

The Rotarygram



Rotary Club of Van Nuys

Volume 4, Issue 19

Club 724 — District 5260

November 10, 2004

Meeting Highlights

“The election’s over... now what?”

Our speaker, Harvey Englander, a political consultant and lobbyist for more than 35 years, is Sr. Vice President and General Manager for The MWW Group in Los Angeles. Englander was named *2003 Public Affairs Executive of the Year* by PR News, a highly respected industry publication.

With the Bush reelection and a greater majority in both houses of Congress going to the Republicans, Englander doesn’t agree with many who say the Democratic party is doomed to a long period of diminishing influence. He points to several examples where one party won with a great margin, and four (or eight) years later the opposition party regained the White House and/or the Congress.

In this election campaign, he says there were very few “Savables.” Insiders in the political campaign business have a saying that there are: “Saints, Sinners and Savables.” The “Savables” are those undecided potential voters who might be persuaded to come over to your side before election day. (You can imagine who are the “Saints” and “Sinners.”)

Englander, based upon his experience, says that this election swung on what he classed as *values* as opposed to *issues*. He saw the 11 states having votes on same-sex marriage as being critical to the Bush win...with Kerry failing to adopt the persuasive stance on this issue. He contrasted



Harvey Englander, our speaker, was introduced by Flip Smith.

Pennsylvania where the issue was not on the ballot and Kerry won, with Ohio where the issue was on the ballot and Bush won.

It was very interesting to hear the views of one who has been on the inside of many campaigns, both for candidates and ballot propositions. Englander says he now prefers to only work on issues...and steers away from working for political candidates.

All in all, an educational and thought provoking program — even if one didn’t always agree on the issues.



President Carlos Rivera, left, and Pres. Elect Barbara Baerg, right, look on as our speaker signs a book to be donated to the Cohasset Street Elementary School library.

Entertainment Books—2005...see Paul Davis.

Polio Eradication

In 1985, Rotary launched the PolioPlus program to protect children worldwide from the cruel and fatal consequences of polio. In 1988, the World Health Assembly challenged the world to eradicate polio.

Since that time, Rotary's efforts and those of partner agencies, including the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and governments around the world, have achieved a 99 percent reduction in the number of polio cases worldwide.

Rotarians stand at the brink of a great victory and look forward to celebrating the global eradication of polio in 2005, Rotary's centennial year.

We'll soon be hearing more about our part in bringing this astonishing project to its successful conclusion. It's a great challenge!



A father in Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh, India, presents his child for immunization against polio.

Announcements

- See HOT DATES on page 4 for upcoming club and community events.
- Flip Smith gave us the word on another community project: December 4th — a Bar-B-Que and baseball game starring the Police vs. the local gang members! RCVN is supporting this event.
- The painting project for the Van Nuys facility of Tierra del Sol needs your help...talk to Jim Sullivan to get on board.
- Mike Quiroga confirmed November 20-22 for the trip to Mexico for VOSH Eye Clinic...sign up with Victoria Castillo. A second trip will be made the following weekend.
- Barbara Baerg announced December 9th for our annual Holiday Party — to be held at the home of Paul Davis, 7:00 p.m. Save this date! For more details call Barbara: 818-601-0192.
- Barb also announced our Holiday Luncheon: December 22nd, regular time and place. You are encouraged to bring children or grandchildren...**Santa will be there!**
- Again, Leo O'Biecnas needs computers and printers for our education project...the need is urgent and we can accept any available surplus gear. Call Leo: 818-988-0180.

The Spotlight's On...

IRV RYDER



Irv Ryder's life story is a vibrant collage of occupations, community service, family, friends and personal interests.

This Kansas City, Missouri native, who turns 91 on November 26, grew up in the mid-west and attended the University of Kansas. He tried to serve in the military – several

times, he recalls – but a benign shadow on one of his lungs continually kept him out. "They thought I had tuberculosis," he adds.

He spent two years in West Texas selling tobacco for Brown & Williamson Tobacco – including Cools and Wings brands. "I drove a panel truck and covered 19 counties down to the Rio Grande Valley," he recalls, adding that he sold primarily to tobacco and drug stores.

Irv made his way to Los Angeles in the early 1950s and worked for Grayson's, an apparel chain, for a couple of years before going out on his own. "I borrowed money from an uncle of mine," he remembers, "who thought he'd never see his money again...I told him he'd see it in six months," Irv adds, "and he did."

Ryder's -- a dress shop catering to the young crowd – opened on Van Nuys Boulevard at Gilmore Street in 1953. Irv soon expanded to a shop in Lancaster and opened another in Panorama City. "I was in the women's apparel business for about 30 years," he says, "and made a good living at it."

Irv joined an active Van Nuys Rotary Club in 1964 and was president in 1970 -71. The club met in a building owned by Charlie Long on Gilmore Street that was behind his store, Irv says. "We had a big club then, with more than 100 members." Seeing the membership shrink over

the ensuing years was disheartening, Irv recalls, but he's very pleased to see the club coming back in a strong way now. "Membership is growing again and there are a lot more activities," he adds.

Joe DiFatta tapped Irv to serve as his District Conference Chairman when Joe was Rotary District Governor in 1982-83. Irv remembers clearly his first sight of Joe. He was visiting his good friend, Chick Hern, at his printing shop when Joe walked in wearing his "sailor suit." Irv and Joe have been fast friends ever since.

The Van Nuys community benefited from Irv's commitment to Rotary and from his many years as president of the Valley Presbyterian Hospital Ambassadors booster club. He also is a past chairman and director of the Mid-Valley YMCA board. "I liked to do what I could for the community," he says.

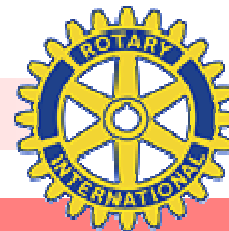
As for exercise, Irv has always enjoyed playing tennis and played a lot until he was 85. "Tennis is good recreation, and I enjoyed the competition. I played with a bunch of fellows who were as competitive as I was," he adds. His advice for youngsters learning tennis today? "Stick with it," he says. "It's a good sport and good exercise and it keeps you young."

"I liked to do what I could for the community"

A Northridge resident since 1986, Irv was married to his beloved Phyllis for 61 years and has two children -- a daughter, Barbara who lives in Azusa and a son, Tom in Orange County – and four grandchildren. Family is important to him, he says, and he tries to see his children as often as possible.

When Irv celebrates his 91st birthday the day after Thanksgiving, family and friends will probably remember his years of work, service to his community and his caring for others. And another memory will be added to his life's collage.

Contributed by Andrea Reinken.



"Service Above Self"

Rotary Club of Van Nuys

Upcoming Programs

- Nov. 17 **Economic Alliance of the SF Valley.** Mr. Kenn Phillips. Program Chair: Flip Smith.
- Nov. 24 **Joint Service Club Meeting — to be held at the Airtel Plaza.** Chaired by Nancy Hoffman Vanyek. **11:30 a.m.**
- Dec. 1 **UCLA vs. USC —** wear your school colors...today's meeting will center on the big game (12/4). Decorations, raffles, celebrity guests, rivalry and fun. Chair: Jim Tenner.
- Dec. 8 **Robert Garcia —** principal of Fulton Middle School speaking on the new changes in this level of schooling. Program chair: Ken Benson.
- Dec. 15 Mark your calendar and **plan to bring a guest...**this will be our **Annual Holiday Luncheon —** with choral entertainment by the choir from LA Valley College under the direction of Jennifer Kelly. Always an excellent program!

BIRTHDAYS

- Nov. 20 Marilyn Fetherolf
- Nov. 26 Irv Ryder
- Dec. 2 Andrea Reinken
- Dec. 26 Gonzalo Tejada

HOT DATES

- Nov. 13 District Leadership Meeting — 8 a.m. at Sam's Café, New Horizons
- Nov. 20 Community Clean-Up Day at Bassett Street Elementary School
- Nov. 21 Cunials' Wedding Anniversary
- Nov. 21 Satuloffs' Wedding Anniversary
- Nov. 28 Riveras' Wedding Anniversary
- Dec. 12 District Holiday Brunch — 10 to 12 at the Castaway's Restaurant.

We're on the web! VanNuysRotary.org

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