



The Alamo Oak

Rotary Club of Alamo

March 18, 2009

Alamorotary.org

ROUND HILL PROGRAM CALENDAR:

Date	Program	Greeter
March 25 th	Carolyn Thiessen Music Awards Meeting	Ferguson
April 1 st	Humphrey Mort Schwartz /Automotive Industry...	West

UPCOMING EVENTS:

April 4 th	Easter Egg Hunt
April 11 th	District Assembly

TODAY'S GUESTS:

We had many guests who came to hear our speaker, Cliff Dochterman: Mary Elena Dochterman, Candy Pierce, Betty Myhre, Gaby Ghorbani, Bill and Beth's kids, Bob, Amanda and Casey, Ryan McKeon, Terence Newman, Martha Hansen with Jackie, Debbie Roessler, Mary and Chuck Agee, Allen Bertillion, Jean Mello, Linda Thompson, Preston Canzius with Priya, Ken Abrams, Nardy and Janice Silverman and Sophia Bekele. Welcome Back to Rick Buxton, who we hope to have as a speaker soon!

March 18, 2009 Announcements/Reminders

Carolyn Thiessen generously honored Ken Abrams with a Paul Harris Recognition. Cliff Dochterman was on hand to make the presentation!

Ken has been the choral director at San Ramon Valley High School for the past twenty-five years. In the 2007, both the Chamber Singers AND the Concert Choir won first place at the Golden State Choral Competition. In 2005 both the Concert Choir and the Treble Clef Choir took first place at this event. In addition to his duties at San Ramon Valley High School, Mr. Abrams is also the Artistic Director of the Danville Girls Chorus, a community children's chorus with over one hundred and sixty singers.

Glide Memorial:

On Saturday, March 14th, Brian Thiessen, Ed Lencioni, Jim Schuppert, and Bill Randall, along with Stone Valley Youthact parent sponsor Gaby Ghorbani accompanied 13 members of Interact and Youthact to Glide Baptist Church in San Francisco. They helped serve over 600 meals to people in the SF community assisted by Glide. It was a great experience for all ...

Please think about participating at the next opportunity.

Peace and Conflict Resolution Seminar

The Rotary Center for International Studies in Peace and Conflict Resolution at UC Berkeley presents their **ANNUAL SPRING SEMINAR**.

DISTRICT 5160 ROTARIANS ARE INVITED.

DATE: SUNDAY, APRIL 26 2009

LOCATION: Berkeley City Club
2315 Durant (Between Ellsworth and Dana)
Berkeley California

TIME: 10 A.M. – 3:30 P.M. (Registration and coffee at 9:30)

COST: \$40, includes lunch

The Annual Spring Seminar is an opportunity for you to learn more about the Rotary Peace Fellow Program at UC Berkeley. After an introduction of the Fellows, they will divide up for panel presentations and interaction with Rotarians. Luncheon at noon will feature a speaker on peace and conflict resolution followed by more panel presentations.



Oakland Rotary Centennial Golf Tournament: Monday March 23rd at Sequoyah Country Club in Oakland. Lunch on the course, shotgun start at 11am, followed by dinner. \$250 per player. Dinner only is \$50. Contact Jim Schuppert for details if you are interested in organizing a foursome.

Easter Egg Hunt: Chuck Ortmeyer is leading the planning for this year's Easter Egg hunt ... planned for **Saturday morning, April 4th**. He'll need volunteers to help stuff the eggs prior to the event and to help hide the eggs at Livorna park that morning. If you haven't gone to this before, take the time as it is great fun to see the kids enjoy the hunt! And the Easter Bunny!!

District Assembly Workshop: All members, especially new members and incoming officers/board members ... please take note and plan to attend this 6 (8AM to 2PM) hour Rotary workshop on **Saturday morning, April 11th**. It is at Cal State University East Bay, Concord Campus, 4700 Ygnacio Valley Road. Please contact Bill Randall to reserve a spot . Headcount is important as they do provide a box lunch ... want to be sure no one goes away hungry!

Bocce Ball Tourney: May 9th at Martinez Bocce Ball Federation, noon to 6PM. Contact Bill Ferguson or Mark Kahn if interested.

Fines/Recognitions:

Bill Ferguson had a nice chat with Linda Thompson about their travels, only to turn around and nail Jack for \$200! This was a combo fine for the Thompson's upcoming trip to New Zealand and a previous Vegas getaway and birthday.

All other fines were only \$20: Jim Schuppert and Vish had their Rotary anniversary on Friday the 13th, Steve Polcyn recently celebrated his birthday, Dick Olsen celebrated his Rotary anniversary and Maureen's birthday.

Bob announced that he and Betty will be celebrating their 34th Wedding Anniversary in May!

Bill Randall's joke cost him \$20, again..

Raffle: Lucky Don Morton made \$90 by pulling out the white marble.

Our Program:

Thanks to John Hansen for arranging Cliff Dochterman as our speaker. It seems that Cliff likes to communicate extensively via email...so we can truly understand and appreciate John's efforts!

It seems the last time Cliff spoke to Alamo Rotary was in 1968!! Forty-one years later, he was as entertaining as ever. The focus of his speech was "When did you become a Rotarian?" as opposed to "When did you join Rotary?" The following is a speech made by Cliff, which seems relevant considering his presentation of the Paul Harris Fellow to Ken Abrams.

What is a Paul Harris Fellow?

By PRIP Clifford L. Dochterman, 1992 - 1993

**Up • 12 Steps to 100 • Message from Past RI President Cliff Dochterman • RIP
Dochterman - What is a PHF? • Cliff Dochterman**

"Recently, I joined in a discussion about the importance of the dignity in the presentation of a Paul Harris Fellow.

That is why The Rotary Foundation has the beautiful medallion on a blue and gold ribbon, in order that it can actually be presented around the neck of the individual, along with the certificate and lapel pin to show that it is an event of special significance.

When someone commented that the presentation itself "gives a PHF its true value as a recognition of exceptional service," I felt that a little more explaining should be made. Certainly, to recognize a person as a Paul Harris Fellow should always be an honor to the individual, because it demonstrates significant support for the wonderful work of The Rotary Foundation.. But, just as a Paul Harris Fellow can be a "recognition of exceptional service," it can also be many other things, as well.

To describe a PHF only in terms of "exceptional service" is far too limiting for the entire Rotary world, and totally disregards the historical background of the expression of appreciation for a very generous contribution to The Rotary Foundation. If we did not think much broader in describing a Paul Harris Fellow, and realize it is primarily a magnificent way to raise money for The Foundation, I assure you that ***The Rotary Foundation*** would not be one of the great humanitarian and educational foundations of the world. What is the historical fact?

A few years ago, when I was a Trustee of The Rotary Foundation, I went back and read all of the minutes of the Trustees during the year 1956-57. In the year 1956, the total contributions to The Rotary Foundation were a little less than \$500,000 US dollars (\$493,722 to be exact). The Trustees began to think about how they could raise more money for the Foundation. What would be a good way to encourage Rotarians to give "big money"?

The Trustees finally came up with the idea of trying to get some Rotarians to give \$1000 in one major gift, by giving them a special form of public recognition. So, it was suggested that we call them "Paul Harris Fellows."

There were three conditions: the contribution must be at least \$1000; it must be from one individual; and it must be given within a single year. A very attractive pin and medallion were designed as a means to identify this type of generous donor. As you recognize, in 1957, a monetary gift of \$1000 was a very substantial amount of money. So, there weren't too many gifts, and thus, very few Paul Harris Fellows. As time went by, it was decided that The Foundation could collect more money if the gift could be collected and given over several years, and after there was a total accumulation of \$1000, the Trustees would designate the person as a Paul Harris

Fellow.

Later, it was suggested, that if a club did not have just one person who could give a \$1000 in a personal contribution, maybe several persons could go together and make the \$1000 gift. Then the question was raised, "Who will be the person who is named the Paul Harris Fellow?" Gradually, the answer was for the donors or the Rotary club to pick one person who had long service, or some distinguishing characteristics, and name him or her as the PHF. Thus, in some clubs, the concept developed that a Paul Harris Fellow was just an award for exceptional service. The result was, that in those clubs a Paul Harris Fellow took on a totally different meaning (a reward for exceptional service) from its original purpose -- to encourage individual Rotarians to give larger contributions to The Rotary Foundation.

Ironically, in those clubs which chose to limit the Paul Harris Fellow recognition to a form of an "award for exceptional service," many Rotarians were discouraged from making large personal gifts to The Rotary Foundation since it might be interpreted as giving merely seeking or buying an "award." So, the per capita giving in those areas of the world is much lower than those areas where the concept of a Paul Harris Fellow is the original expression of appreciation by The Rotary Foundation Trustees for an individual, or in whose name, a gift of \$1000 is given to conduct the work of The Foundation. Has the Paul Harris Fellow recognition by the Trustees been successful as a fund raising scheme? Absolutely! As I mentioned above, in 1956, less than \$500,000 was raised annually by The Foundation.

Today, nearly \$70,000,000 is raised per year -- and about 80% of those funds come from individuals being named Paul Harris Fellows, or are naming other persons Paul Harris Fellows. The last time I checked, there were about 700,000 Paul Harris Fellows, and multi-Fellows in the world. They are the backbone of the annual support to The Rotary Foundation, and those donations are the only reason that enables Rotarians to carry on a world-wide program of educational and humanitarian programs.

So, what is a Paul Harris Fellow? Think for a moment of this statement: "A Paul Harris Fellow means whatever you want it to mean." Should The Rotary Foundation

accept a \$1000 contribution as a way to honor a person for exceptional service? Certainly.

Should The Rotary Foundation accept a gift of \$1000 as an expression of happiness for 20 years of marriage, or a new grandchild, or success in one's vocation or family life? Of course.

Should The Rotary Foundation accept a \$1000 contribution in memory of a friend, relative or associate who has been an important asset to your life? Certainly.

Should The Rotary Foundation accept \$1000 if you really believe in the tremendous value of the humanitarian work of TRF in developing parts of the world and thereby express appreciation for your gift by naming you a Paul Harris Fellow or multi-PHF? Absolutely. So, I suggest that a Paul Harris Fellow can mean whatever you wish it to mean. The Rotary Foundation benefits from your contribution and demonstrates this appreciation through the mechanism of a Paul Harris Fellow. That is the way I see it.”

Cliff Dochterman RI President, 1992-93