

The Rotarygram



Rotary Club of Van Nuys

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Club 724 — District 5260

January 19, 2005

Meeting Highlights

Today, Van Nuys Rotary saluted those non-Rotarians who contributed in vital ways to the success of several of our recent community service projects. Honored today were: Mary Anders, Hugo Beaton, Jay Belson, Charles Bergin, Steve Boskovich, Adele Healy, Sara Hinojosa, Leona Irwin, Jim Potter and Morton Shechtman. PDG Joe DiFatta and Pres.-Elect Barbara Baerg did a great job in detailing the projects and contributions of each honoree.

Those who were present to receive their commendation certificates and our heartfelt gratitude are pictured below.



"To see things in the seed, that is genius."

-- Lao-tzu

Student Recognition



Amy Tucker, a client at Tierra del Sol, was today's honoree, chosen for her outstanding self-development and community service. Each honoree is awarded a Commendation Certificate from the Rotary Club of Van Nuys and a \$50 US Savings Bond.

Pictured above left, are Club President, Carlos Rivera and TDS staff with Amy; above right, are Amy's proud parents.

Visitors

Rotarians:

- Alice Muntean, President of Warner Center Rotary.
- Tom Harris, Kerry Beal and Harley Malloy from the provisional Frasier Park club.
- Steve McLeod of Studio City/Sherman Oaks Rotary.

Guests:

- Gary Cunial introduced his wife, Ensign Sherri Cunial.
- Don Reinken introduced his 'child bride,' Andrea Reinken.

Announcements

- Joe DiFatta shared some postcard responses from Iraq where we sent 'Care Packages' to military service men and women before Christmas.
- • Alice Muntean shared the details of a project of the Warner Center club to aid in the Tsunami Disaster relief. They have produced one-pound packages of Sumatra coffee, specially roasted and packaged for this project. Each package is being sold for \$15 — with \$12.50 of each sale going directly into a Rotary directed relief effort. You may participate in this vital project by purchasing this special coffee from Rocky Rhodes, phone: 818-347-1378 or email: rocky@rockyroaster.com. (Many at the meeting bought one or several pounds from Alice.)

The Spotlight's On...

LARRY WINNICK



Larry Winnick is one of those increasingly rare people in Los Angeles who didn't come from someplace else. This native Southern Californian was born in Los Angeles and grew up just outside of Inglewood. He graduated from Marshall Arts High School and earned an accounting degree at UCLA

before joining the Air Force.

The ROTC graduate was "put into pilot training until they found out that the plane and I didn't agree," Larry recalls with a laugh. "Seriously, my hand-eye coordination wasn't fast enough for a 600-mile-per-hour jet," he adds, "so they put a pencil in my hand and sent me to Newfoundland to do audits."

Larry ran a small unit of five servicemen in Newfoundland, where he frequently encountered up to 40 feet of snow. He worked seven days a week conducting military audits, he says, and after just 12 months earned his First Lieutenant bars. Larry's first son, Brian, was also born in Newfoundland.

At the end of his three-year commitment to the Air Force, Larry passed up the opportunity to re-enlist and returned to Los Angeles to earn his CPA license in 1959. He started his own accounting business in the early 1960s and began adding to his family, as well – including sons Keith and Todd and daughter Stacy. Larry's proud of his four children – all college graduates and most with advanced degrees, too. He also has a 12-year-old granddaughter, Kendra, living in Couer d'Alene, Idaho.

Larry joined Rotary in 1978 and has served the club several times as treasurer. "In the beginning," he says, "I joined because Rotary gave me the opportunity to serve the community that was providing me the opportunity to earn a living," he says. Today, Larry values his association with Rotary and the Van Nuys club for

another reason. "Rotary has the greatest attitude toward providing benefits for those who have difficulty providing them for themselves," he says, "...whether internationally with the Polio Plus Program or locally with organizations we support such as Tierra del Sol and New Horizons."

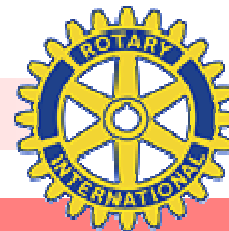
Larry has a very personal reason for supporting another of the club's beneficiaries – the Grossman Burn Center in Sherman Oaks. An accident in his backyard – his barbecue exploded – put him in the Sherman Oaks facility to experience the Burn Center as a patient. He was very impressed...and grateful. He still attends the Grossmans' annual Christmas party for "alumni" and recalls Dr. Grossman thanking him for coming one year. Larry says he answered, "No, please, I should be thanking you."

For fun, Larry and his wife, Molly – they've been married since 1999 – love to travel. They've been on more than a dozen cruises to Alaska, the Mediterranean, Scandinavia and the Panama Canal, among others. Alaska is still his favorite trip, he says. "The highlight of that trip was a helicopter ride to the top of a glacier," he adds. "If you want to feel insignificant, stand on a glacier made of tons and tons of ice. It was outstanding."

Larry's an avid sports fan, too. "I played baseball in school and went semi-pro for a while," he remembers. He also worked with Little League for a dozen years...coaching, managing and umpiring as his boys grew up. Today, he says he's been "elevated to the role of spectator," but now prefers to watch basketball and football because the games are faster.

Larry also hopes to one day be a juror on a federal grand jury. Besides being interesting work, he says, a yearlong stint on a federal grand jury would provide him with another avenue of service. "I'd like to give back to my country, too," he adds.

Contributed by Andrea Reinken.



“Service Above Self”

Rotary Club of Van Nuys

Upcoming Programs

- Jan. 26 LA Unified School District — **John Schroeder**, Director for Elementary Schools. Program chair: Cherie Spamer.
- Feb. 2 **Burma-Shave Signs** — Dan Durkee will fill us in on how this '50s advertising innovation entertained and sold shaving cream.
- Feb. 9 **Valentine’s Day Luncheon** — Bring your sweetheart(s) to celebrate. Joe DiFatta promises music and fun! Sign-up with Barb Baerg next week.
- Feb. 16 **LAPD Ed Davis Training Center** — Officer Michael Dutton, Facilities Management Unit, will give us his insider’s view.
- Feb. 23 **Elmer Jordan, Past RI Director**, will talk about **100 Years of Rotary**. To be held at the Airtel Plaza Hotel.

BIRTHDAYS

- Jan. 25 Robin O’Biecnas
- Jan. 26 Helen Worthen
- Jan. 29 Vickie Smith
- Feb. 3 Ruben Corona
- Feb. 4 Marsha DiFatta
- Feb. 10 Dan Schlick
- Feb. 13 Leslie Cordaro
- Feb. 13 Molly Winnick

HOT DATES

- April 23 **25th Annual Van Nuys Invitational Track Meet** at Birmingham High School. Victory Blvd. at Woodley.
- May 19-23 District Conference, Doral Resort Hotel in Palm Springs.
- March 4-6 RYLA <http://www.rotary5260.org/ryla/>
- June 18-22 RI Centennial Convention, Chicago, IL Celebrating 100 years of Rotary!

We’re on the web! VanNuysRotary.org

Rotarygram Staff

- Publisher:** Guy Mangia Optimumdentistry@aol.com
- Editor:** Don Reinken don@reinken.com
- Reporters:** Guy Mangia, Barbara Baerg
- Photographer:** John Alexander

Club Officers

- President:** Carlos Rivera burimex@aol.com
- Pres. Elect:** Barbara Baerg barbaerg@pacbell.net
- Secretary:** Ken Benson kjb028@earthlink.net
- Treasurer:** Peter Satuloff peter.satuloff@asmmcpa.com