

ROTARY CLUB OF HAYWARD

High Gear



July 21, 2008
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Editor: Anna Powers
Photographer: Becky Avelar



L-R: Ron Sekkel, Past District Governor. Speaker, Bernat (Bernie) Rosner retired General Counsel for Safeway Stores & President John Caldwell

Monday, July 21, 2008: The 3rd meeting of our 87th year was called to order by **President John** at 12:18 PM. We were greeted warmly at the door by **Bill Quirk** and **Jim Wieder**. It was great to see a full house, with over 70 members and guests! **Bob Goetsch** led us in the *Pledge of Allegiance*. **George Famous** conducted the chorus for *God Bless America* and *Hello*, with **Anna Powers** on keys. Next week we'll try to get the song books on the tables. **Norma Rees** gave the Thought for the Day: There is no limit to what you can get done if it doesn't matter who gets the credit.

Steve Bristow introduced our distinguished visiting Rotarians: Steve Murtaugh, software consultant from the Oakland Sunrise Club; Les Vincent, pharmaceutical manufacturing from the Glendale Sunrise Club; and Ron Sekkel, enrolled agent and past District Governor, District 5170, from the Scotts Valley Club (and guest of **Prez. John**). Last but not least, **Bob Tucknott**, electrical contractor and President of the Dublin Club, who came in after the introductions.

We were joined by several guests: Kevin Hanson, newly appointed Corp Officer for the Hayward Salvation Army with **Chuck Horner** (**Patrick Granat's** temporary reappointment/relocation has been made permanent); Christy **Hanson** of the Castro Valley Arts Foundation, with husband **Jim**; Dianne McDermott of Fremont Bank, with **Bob Sakai**; Yama Nekrawesh, student at San Jose State, with father **Hamid**; and John Nystrom with **Ed Bullok**.

Guest Christy Hanson presented us with a money generating proposition – buy or sell an ad in the Castro Valley Fines Art Advertising series, and 20% of the commission will go to our Club – that's an excellent offer – thank you Christy! This opportunity only comes around once a year, so act fast. With the help from ads placed by **Tommy Trampetti** and **George Pacheco**, our Club has already made \$250. Continued on next page....



She also invites us to enjoy the many offerings from the Golden State Theatre Productions 2008-09 Season, beginning with Rogers & Hammerstein's *Carousel*, September 19-28, and a sure hit, the San Francisco Girls Chorus presenting *Chorissima* on December 12.

Castro Valley Arts Foundation (dba Golden State Theatre Productions - we are the new theater on the Castro Valley High School campus) needs YOUR support! and we are willing to pay for it. That's right - you buy or sell an ad in our upcoming series brochure and we will pay Hayward Rotary a 20% commission. Hayward Rotary has already earned \$450 based on ads from George Pacheco - Pacheco Brothers Gardening, Tommy Trampetti - Big Apple Bagels, & Phyllis Moroney - Eden Medical Center. Don't let this opportunity slip by. The deadline is August 15, 2008. Advertising is sold one time each year. Your ad will be seen by up to 10,000 patrons at 20 performances of 5 shows. Want more information on how Hayward Rotary can earn easy money? Call Kristy Hanson at 510-886-7298.

Norma Rees passed around the sign-up sheets for the Salvation Army dinner on Sunday, July 27. There are more people coming for a good meal, so we need more volunteers to help cook and serve (6-7 people). Please sign up and join Norma and Chef Steve Bristow for some fun in the kitchen. Chuck Horner invites us to join the Keep Hayward Clean & Green Task Force this Saturday, July 26, 8:30 AM – Noon, beginning at Harder Elementary School on Whitman, for their Litter Clean-up & Graffiti Removal Event. Participation is encouraged to preserve neighborhoods through self-reliant community activities and foster pride in what will be accomplished. President John announced we raised \$1,200 at our last meeting for the Polio Plus Campaign, starting with a generous donation from Don Mai. October is the big Rotary International push for donations - \$200 makes you a Double Sustainer, \$500-\$999 makes you a Super Sustainer, and \$1,000 will earn you a Paul Harris Fellowship – so please plan to make a contribution and get your recognition pins.

Recognitions ensued... We sang a belated Happy Birthday to Alex (Bubbles) Budde and Lisa Rosenblum, who each paid \$10 for the privilege. Jay Tontz paid \$10 for his July 20th birthday, and Joe Vilardi paid \$10 for his special day. Foundation Chair Doug Vieira paid \$10 for his 8th Club Anniversary (shouldn't that have been \$8?). Brian Schott, paying homage to a sexy Australian Rotary Club Flag, paid \$50 for his 5th wedding anniversary, and to entice Prez. John to model in a Speedo for our Club flag (though he'll never get that image out of his head). Steve Kautz followed suit and paid \$50 for his 20th wedding anniversary. Carrie Alejandre paid \$10 for her 2nd wedding anniversary, but said she should pay more if her husband finds out she's looking at Prez. John in a Speedo. Andy Krake paid \$32 for 32 years of married bliss. Hamid Nekrawesh paid \$22 – no make that \$23 – for his 23rd wedding anniversary.

Chuck Horner introduced today's speaker, Bernat (Bernie) Rosner, retired General Counsel for Safeway Stores. (Prez. John should check his phone at the door.) Bernie is a Jewish survivor of Auschwitz, with an incredible story of survival amongst the turmoil, upheaval, and intolerance. He is co-author, along with Frederic (Fritz) C. Tubach, of "An Uncommon Friendship: From Opposite Sides of the Holocaust", 2001, UC Press.

The book can be purchased on Amazon:

http://www.amazon.com/Uncommon-Friendship-Opposite-Sides-Holocaust/dp/0520236890/ref=pd_bbs_sr_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1216743879&sr=1-1. Bernie said he wrote the book to tell his story, and because of certain obligations to protect his children, to honor the memory of his family, and to tell a story worth telling. It was also a mechanism for coping with his past. Bernie describes the book as a great reward, which fostered an outpouring of love and friendship.

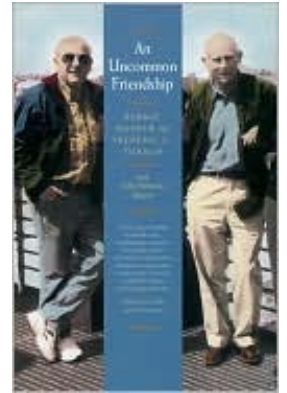
Have you visited our website lately? www.haywardrotary.org



It tells a moral story of the ability of two different individuals to come together and form a friendship. It also has social relevance, as it shows that hate and fanaticism have done more harm to civilization than greed has today.

He hopes that humanity and decency will prevail.

Bernie is happy to be here, as he has been dodging bullets all his life. He had a happy, normal childhood with a Jewish Orthodox upbringing and a sensitive mother who fostered his love of education and books. That all came to a screeching halt on March 19, 1944, with the Nazi takeover of his home town of Tab, Hungary, which was immediate and disastrous. Bernie's life suddenly changed from ordinary to hell. There were institutional laws against the Jews, as well as personal hostility from those with Nazi-like ideologies. The Jews were forced to wear yellow stars on their outside clothing so as to be recognized. Bernie's mother was strip-searched in front of a crowd in a public school, and was later knocked unconscious for saying her prayers.



By mid-May, the Hungarian Jews were moved to ghettos, one of which was within Tab, so Bernie's family didn't have to move but had to make room for many relatives in their 3-room home. June 1944 was the end of Tab, as the Nazi's marched down the main street exerting their power. In July 1944, the Jews were loaded onto cattle cars and transported to Auschwitz. He lost his father, mother, and brother during the chaos, confusion, and brutality of the situation. He tried to follow his brother to the left line (unfit to work), and was pulled into the right line (fit to work) for untold reasons. This made the difference in his survival, as his family members were subsequently gassed. Bernie was later transferred to Mauthausen, a concentration camp in Austria. Bernie fought the hunger, cold, brutal beatings, unsanitary conditions, and over-crowded quarters for his survival. He ended up in an American field hospital, weighing a mere 52 pounds. In 1945, he had a chance encounter with an American soldier and shared his story with him. Bernie later had a dream about the GI and wrote a note to him. The soldier, Charles Merrill Jr. (of Merrill-Lynch fame), had been so moved by Bernie's story, that he invited him to come to America and join his family under the GI Bill of Rights. Two weeks shy of Bernie's 16th birthday, he came to America. At that time, \$110 was enough to pay tuition at Harvard.

Bernie received a standing ovation for his incredible story of survival. He was congratulated on his strength and courage. We continued with a Q&A session, and were enlightened by more Hungarian history. During the Nazi invasion, the Hungarian government was in denial. When the Nazi's took over Hungary in March 1944, not a shot was fired.

President John thanked all our guests and visitors. Our next meeting (July 28) will feature Rotary International Past President Cliff Dochterman, on "Why did you become a Rotarian?" For those who have not heard Cliff speak, it is sure to be motivational. You all come back next week for Cliff's great program, good food, great fellowship, and most of all – Let's have more FUN!

We regret the passing of Aimee West who died last week. She was a long time Hayward resident and Mom to our member, **Keith West**, and wife to our former member, Howard Settle.

**There will be a Memorial Service next Tuesday:
July 29th at 1:00pm at
Roundhill Country Club, Alamo.
3169 Round Hill Road Alamo, CA 94507 (925) 934-8211**



Hayward Rotary Club Calendar

- July 28** Past RI President Cliff Dochterman, When did you become a Rotarian?
- Aug 4** Marilyn King, Olympian — Marilyn is a two time Olympic Champion, and the University of California's first women's track and field coach.
- Aug 11** Dick Callahan, the voice of the Golden State Warriors.
- Aug 18** District 5170 Governor Gary Citti
- Aug 25** Charles Reynes, CV Teacher of the year 2007

Need to find or confirm a Location?

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



CHARTERED

June 1, 1922 • California
Club No. 482

www.haywardrotary.org

Email: hayrotaryclub@sbcglobal.net

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President-Elect Rob Cook, III
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Asst. Secretary Dick Bowman
Treasurer Patrick Early
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Sgt. at Arms Phyllis Moroney

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2007-09

2008-10

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Hayward Rotary Club
P.O.Box 629
Hayward, CA 94543

First Class Mail

www.haywardrotary.org

