

ROTARY CLUB OF HAYWARD

High Gear



July 26, 2010
Volume 89, Issue #3
Editor: Sean Reinhart
Photography: Ed Avelar

Rotarians were greeted at the door by **Ed Mullins** and **Rod Andazola**. The meeting was called to order by **President Dave Elkins** at 12:15 p.m. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance led by **Jay Tontz**, followed by the singing of "God Bless America" led by **Andy Krake** accompanied by **Chuck Horner** on piano. The Thought for the Day was provided by **Sara Lamnin**: "There is only one basic human right – the right to do as you damn well please. And with it comes the only basic human duty – the duty to take the consequences." – P.J. O'Rourke. Sara also introduced our Visiting Rotarians including Karolyn Lundkuist, Charter President of the Pahoia-Sunset Club ("from the Big Island of Hawaii"). Karolyn brought with her a flag from her club and presented it to Hayward Rotary. Also visiting were John Blakely of the Warm Springs Club, as well as Past District Governor Loren Harper, also of the Warm Springs Club.

President Dave warmly welcomed guests Erin Hall and Mary Lee (guests of **Pam Russo**), Brianna Jordan (guest of **Freddye Davis**), Emmanuel Corro (guest of **Chuck Horner**), Julius Willis (attending his 2nd meeting as **Bill Quirk's** guest), Amit Chokshi (also guest of **Bill Quirk**), and Maya Walker (guest of **Sara Lamnin**). **Andy Krake** led the club in a gusto-filled rendition of "HELLO"!

Announcements:

Cate Steane reported that she'd been in touch with staff at Tiburcio Vasquez, and they gave her an update on **Joel Garcia's** condition. Word is **Joel's** doing better, spending time recuperating at home spending time with his grandchildren, and that a full recovery is expected. Cards and calls would be welcomed.

President Dave reported that **Lee Tompkins** is now home, but is still facing a tough recovery ahead. **Dave** urged Rotarians to send cards and calls wishing Lee well and letting him know how much he is missed, and what a tremendously valuable member he is to the Club.

Chuck Horner noted that if everyone who cared about the cleanliness of our community volunteered just one Saturday a year to the Keep Hayward Clean and Green Task Force, that together we'd win the war against graffiti and blight in Hayward! A listing of upcoming clean up dates was distributed.

President Dave added that **Chuck** is also looking for volunteers to help serve on the Club's Program Committee, and that the Club is still in need of one stand-up Rotarian to chair the Day at the A's event on Saturday, August 21st, benefitting RYLA. A call to action – contact **Dave** to take on this important task.

The Prez Sez



This is my Rotarian of the Week

Rita Shue was named Club Member of the Week. **Rita** has been doing yeoman's duty for the Club of late, per her usual high level of commitment and activity: filling in for **Phyllis Moroney** as Sergeant-at-Arms at **President Dave's** first meeting chairing the upcoming Omelet Feed event on October 10th; tirelessly researching another fun event "now in the works" but not yet announced; and generally showing her tremendous Dedication to Service to the Hayward Rotary Club overall. Hats off to you, **Rita!** You deserve it.



Fines and Foolishness: **President Dave** congratulated **Ken Smith** and **Beth Ehrlich** on the birth of their granddaughter, Luna, two weeks ago! Rotarians passed the basket for Luna's college fund.

Dave then called on "red badge" member **Landon Baines** to serve as fines collector, as **Dave** dinged absentee Rotarians for missing his inaugural meeting as President two weeks ago, including **Ed Hoffman**, **Ed Bullok**, **Jay Tontz**, **Sara Lammin**, and **Ken Smith**.

Bill Quirk volunteered a contribution to Rotary International in advance of receiving a fine later, as he will be missing the next two meetings to vacation in Oahu and Kauai.

George Pacheco noted that he recently celebrated his 35th wedding anniversary (though the card he received from the Club said "Happy 44th Anniversary") and he also picked up a new sets of wheels – two of 'em, in fact! **George** offered a contribution to the President's cause of choice, which was the Dictionary project.

At this time, the telephone in the Masonic Hall rang, interrupting the proceedings, as it sometimes does during meetings. **President Dave** happened to be nearby, so he answered it! After talking with the caller for a moment, he turned to **Craig Bueno**, and in reference to Craig's recently being serenaded on stage by a ventriloquist's doll, said, "Craig, Aunt Hattie on the line for you!"

And in a final bit of fines and foolishness, **Joe Vilardi's** birthday was noted. **Joe** offered up a contribution – if **Del Della Dora** would agree to sing "Happy Birthday" to him in Italian. Del mused that this might constitute "cruel and unusual punishment" for the rest of the club, but he obliged by belting out a fine rendition of "Buon Compleanno," *a capella* no less!

Vocational Talk: Rod Andazola. **Rod** is a real estate broker who was born in Hayward, a true local who has lived here for most of his life. His parents moved to Hayward from Oakland, where his father had served in the Army. **Rod** was born in the former Hayward Hospital at 770 A Street. His family's first home in Hayward was in the mobile home park at 280 West A Street. His parents were hard working and industrious, and soon they bought a vacant lot on Alice Street. They bought a surplus Army barracks building which they deconstructed, hauled down to the Alice Street lot board by board, and reassembled, though they had no prior construction experience. Hayward was a far different place in those days, with many open spaces, and wide range for **Rod** as a child to roam among local landmarks, some still here, some now gone, such as the Hayward Plunge, Hunt's cannery, the roller rink, and Don Harder's sporting goods store. **Rod** remembers when the Nimitz Freeway was built, cutting off his shortcut to his grandmother's house on the other side. He remembers walking three blocks to the Hayward library as a kid. He played Little League for the Hayward Fire Department's team – and he remembers his team played well enough to have their team picture printed in The Daily Review (in a photo taken by staff photojournalist **Steve Rubiolo**). After playing football and rugby for Cal State Hayward, **Rod** did a stint in the U.S. Army, serving in New York City as a medical technician. From there he landed a position as a lab tech in the city hospital. (**Rod** noted that when he watches TV shows like CSI, that they ring true – even the romance stuff!) At that point, **Rod** decided to switch gears, and returned to Cal State Hayward to attend business school there. He soon accepted a position with the City of Hayward (he was interviewed by **Joe Vilardi**, but **Rod** says "Joe hired me anyway"!) He did many property evaluations as part of his work, developing to his expertise in real estate matters. He'd crossed paths with many past and present Rotarians over the years, including **Larry Ratto**, **Rick Nelson**, **Ed Bullok**, **Charley Plummer**, **Leo Parry**, **Tony Varni**, **Anna May**, and others too numerous to mention, however it was **Ed Mullins** who finally convinced **Rod** to join, and to help Rotary in its work helping make Hayward a great community.



Rod Andazola

Speaker: Pam Russo introduced our distinguished guest speakers: Dr. Arun Mehta, MD, of the Warm Springs Rotary Club, accompanied by Tony Spitaleri, Kimeli W. Naiyomah and Kevin Myers of the American African Nuru Foundation. Dr. Mehta was born in Uganda. When Idi Amin rose to power there, he and his family fled to the United States. Years later, he helped found the American African Nuru Foundation (AANF) to give back to the people of Africa. The mission of the AANF is to help and provide improved health, education, and technology access to those in need in Africa. Their first successful project was the "Solar Maasai Project" which provided solar power to a school in the village of Emprukel, Kenya, providing sustainable light, fans, and computers where none previously existed. The solar array also provides energy to 1,000 local residents near the school, so the students would also have electric light available at home by which to study after school.

Dr. Metha introduced AANF president Tony Spitaleri, who talked about a second AANF project underway in the village, which is near the Maasai Mara National Reserve where medical, educational, and technological resources are lacking: an ambulance service that will take ill/injured village residents to the nearest hospital which is very far away. Currently, no such service exists and residents have to travel by foot, sometimes succumbing to their injury/illness before they can reach a hospital to receive treatment. So far three ambulances have been donated to the project by the Monterey Fire Department. The vehicles are still in need of upgrades to their transmissions and suspensions, ideally to four wheel drive, to make them serviceable and durable enough to traverse the rugged roads of Kenya.



Dr. Arun Mehta, Kevin Myers, Tony Spitaleri, Willson Kimeli Naiyomah, Pres. Dave Elkins & Pam Russo

Mr. Spitaleri introduced Willson Kimeli Naiyomah, who was born in Kenya, where his family still lives. Now 33 years old, Kimeli was born to a single mother, which in Maasai culture practically ensures a life of poverty and homelessness for the child. Kimeli was no exception, and for many years he was indeed poor and homeless. He ran away at age 5 to attend a school – the very school which years later became the focus of the Solar Maasai Project. Today, Kimeli holds a Masters degree in Biological Sciences from Stanford University. He first came to the United States after a 1996 Washington Post article inspired Americans to sponsor his studies at the University of Oregon. In response to 9/11, Kimeli coordinated a gift of a cow from his tribe to the United States. His gift inspired other villagers to donate 13 additional cows. The gift was officially recognized by the U.S. government, was featured in major media outlets around the world, and inspired a children’s book, *14 Cows for America*. Kimeli helped to found AANF because of his strong belief in the idea of “compassionate diplomacy,” a guiding principle akin to Rotary’s central tenet of Service Above Self.

We then heard from Kevin Myers, who spent six weeks in Kenya helping the Solar Maasai Project reach completion in 2009, working with AANF, Solar Living Institute, the Sunpower Foundation, and training local villagers to install a solar array to provide sustainable electricity for lights, refrigeration, and computers at the Emprukel School. Two of the village residents who were trained to install and maintain the equipment showed exceptional skill and aptitude with the new solar technology, and were each awarded scholarships by Solar Living Institute to perform a nine month internship at their headquarters in Hopland, California.

The most ambitious but much-needed project which AANF has identified is to ultimately build a hospital in the village to serve the medical needs of approximately ten thousand people who live there and the surrounding areas. Additional projects include supporting existing efforts to bring clean drinking water to village residents, irrigation for farmland, as well as educational projects including a school, library, and computer support. The goals for AANF projects are for ‘sustainability.’ Developing resources and opportunities to provide education and support for long-term success and independence. AANF envisions assisting other resource-deprived villages and areas in Africa in similar ways for its future projects. The Club gave the speakers a standing ovation for their excellent presentation, and for their fine work with AANF.

President Dave acknowledged and thanked this week’s Visiting Rotarians, Guests, and Speakers, as well as Greeters **Ed Mullins** and **Rod Andazola**, and **Rod Andazola** again for his Vocational Talk.

Next Meeting: August 2, 2010 Speaker: Christina Henriquez, Cal-bound San Leandro High School graduate and winner of the VFW’s “Voice of Democracy” competition with her essay, “Does America Still Have Heroes?”

Upcoming events: Board meeting, August 12, 2010

Day at the A’s, August 21, 2010

Click Link Below to Visit the District Website


<http://www.rotary5170.org/news/09-10/10-06-OneChild-12.pdf>



First Class Mail

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Hayward Rotary Club Calendar

- August 2** Christian Henriquez San Leandro student essay winner “Does America Still Have Heroes?” for the VFW “Voice of Democracy” contest
- August 9** Robert Freeman founder of “One Dollar for Life” Interact program
- August 16** Lt. Sheryl Boykins HPD, Protect Yourself Against Burglary
- August 21** “A day at the A’s” 6:30PM Oakland Coliseum 
- Aug. 23** Roger Hasler- District 5170 Governor Club Visitation

Need to find or confirm a Location?

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



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