



The Rotoscope

of the San Marino, California, Rotary Club



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August 03

July 13, 2017

REPORTS ON OUR SERVICE AVENUES

SOMEONE HIGH IN ROTARY'S HEADQUARTERS tower downtown Evanston, Illinois, came up with a new idea during the 1999-2000 Rotary Year (our years are just the opposite of the world's, as you know). They grouped all the activities of big and small clubs, of districts, zones, and the global programs into five "Avenues" - projects that we'd all been doing, from setting up and feeding at meetings, to community programs, and work with youth, and projects big or small that cross international borders, the five "Avenues of Service". All very organized, and our very organized young president Denise is calling on our leaders this week to guide us along this year's Avenues.

OUR GLORIOUS FOURTH PARADE on the Fourth just past was beautifully organized too, Debbie Priester having mastered the event after her apprenticeship years ago when one Rotarian put the parade together for the City and Chamber of Commerce. Debbie will have a list this meeting and next bulletin of those who turned out to put the march down Monterey and into Lacy Park on the road, and who decorated our very own Rotary float.

IF YOU MISSED THE PARADE, or if you were there and want to see how good it looked, Len Therrien has a few pictures here:

<https://goo.gl/photos/P7y24WRaCSSCnNn39>

with more to come at our web site. All very well organized, thanks to Debbie and those who helped.

WE'RE ORGANIZED FOR a rather special meeting next week: celebrating at St. Edmond's Church a marriage, that of our president Denise and her chosen partner. The event is almost overbooked - if you've not responded yet, organizer Terry Petrillo really, really needs to know by Monday the 10th if you're coming, or she can't promise space in the church or at our lunch table.

OUR DISTRICT IS GETTING ORGANIZED TOO - for Rotary Year 2020-2021. We've no idea who may be our country's president by then, but we now know that the long search for a DGD (that's one of those complicated Rotary titles for the member now designated to be district governor) is over. Right close to us, GREG JONES agreed to take the job. Several of us met Greg various times at Troy Boyle's bar behind the Ice House, where Greg was one of the founders of the Pasadena After-Hours Rotary Club. He's volunteered to organize the district's finances too, and now is willing to give much time leading 5300 starting three Julys from now. Thanks, Greg.

ALL VERY WELL ORGANIZED to let us better serve others. San Marino Rotary didn't used to be this productive. Sure, the men would write checks, though the male treasurer would sometimes forget to cash them, or to twist the arms of some deadbeat members. The men would ask for a show of hands as to who was coming to a function or activity - raise two hands if your "Rotary Ann" (that offensive sexist name for spouses) was coming also - then no one would count or list the names. Sure, some of our members were organized back at their offices: Lois Derry used to keep Larry Shepard and Elder Morgan organized, Barbara Bice organized a career counseling center at the High School, Debbie Lowrey organized her father's interior decorating business and reinvented it to serve senior citizen homes. But our club? Not that well organized.

THEN LOIS, BARBARA, DEBBIE and other women became equal at last, as far as stuffy old Rotary was concerned. Funny how our club became so well organized about that time. Coincidence, perhaps, but our five avenues of service have never been as productive as in recent years. And the jokes? I'm proud to report to our members of either sex that with very few exceptions, quickly squelched when they happened, San Marino Rotary was not at all raunchy Before Females, and many of our male members supported the "Duarte X-Rotary" effort to force RI into allowing women Rotarians. But I'm also proud to point out how well organized we are, dues collected, parades and car shows organized, parties beautifully planned, with the help of our equal females.

R T O R - mixers of members from Pasadena area clubs - starts up again on August 14, 5 to 7 p.m.,

Club Leaders



Denise Wadsworth
Youth Service
Chair, President



Fang Fang Ho
President-Elect



Gilda Moshir
iPast President



Paul Brassard
Secretary



Dennis B. Kneier
Treasurer



Kenneth Veronda
Bulletin Editor



Lucille F. Norberg
Sergeant-at-Arms



Gregory F. Johansing
Administration
Chair, Club Director



Molly W Woodford
Club
Director, Membership
Chair



William H. Bortz
Club Director, Rotary
Foundation Chair



Deborah A. Herbert
Club Director



**J. Leland
Mothershead III**
Club Director



Fary Yassamy
Club Director



Leonard Therrien
Club Director, Community Service Chair



Robert W. Nafie
Club Director



Shody Chow
International Service Chair



Steve Garrett
Public Image Chair



William L. Payne
Public Image Chair



Tony Chou
Vocational Service Chair, Youth Service Chair

this time at Du-Par's 50's style restaurant at 214 South Lake (lots of parking in back, too). Get the date on your calendar now.

OUR SCHOLAR GAELLEN sent a report to Bill Payne, who thought you'd find her letter of interest:

From: Gaelen Stanford-Moore [mailto:gstanfordmoore@gmail.com]

Hi Bill and Marilyn,

I thought you might find it interesting to see the 500 year old pub (the Red Rose) where my Cambridge Rotary meetings take place. Last night was heavy rain and thunderstorms, but we were cozy by the old fire place as I gave my year-end presentation.

I have attach a few photos. One shaking hands with Cambridge Sawston Club President Simon White. Another with my two amazing hosts, Irene Childerley and Vic Starkey - whom have driven me all over the English countryside to various Rotary meetings over the year - I think I ended up visiting about 6! Our club, Cambridge Sawston is one of 4 clubs in the city of Cambridge and has 27 members, although only 13 in attendance last night.

Gaelen Stanford-Moore

HERE'S THIS WEEK'S REMINDER of another continuing - and extremely successful - international project our club started and faithfully monitors:

OUR FINCA – A VILLAGE BANK In the summer of 1998, SMRC president Joe Lewis had heard of the FINCA project of microloans for peasant farmers, and planned a club project to support it during his term. However, in checking FINCA tax filings it was obvious the paid staff and fundraising costs of the Florida operation were taking more than 60% of contributions. It was (and we understand continues to be) a nonprofit very profitable for their Gringo leadership, with low ratings on Goldstar.

JOE AND OUR CLUB decided to do it ourselves, organizing the purchase of land in Guatemala to help resettle refugees from the high mountain area who'd fled during the long civil war and were hiding in Chiapas, the southernmost state of Mexico on the other side of the rugged Cuchumatanes mountains. The plan was to get a Guatemalan Maya leader we could trust to take our club's money, purchase the land, and screen 44 families - about 155 refugees - to take a few acres each for their corn-and-bean farm and little home.

OUR CLUB WENT TO WORK, raising \$2500 (\$5500 today) with an evening pot-luck and raffle at Merrill and Nancy Francis' home in the fall of 1988. A Kanjobal-Maya graduate of Southwestern, PCC, and UCLA, Leandro Lopez, bought about 55 acres in the Peten jungle with our \$2500 to provide for Kanjobal returnees who had been in Chiapas through four violent years, displaced from their mountain homes by the Civil War between government forces and local Maya, both sides destroying many villages and lives in order to eliminate the innocent Kanjobal living between the armies.

EACH OF THE 44 FAMILIES was loaned a small *milpa* corn field and cash for homebuilding materials. An under-educated, illiterate, shrewd, organized, no nonsense older lady continues today to manage all disbursements. She collects a third of the loans (most less than \$50 of our money) every year. After three successful years with 98% repaid to the fund, a second finca area was bought and another woman continued the collection process.

OUR CLUB CONTRIBUTED additional \$2000 and \$2500 amounts in the early 1990s, raised by past presidents Al Jacobson (a dentist who also gathered many supplies for the "Head Start" project) and Andy Krueger (manager of Cal-Am water's local manager, who also tested the jungle water for safety) and used as capital for microbank loans for seed corn and beans. As of July 1st, 2017, of the \$7500 in donations from SMRC, Leandro reports that some 92%, or Q49,000, remains in circulation, a loss of less than one percent a year. Winifred and I visit several times a year to ceremoniously review and audit the meticulous bank records, though they are written in Kanjobal and use the Maya numerical symbols we don't begin to understand. Then the carved mahogany cash box is opened, I formally count it out, and all is there, to the last *quetzal*.

MERRILL'S POT LUCK and our project beginnings were pictured in the October 1988 Rotarian magazine. A longer article on our FINCA's success is in the February 1990 issue. We're just shy of 30 years with our FINCA project, and it continues to be a healthy investment by our club for some very worthy indigenous people.

July 13th: Organizing our Avenues of Service

July 20th: We meet at St. Edmond's to celebrate Denise and Richard's Wedding

