

ROTARY CLUB OF HAYWARD

High Gear



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Editor: Norma Rees



JOIN US NEXT WEEK
December 22, 2009 for
The Mount Eden Choir
Enjoy some holiday songs and cheers!

President John Caldwell called the meeting to order, reminding us that it was the 23rd meeting of our 87th year! The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by **Lloyd Parten**. **George Famous** led us in America the Beautiful.

Thought for the Day: **Steve Worley** read us from Mark Twain: “When a distressed nation appeals for this or that or the other grace or help, she hears an answering voice of sympathy from this or that or the other creed or faction, scattered here & there & yonder in the spaces of the earth: it is only when she asks for bread, that creed & party are forgotten & the whole world rises to respond.”

Steve Worley introduced Visiting Rotarians: from the Dublin Club, Bob Tucknott; from Oakland #3, John Notch.



George Famous led is in Hello! – and then gave us a third chance to sing Over the River and Through the Woods, which we actually did pretty well this time!

ANNOUNCEMENTS: **Jim Wieder** invited us to The Hayward Chamber of Commerce Gala on Friday January 30 at Centennial Hall (**Laura Swan** has invitations for us, and there will be a special section for Rotarians. **Nels Nelson** asked for a volunteer to fill the only remaining vacancy for Salvation Army bell-ringers, Friday December 19, from 2-3. **Norma Rees** reminded us that December 28 is our Sunday to prepare and serve dinner at the Hayward Salvation Army (she also told us that last month, when a volunteer group backed out, **Steve Bristow** gathered some other volunteers and got it done – and we don't ever want to tell them that we couldn't get enough Rotarians to volunteer, even though it is the holiday season). **Laura Swan** told us that the chocolates on the tables had been provided for our holiday party by the Tacoma Narrows Rotary Club, which sells them as a fundraiser for their charities. **President John** reminded us about the April 17-19 District Celebration at the Santa Clara Marriott Hotel; the Rotarians at Work Day, April 25, when our project will probably be Hayward Clean and Green; May 21 is the date for the District Assembly, at the San Jose Doubletree Hotel; and June 21-24 is the date for the RI Convention in Birmingham, England. **Bill Quirk** announced that Assembly Member Torrico's award for volunteerism went to our very own **Ed Mullins**, for all he does for the Hayward Education Foundation and Rotary and lots more. (Congratulations, **Ed**, and well deserved!)

FINES AND FOOLISHNESS: **President John** fined **Don Lazar** for questioning the price tags on the table centerpieces (**President John** explained that we return them each week to pay off the interest at the Bank of the West); **Brian Schott** for his birthday, and he boasted that all his parts are still working (and **Maria Elena Rivera** told us that she appreciates **Brian** for all he does); and **Rob Cook**, for his marriage on Dec 6th.

PROGRAM: **The Martin C. Kauffman One Hundred Club of Alameda County.** **Tom Gratny** told us that occasionally we meet great people – and he has known these people for years and wants to share them with everyone. He introduced Jim Knudsen, formerly of law enforcement in Alameda County. Active police officers and firefighters cannot be members of the 100 Club, so when Jim retired he immediately joined. He worked for our very own **Charley Plummer** for 20 years, and is writing a book about him, considering titles (joke). **Charley** also joined the 100 Club the day after he retired as sheriff, and is now on the Board of Directors.

They joined because of the needs created by the 1991 Firestorm in the Oakland Hills, when 3,300 homes were burned and 26 people died. Two heroes also died: Jim Riley of the Oakland Fire Department, who went back in alone to help a woman (he had only 3 months to retirement);

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and John Grabinski of the Oakland Police Department, who saved 25-30 people; later on a woman contacted Jim to tell him that John Grabinski saved her life, because he went in after her and made her leave though she didn't want to abandon her cat – but Officer Grabinski did not survive. The 100 Club is now helping his kids through college.

We were shown a DVD about the rescues at the Firestorm. Family members who were interviewed said that everyday firefighters and police officers protect us, and sometimes lose their own lives. The 100 Club provided financial support for the grieving families. The program was started in 1974 after two Oakland Police Officers were shot to death at a school. Martin Kauffman gave the widows of the slain officers \$1,000 each from his own pocket, and then got a group of friends together and started the Alameda County One Hundred Club.

Tom Gratny then introduced Patty Goodman, who has her own production company, Memory Lane Products, and also does property management. Patty joined the 100 Club in 1982 and created the website and the memorial wall at Lone Tree Cemetery to commemorate the fallen heroes. Patty got close to some of the beneficiaries while working on the DVD, and learned their moving stories. She told us that if a Police Officer or Firefighter is killed in the line of duty, the 100 Club gives \$20,000 to the family within 24 hours, and continues to help by giving a \$1000 savings bond every year and helping the kids through college. To join the 100 Club, members pay \$150 a year dues or \$2000 for life membership. The Club also gets funding from donors and corporate sponsors.

All the Rotarians in the room who are members of the 100 Club were asked to stand up, and it was great to see how many have already joined. Even **Roger Powers** will join when he retires, but for now he can just be a bartender at the annual BBQ! This Club now has over 1000 members. **Charley Plummer** told us of his own experiences, especially the trauma of losing colleagues and then having to confront the widow about the sudden loss.

The speakers urged us to join the 100 Club, and gave us brochures and applications. “Please join us for the long haul!” The website is www.100clubalameda.com. (There are other clubs all over the US – each county has to start its own.) **Bob Sakai** told us about the Club's investment program.

President John told us that next week, December 22, the special treat will be the Mount Eden Choir to serenade us with holiday songs and cheers. December 29 will be dark – no meeting! He thanked our distinguished speakers and told us to come back next week for a great program, good fellowship, good food – and let's have fun! Meeting adjourned.

Hayward Rotary Club Calendar

- Dec 22** *The Mount Eden Choir*
- Dec 29** **No meeting**
- Jan 5** **Jay Tontz - State of the Economy**



Need to find or confirm a Location?

Visit the District 5170 Website @ <http://www.rotary5170.org>



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June 1, 1922 • California
Club No. 482

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