

Flywheel



SERVICE Above Self

September 23, 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 23, 2005

"Calibrating Hope"



Dr. Randy Schekman will return with his wife Nancy Walls to discuss the current status and politics of stem cell research in California. "Calibrating Hope", the subject of the Schekman/Walls talk was also covered in the recent issue of the California Monthly, the magazine of the Cal Alumni Assoc. You can read it at http://www.alumni.berkeley.edu/Alumni/Cal_Monthly/September_2005/Calibrating_Hope.asp

Door Duty: Barry Gordon and Leslie Levy

Program for Friday September 30, 2005

Joint Meeting with Soroptomists!

"The Truth About Olive Oil & other slippery, flavorful subjects

No, this is not a "Popeye Tells All" story from Hollywood. Dan MacLean, Operations Manager at California Oils Corp. talks about the food oils industry and his company's long history in Richmond.

Door Duty: Elof Granberg and Monique le Conge

Meeting of September 16, 2005

Prez Jon rang the meeting to order. In the absence of our Rock and spiritual minder Stoney, Prez Jon asked for a moment of silence and consideration for the suffering of the people of the Gulf Coast. **Judy Morgan** led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance, which contained special impromptu emphasis on "...under God...". Prez Jon then asked **Prez-In-Waiting George Egan** to provide the thought for the day, which he did, "why are people living longer

Door Duty

9/23

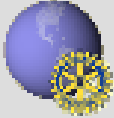
Barry Gordon
Leslie Levy

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



now than in the old days? Because of wanting to buy their homes with a 30 year mortgage.”

Visiting Rotarians

Gary Buffin from the El Cerrito Club introduced himself.

Rotarians with Guests

Jazzy Singh introduced realtor **Shawny** (sorry Shawny, I missed your last name). **Judy Morgan** introduced **John “Mr. Richmond” Ziesenhenne**. **Joe Bags** introduced **Gary Bell** and **Josh Genser** introduced **Cory Lawrence**.

Sunshine Report

David K. said that **Elof Granberg** is not feeling so well after knee surgery. We also heard from **Margaret Morkowski** that **Judy Kafka’s** daughter is not responding to the treatment for brain cancer and is not expected to survive.

Announcements

Hank Covell has 44 sign ups and is looking for more for this year’s annual Masquers night out on September 15. Tickets for this popular evening buys dinner at the Mac Hotel and live entertainment at the Masquers. Contact **Hank** for more information (dhcovell@pacbell.net).

Jonathon Lawlis reminded us of the District Conference at the Concord Hilton on October 21 and 22.

Rotary Picnic planning is in the works. Save the date on September 24 and let **Sid Chauvin** know you’ll be there.

Business & Announcements:

Noting that four rookie members no longer had their “stinking red badges”, **Prez Jon** presented full member **Blue Badges** to **Nick Despota, Jazzy Singh, EJ Shalaby and Glenn Daggs**. Prez Jon gave a brief description of the business and decisions made by the **Board of Directors** yesterday: Noting that the club has collected **\$11,800** for Hurricane Katrina Relief: \$5,000 was granted to Rhonda Harris to help furnish and house two refugee families with 21 individuals in one of her vacant apartments in San Francisco. **Rhonda** is donating the apartments rent free.

\$500 was donated to the Special Ed. Class at Lavonya De Jean MS for their project to assemble backpacks for students displaced by Katrina. **\$1,000** was donated to A+ Events (Lisa Brandes) to help replace lost material of the Baldwin Alabama School District. **\$1,000** was donated to the Pinole Rotary to help them in their effort to shelter a refugee family in Hercules. Payment of the previously budgeted “ShelterBox” line item was authorized. <http://shelterboxusa.org>

Prez Jon noted there is about \$5,000 left in collected Katrina donations for on-going/future relief donations.

In non-Katrina business the Board voted to reimburse the registration fee for all members who pay for and attend the District Conference in Concord Oct. 21 & 22.

Prez Jon announced that the WCCUSD Ed. Fund will be having a fund raiser dinner at the Hotel Mac September 18th,

Upcoming Programs

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.

Oct 21

Michael Mahoney, Chair of the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee discusses the use of Measure M & D school bonds and the need for Measure “J” on the Nov. ballot.

Raffle

Prez Jon asked Tony to select a ticket and raffle winner. The winner was **Herb** who got a free lunch and left \$236 in the kitty.



Important Dates

09/24/05

Picnic at Richmond Country Club

09/30/05 Joint Meeting with Soroptomists

10/20/05 Board Meeting 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.

6:00 – 8:00 PM. Cost \$25. **Hank Covell** announced any Rotarian who showed up for the YMCA Pancake Breakfast Saturday September 24th **would be his guest**, at the Hilltop “Y” at breakfast time. (Hank hasn't missed a pancake breakfast at the Y in 40 years.) **Prez Jon** said it's time to again “Sponsor a Classroom at Peres ES”, so get out your check books. On the subject of check books. Treas. David said that anyone who hasn't paid their dues “real soon” will have their names turned over to the Sergeant-At-Arms. **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.

The Holiday Auction and Party will both be December 2nd. However, the auction will be at the Mira Vista CC per tradition, followed by the election of officers, and, the party will be in the evening with the El Cerrito and Richmond Rotaries coming together to celebrate at the Richmond CC.

Recognitions

Cajun Sid did briefly recognize and prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that he does not read “The Flywheel”., as he said, “There are none this week.” No one would admit to going to Mira Vista first, depriving the fine master. He rallied with a \$5 penalty for those not wearing their Rotary Pins

Happy & Sad Dollars

Lovely Leslie had sad dollars for President Bush and the New Orleans disaster noting that when “W” was asked what he thought about Roe vs Wade and he replied, “I think they should get out of New Orleans any way they can.” *Your Editor was a little sad to note that a loud premature grown from the audience seemed to indicate that many were not prepared to listen to what was a clever joke.* **Joey Baggs** had happy dollars to see **Lance Jackson** at the meting. **Hank Covell** had happy dollars for never missing a pancake breakfast at the YMCA and the fact that a long time ago some “Y” leaders took an interest in him and his future. **Charlie Fender** had happy dollars for the upcoming Shoreline Walk for the Oakland Seafarers Ministry at Berth 40 Sept. 24, and the Korean BBQ too.

George Egan had sad dollars for the lack of inexpensive real estate in Bend OR as he once thought he might like to retire there, but no it costs the same as the Bay Area.

Margaret Morkowski had happy dollars for the great evening at the Masquers noting that she hates movies but loved “Enchanted April”. *Ah, the power of the stage!*

Josh Genser had sad dollars for his brother-in-law's brother's recent passing and also reminded the members of the upcoming Chamber Golf tournament October 3rd.

Ralph Hill had happy dollars because he has been a proud Richmondite since 1923 and he still is today. Ralph was also very please to watch the fine job that “**Mr. Richmond**” (**John Z.**) did in moderating the 100th year celebration on community TV. **Lance Jackson** had happy dollars that the club listened to his venting a couple of weeks ago about New Orleans and that the now homeless Saints won their first game of the season.



Birthdays

9/6 Lance Jackson
9/9 Bob Dabney
9/11 David K
9/20 Jim Young
9/22 Hank Covell, Jazzy Singh & Bart Wallace
9/23 Dave Calfee
9/25 Margaret Morkowski
9/30 Barry Gordon and Stan Teaderman

Anniversaries

9/12 Jim and Linda Young
9/13 Markku and Mary Pelanne
9/16 Bob and Lavonne Nicchols
9/26 Charlie and Clavel Fender
9/27 Joe and Rita Bagley

Club Anniversaries

09/02 John Nicol and David Ninomiya 41 Years!!
9/05 Father Nick Reina 2 Years
09/08 Joni Hiramoto 7 Years
9/22 Leslie Levy and Judy Kafka - 18 Years
9/26 Thomas Cameron and Paul Washington 2 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

Lance also had happy dollars for his promotion to Program Manager of the school district construction program. Just back from Texas the almost always happy, dollar-a-word, **Herb Cole** said that things are really bad on the gulf coast. He said his brother had to take in his x-wife, her mother-in-law and one other x-relation all of whom hate each other. "That's how bad it is.". Herb also started a rumor that is boat is actually operational and he might take fishing trip winners form the auction two or three years ago out fishing . **Prez Jon** finished happy dollars happy that the Mac-Masquers night put together by Hank Covell was such a good evening of fellowship and entertainment.

Who Am I?

Prez Jon invited **Lance Jackson** to take the podium and give his Who Am I. As we all know Lance is a native New Orleanian. He was born at Charity Hospital, raised with love and good cooking, attended catholic school and played all sports. (*The Editor is not certain, but believes this makes Lance a "Yat"* <http://www.gumbopages.com/yatspeak.html>) Lance attended LSU and Southern University, graduating with a BSc in Electrical Engineering. He's worked his entire career in public sector construction and is currently the Program Manager with the Seville Group working with the WCCUSD bond funded construction program. Although Lance has a 'do that is close cropped enough to have a reflection, he admitted to being old enough to have once had an Afro. Lance said the only good thing that could come out of the Katrina disaster is that all those old photos of him in a 'fro are destroyed. He is married, has a daughter, Sophia, and is looking forward to an anniversary Nov. 11th. Lance concluded his presentation noting he is, "...happy to be here." *Which seemed to be the sentiment of the members too.*

Program



Prez Jon, then asked Jim Young to introduce today's guest, newly minted City Council Member **Tony Thurmond**. But that honor had been promised to Ace Speaker Gofer Bob Dabney who proceeded to describe Tony as: a graduate of Temple U.; a social and youth worker in the communities of San Francisco, Marin and West County; and who, unlike other members of the City Council, is very well grounded and does not have a big ego problem. "We need Tony on City Council", Bob Dabney.

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

Tony congratulated Rotary on its 100 year celebration and then asked the question, “Do you love Rotary?” Obviously no stranger to working a crowd, Tony asked that question again and again until he got a very big, OH YEAH! from the entire club. Thurmond noted he was very impressed with the club’s commitment to Katrina relief and was proud it was in Richmond.

He described his new adventure on the City Council as making him feel like a rookie quarterback that doesn’t know a thing. It’s a risky position as you can go into the “game” and get clobbered by everybody, or you can start with low profile simple plays trying to figure out where you fit in and what works. This latter approach is what his current plan is for the Council and it includes building coalitions with other members, modeling dialogue and working to build a vision of an operating City Council as well as a vision for Richmond.

Speaking to the problems and opportunities facing the City Tony sighted youthful deadly violence a prime problem that the city must address.. He has already learned that when a senior police officer comes to a Council meeting to talk to the Mayor it is because another shooting has taken place. Tony described Richmond’s young people, including teens, 20-somethings and the large number of youthful paroles living in the Iron Triangle, as “largely disenfranchised”. Consequently they have no connection to civil society as we know it, believe their only vocation in life is drug dealing and are on a collision course with violence. In spite of the magnitude of the problem, Tony feels that Richmond has the resources to make a major contribution to its resolution. He characterized this as “resource alignment” in which unused, underused and uncoordinated efforts in recreations centers, job training, after school programs, apprenticeships and summer youth programs could and should be organized to provide youth and parolees a continuum of opportunities and real life choices beyond crime and violence.

Noting the challenges facing the city are daunting, he encouraged Rotary (and everyone else) not to give up and take on the problems and issues one step at a time. He challenged the members with businesses in the city to participate in the apprentice and youth summer jobs programs noting that the world of work is foreign to many Richmond households. Tony mentioned that Tom Butt had placed an agenda item on the next Council meeting to change the name of the Richmond Parkway to the Richmond Trashway. He wondered out loud if Rotary could consider “adopting the Parkway” like a freeway cleanup effort.

In the following Q&A, Prez Jon asked what the chance is for getting a Rotary Service Club sign at the city boarders, Parkway cleanup and all. Tony’s characterization of the opportunity as “guaranteed” made it sound like there might be a real chance for some horse trading. Herb asked Tony if that was a USC tie he was wearing and Tony ignored the question. Jan asked how the Council could ever evolve to a forum of dialogue. Tony replied that the Council actually has adopted “Rosenberg’s Rules”, but it has to use them. John Nicol asked the pointed question, “Who has disenfranchised all these youth?” Tony replied by noting there is a lot of self driven alienation, but young people who have never lived in a household where they are fed regularly let alone provided with rules and expectations starts a process that is aggravated by schools and other institutions that continue the process until the youth are face to face with civil authority and the justice system. The youth really have no idea how they got there, that they can be a positive active force in there own lives and that there is a whole alternative “civil” way of living. Tony made it clear that he did not think there was an active community effort to disenfranchise youth, but, the net effect of what the community does and does not do is youth disenfranchisement. Tony sat down saying, “The challenges are great but the opportunity is nos.”

And the meeting was adjourned.

* * * * *

Your Acting Editor,
Jim Young