, 2005

8:30 – Breakfast
9:00 - Opening Ceremony
9:30 - Cliff Dochterman, Past RI President
10:30 - Special Session – Getting to know Rotary
12:00 – Lunch.
1:00 – RI President’s Representative
2:00 – Special Session – Getting to know Rotary
5:00 - No Host Reception – Banquet Room Area - Concord Hilton
6:30 - Dinner
7:30 – Cave Man – Al Mathis
8:30 - Conclusion of District Meeting
9:00 – Club Entertainment – Fun, Food

not only about the community, it is about the world. Discussing human potential and “being”, in the context of savant Kim Peek, Simons noted that most scientists studying the brain and consciousness consider the most “normal” activity of a small child, like picking up a cup and replacing it where originally found, absolutely extraordinary and a daily reminder of how special everyone truly is. Simons noted that our daily grind holds up and idolizes celebrities with extraordinary looks or talents, causing us to forget just how extraordinary we all are. It is a core mission of the East Bay Center to remind the community, especially members of our marginalized neighborhoods, how special they are too, especially when they are given an opportunity to excel.

What the East Bay Center does as artists is look for ways and environments to help young people unfold and develop their depth and breadth. In today’s society this not only means becoming proficient in chamber music or West African dance, but experiencing and understanding a new cultural landscape of pluralism that is our current community and will be the future world. Itemizing the training and education that the East Bay Center strives to provide its students Simons described:

- Cross disciplinary training.
- Cross cultural training.
- Civic engagement.
- Performance outreach to the community where it lives whether it’s the Iron Triangle Center or Zellerbach Auditorium.
- Technical (performance) proficiency.
- Hard work and discipline.

In addition to its community venues the Center provides training and education in 13 public schools specifically selected because their student populations have not excelled within the framework of traditional education. These schools (Peres, Verde, Downer, etc.) do not receive the benefit of the district’s best teachers because they are not the best environments in which to teach or study. The students themselves have been disappointed by the adult world and need another opportunity to try to excel. This is provided by the Center through its outstanding staff of artist-teachers and programs like Learning Without Borders, which reinforces 4th grade literacy through dance and theater, oral English and learning through the students own stories and struggles.

“We need young people who are bicultural and bilingual. Who know about ballet but also know about Mexican dance and digital editing and European chamber music and hard work and discipline.”, said the Artistic Director of the East Bay Center for the Performing Arts.

Jordon then showed an outstanding DVD of Center student performances that underscored their commitment to technical proficiency, multi-culturalism and hard work. In a brief Q&A, Jordon acknowledged that much of the Center’s time is spent fund raising. The current budget at \$1.1MM is just half of the 2001 best budget ever. The Center has had to cut its staff by 50% and reduce its student load by 1/3. When asked about competition for scarce dollars, Simons said that Richmond was really blessed with two other outstanding arts organization, The Richmond Center for the Arts and NIAD. Whenever possible the Center works with these organizations to get as much benefit as possible for the whole community.

Thank you Jordon Simons for a moving reminder of what we really have in our community.

And the meeting was adjourned.

* * * * *

Editor’s Note, This Flywheel ain’t goin’ to say nothin’ about no poker tables.

Your Acting Editor,
Jim Young