

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Spring Everyone!!!!!!

As my term begins to wind down, I want to say what a pleasure and blessing it's been being your Rotary president. When I attended PETS (President-Elect Training Session) last year we were told over and over again that the best job in Rotary is club president and boy, were they right! I hope that each and every one of you will have the opportunity to experience what I have these past few months. I was saddened to get the phone call from our illustrious fine master, Mike Dest, telling me that he'd been transferred to Victorville. We will surely miss him. But, how like our Rotarians, David Stern and Pat Rains, to step right up with out missing a beat and assume the full-time positions after being the alternates. WAY TO GO, you two.....thanks BUNCHES!

After the fire I really didn't think that we'd be able to accomplish too many of the projects that I had planned out last year. But as I began to write out the end of the year reports for the District, I realized that our club jumped right into the relief and recovery effort with the Sticker Project. The Literacy Project got off the ground thanks to Harry Sherman and Aylene Popka, the District Simplified Grant was used to start a medical relief project for the fire victims through the hospital with the help of Tom Bachman. We supported the arts, Meals on Wheels, Rim High School and St. Jude's School in Africa. And let's not forget the club's ongoing support of the Wheelchair Project initiated by Nancy O'Kelly-Donahue. All in all.....not a bad year!

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the upcoming District Assembly on April 10, which will be a great opportunity to learn more about Rotary – especially for our newer members – and again at the District Conference in Palm Springs in June.

Yours In Rotary Service,
Mary

STIRRED, Not Shaken.....

For those of us old enough to remember when Sean Connery played the dashing and ever so handsome James Bond, the play on these words brings back memories. True, Bond...James Bond - liked his martinis the other way around – but for this situation, I feel that “stirred – not shaken” is just the right recipe.

The situation that I refer to here is the series of events that have stirred us as a community. We were “stirred” when the fires of autumn lapped up our mountainside with a white-hot fury that only the hand of God could stop. We were “stirred” to respond to the needs of our neighbors who lost so much in that fire to create the likes of Rebuilding Mountain Hearts and Lives..

We were “stirred” when the bark beetle decided that our fabulous pines looked an awful lot like Chez Panisse and invited all 200 million of their new best friends for dinner. We were “stirred” to respond with quick removal of the dead trees and the positive attitude that the new foliage in our yards and forests will ultimately bring more sunlight and ravishing autumns.

We were “stirred” when the ongoing drought caused our lake to shrink and some of our docks were stranded, looking more like scaffolding than part of a marina. But...once again, we were “stirred” to clean up the sandy areas, move our docks and declare that we really have a lot more beach area than ever before!

Yes...in many ways our community has been “stirred”. But we’re not “shaken” We’re still here and we still enjoy all of the pleasures of living in a wonderful little burg like Lake Arrowhead. We still smile when we see one another on the street or in the market, and we still hurt when one of us experiences a misfortune. We still wake up each day knowing that we’re exactly where we want to be – and for the most part – doing exactly what we want to do. For this reason, we can continue to face whatever may come our way and know in our heart of hearts that we are, indeed, a very a special breed.One that can be “stirred”.....But never “shaken”.

INSPIRATION.....

Swallowing your pride never leads to indigestion!

AYLENE POPKA ANNOUNCES A NEW PROJECT

At a recent Rotary Board meeting the board approved a budget for a new Rotary Literacy Project. Collaborating with Mountain Literacy and High Hopes, we will begin to build a library of children’s books that will benefit both children and their parents. This program will be unique in that it will be slanted toward the parental participation and will serve to encourage parents to feel comfortable reading to their children.

Harry Sherman has been instrumental in developing this program along with Aylene Popka and Mary Dippell. High Hopes is very excited about the program as they currently have four groups of parents that meet on a regular basis for a Preschool Enrichment Program and many of these parents aren’t skilled readers. Through a “rehearsal” program, the parents will be schooled in home reading and will receive books to take home with them. It’s a win-win situation for all involved. If this sounds like something that you might like to be a part of...give Aylene a call.....337-9357.

SPOTLIGHT ON YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

This month we shine the Rotary Spotlight on a very valuable member of our Rotary team – none other than our Resident Vampire, Jim Lucas. While most of us associate Jim with the blood biz (for those of you that don’t know...Jim heads up our blood bank efforts), he actually has been quite busy in other arenas. Born in Bloomington, Illinois, Jim was raised in the town of Mt. Vernon. He attended Southern Illinois University (Carbondale)

and graduated in 1970 with a Bachelor of Science in Radio and TV Broadcasting. While at SIU, he sang in the Glee Club and was an enterprising young photographer for the university TV station. One of Jim's photo assignments took him to the post-Kent State Riots and it was there that he made his first and hopefully last acquaintance with tear gas. Jim went on to be the studio manager for local origination cable TV, channel 13, emanating from Mt. Vernon. He also worked in newspaper advertising sales.

These rather interesting career paths must have paled in comparison to the next job description on Jim's list. He worked as a deckhand on the Illinois River boats – serving stints of thirty days on the boat, seven days a week no less than twelve hours a day. There MUST be something more to this part of the story...be sure to remind me to follow up on this when Jim presents his next shop-talk!

Jim made his way to California in 1978 when he was transferred to Barstow as a newspaper advertising manager. From there he expanded his print career to include a job with a national printing company where he served as an account manager covering Southern California and Arizona. Quite a switch of scenery for a boy from Illinois!

Jim met his lovely wife, Nancy, when she invited him for a visit to her ranch in Newberry Springs. On the spur of the moment, Jim recalls that Nancy suggested that they go “get” some dinner. Being somewhat of a city boy, Jim figured that there must be a nice little café somewhere close by. – Not exactly – Jim followed the object of his affection to a pond with a fish trap attached to a nearby dock. Without even a side-wards glance, Nancy grabbed a machete, scooped up an unsuspecting catfish...tossed it onto the dock and lopped off its head! Although their romance continued to blossom, Jim tells me that he's never quite forgotten Nancy's extraneous talents and to this very day sleeps with one eye open!

Jim switched career gears when he and Nancy went into the real estate sales industry in Lake Arrowhead in 1996. Nancy now publishes the On the Mountain magazine, which is enjoying in it's eighth year of publication. 2004 is a special year for Jim. It marks the opening of Jim's own real estate office in concert with David Stern. The office, aptly named Paradise Realty, is bound to be a terrific success with these two fine Rotarians at the helm.

Jim and Nancy have two grown children, son Scott and daughter Serina. They enjoy life here in the mountains surrounded by their “fur family” members, cats Sneeker and Sissy. They love to travel and Jim enjoys an occasional game of golf. Jim states that his Rotary experience, which began in Arrowhead in 1994, has been a great inspiration in his life. He views Lake Arrowhead Rotary as a wonderful group of friends that are “givers, not takers”. Thank you, Jim, for all that you do for LARC and for our community in general!

POET'S CORNER

Another New Wrinkle.....

This month I'm thrilled to introduce a new column that will be written by Kathy O'Fallon. Kathy, innocently enough, made the deadly mistake of suggesting that this might be an interesting addition to our Arrowtarian - and that was all it took! She never knew what hit her!! I said YES so fast that I think she's still wondering what she's gotten herself into. But, rest assured one and all, this lady knows her stuff. She's a published poet and a true fan of the art. She's amassed an impressive collection of work in the short time that she's live here in Arrowhead and is a true gift to our newsletter.

Year of the Goat
After Li-Po

You ask why I live in the mountains,
Where a bug blight seizes pine trees
And fire shrouds the range.
It is said nature serves to humble.
The snow falls silent.
The waterfall sings.

Blessings,
Kathy O'Fallon

PROPOSED FOR MEMBERSHIP

Bed and Breakfast proprietor, Dave Roughton is sponsored by Bob Geer. Elizabeth (Beth) Lane, who's in the banking industry, is sponsored by John Lorenz. Be sure to introduce yourselves and make these new proposed members feel welcome.

NEW MEMBER!!!!

David Ben Hur has crossed the finish line to be named an official new Rotarian!
Congratulations, David – and welcome to the team.

CELEBRATIONS AND MILESTONES

Birthday Wishes to:
Dick Johnson 4/7
Norton Marks 4/7

Tom Harris	4/9
Jim Hoss	4/17
Paul Borman	4/24
Mary Dippell	4/26

Happy Anniversary to:

Clark and Missy Hahne	4/5
David and Carolee Hosley	4/20

PREVIEW OF COMING ATTRACTIONS

No Report

BEAT FROM THE BOARD

No Report

QUOTE of the MONTH

When the evening sky is painted crimson by the setting sun, and the birds all cease to sing, knowing the day is done – it's then that we like to ponder, and forgetting worldly strife, realize that love and friendship are the greatest things in life.