

TODAY

All of us will eat quickly and head across the street to the Congregational Church for the annual Rotary Music Competition. This is definitely a highlight of the Rotary year. Our community fosters a climate that nurtures and recognizes students who are artists. It will be a pleasure to see what delightful performances Lori Rhodes and Sabine Robertson-Phillips have arranged for this always impressive program.

LAST WEEK

Steve Johnson gave an interesting talk where he contrasted life in an actual crime laboratory versus the "CSI" magic that is seen on television and in the movies. The equipment, working environs, budgets and painstaking tedium of the real thing definitely dim the glamour of what is portrayed by actors. Staffing is in short supply and the training curve is such that it is a struggle for Steve to keep positions filled. In light of these challenges it was all the more impressive to learn how the County's crime laboratory functions at the level that it does and hopefully the proposed move to the former Hallmark building in San Bernardino will come to pass for this vital agency.

NEXT WEEK

We can all look forward to our Valentines Day program. Musical selections will be offered by representatives from the Redlands Symphony Orchestra and the University of Redlands School of Music. Our own Bruce Satzger is President of the Redlands Symphony Association and will provide an enjoyable and entertaining program for the club.

PAST PRESIDENT PONDERINGS

Since February is Presidents' Month the Spoke will feature vignettes from our previous exalted leaders. It takes a lot of time, effort and patience to be the President of this outfit and often we don't thank our fearless leaders, current and former, enough for all they do and have done to contribute to the success of each Rotary year and this club in general. This is an opportunity to recognize and acknowledge that we appreciate them all – past and present! Editorial privilege means we start with the first president I encountered as a Rotarian –

DOUG MCADAM, "in his own words": The 1987-1988 Redlands Rotary year was highlighted by the induction of our first female members. Kathy Nelson (Lou Nelson's wife) who owned an escrow company, Paula Faust vice president for development from the University of Redlands and Shirley Vieths from the YWCA joined the Redlands Rotary Club all at the same time in 1987. Carole Beswick was also inducted in 1987. The membership of the club stood at approximately 170 members. At that point we had but one high school and our representative from Redlands High School Student Body President Chad Rohgair (sp?) who went on to Princeton and I think is now a physician. In the world, Margaret Thatcher was voted Prime Minister of the United Kingdom for the third time, Robert Bork was rejected by the Senate to the position as Supreme Court justice, the DOW industrial average closed above 2500 for the first time and Black Monday occurred as well. Jackie Gleason, Sammy Davis, Jr. and Lorne Green all died during this timeframe. Sonny Bono became mayor of Palm Springs and the Winter Olympics were held in Calgary.

While these events all took place 23+ years ago, it doesn't seem that long ago. I looked forward to each Thursday meeting and the fellowship that took place as well as the good that the Club accomplished. I was fortunate enough to preside at every meeting during the year of my presidency and when it was over there was a sigh of relief and also a sense of accomplishment as well as disappointment that the year had ended. Bob Covington followed as president and did an outstanding job; just as Scott Reynolds had done the year before.

What Doug failed to mention is that he also had the distinct honor of fining the first Redlands Rotarian for being pregnant! Editorial privilege strikes again!

PAT MEYER: "As you know, I had one of the most memorable years of any President of our Rotary Club. I discovered during my term that I had broken my neck and needed it fixed right away. So, off I went to RCH, missed one meeting, and came back with a "halo" on to finish my year from the dais. (I have pictures). Although the halo was an awkward contraption, and scared little children, I was back in the groove and finished off my year with a bang. It's been 15 years now, but seems like only yesterday. I enjoyed my year immensely, and was able to use my sense of humor from the podium without fear of being fined.

It will be hard for our newer members to imagine that picture: Pat Meyer with a halo. What a visual... Can you imagine someone walking around with a broken neck and not knowing it for a year? That's our Pat!

ROTARY NEWS

All our golfers were extremely frustrated by the January weather. Their schedules and games were totally interrupted by the rain and resulting course conditions. Rumor has it that Peter Davis resorted to more than usual movie viewing at the Palm Springs film festival; Bob Hodges went to Las Vegas to play golf – yeah right! Scott Showler worked on his routine for American Idol - he thinks he has a shot with Ellen on the panel; Mark Bulot simply pouted and complained about the weather until he remembered how much water was involved; Ralph Feller sat under the umbrella at the Snack Shack and munched on things that are very bad for one's teeth; Paul Granillo... wait, he's a newly-wed, he didn't have time for golf anyway! Scott Pierce shopped for clubs for his son, it will only be about a year and a half until the little guy can grip them; Dick Romo went looking for indoor tennis venues and Carole Beswick said "Phooey", put up the "Gone Skiing sign" and went! Thank goodness it's February – although isn't it usually the wettest month of the year?

UPCOMING EVENTS

It will not, however, rain on Red, Wine and Blues: Marvin and Jan Hudson and their committee are hard at work to guarantee another rousingly successful fundraising event. This is the 25th Anniversary of our club's annual wine extravaganza. Everyone needs to get involved and support this endeavor. Last year over \$35,000 was awarded in scholarships and recognitions for students in our community.

ALLAN'S AVENUE

Saturday the 30th, was a very rewarding and exhilarating day for me. It started out with Pam Huston and me attending the Pre-Pets Program at Cathedral City. For some reason, this event was one of the more meaningful ones that I have attended, probably because of the pertinent subjects being discussed. The topics included Interact and RYLA, Ethics, Polio Plus, Youth Protection, Disaster Preparedness, and the work of our Rotary Foundation, all of which deserve our serious attention. Of course there were a variety of speakers, but the greatest pleasure came from hearing Governor Dell 'Aqua's heartfelt concern for all these issues, and his request that we all do whatever we can to help him meet his goals that relate to these concerns. In addition, that evening, it became so clear to me again how special this city is in helping to keep those qualities of the human spirit that provide for a caring humanity alive and well – the Redlands Symphony! For any that attended the concert Saturday evening, I am sure you understand what I am referring to. In particular the talent of the guest cello soloist, Jonah Kim caused one to think of those qualities that make our species something above and beyond. And thanks are due in large part to our own Rotarians for keeping this treasure alive and conceptually sound – Doug Pew, Zach Tucker, and Bruce Satzger.

Editor – Cynthia Andrews – No. 28 – 2/4/10